

# HOKKAIDO STARTUP VISA SYSTEM

Small and Medium Enterprise Division,  
Bureau of Regional Economy,  
Department of Economic Affairs,  
Hokkaido Government

English ver.



# **The Hokkaido Government begins the Startup Visa system (Foreign Entrepreneurship Promotion Project).**

## **1 Points of the System**

Foreigners who are prepared to start a business in Japan will be permitted to obtain the status of residence under “Designated Activities” if they meet certain requirements. This status allows foreigners to stay in Japan for a maximum of one year.

The Startup Visa (Foreign Entrepreneurship Promotion Project) is a system that can be used by local governments that have received planning authorization from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). The purpose of this program is to increase the acceptance rate of foreign entrepreneurs into Japan, and to promote new businesses. Recently, the Hokkaido Government was certificated by METI, and, as such, will enact the Startup Visa system.

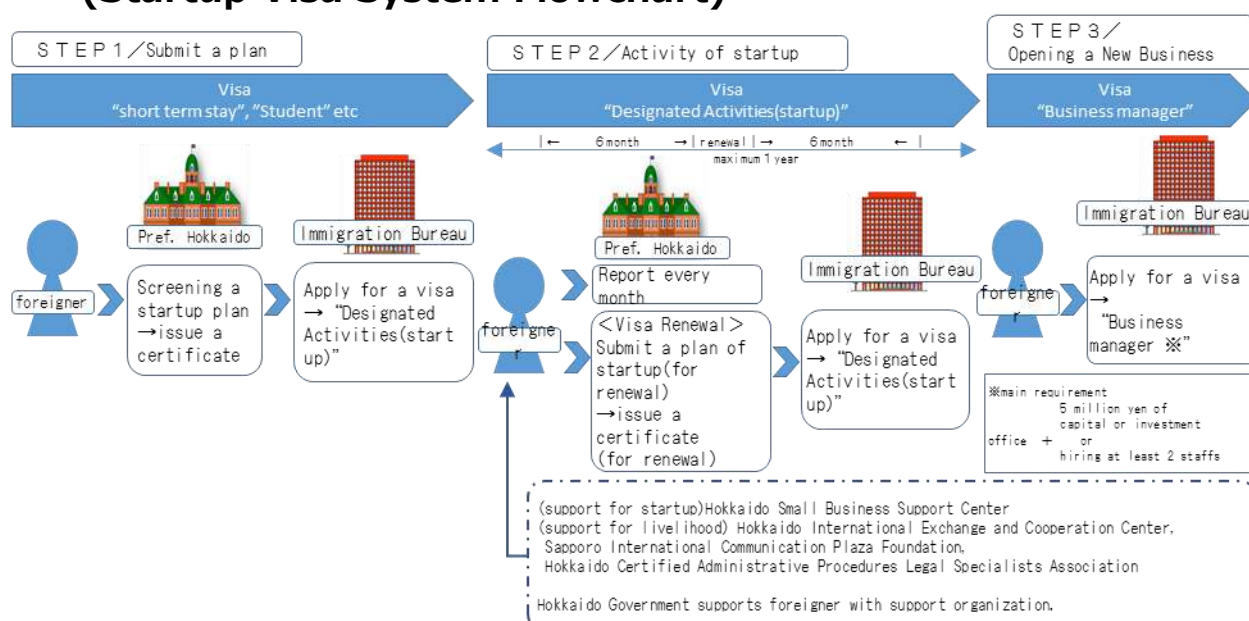
## **2 Eligible Businesses**

- Businesses which promote growth and industrialization in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, which support local communities
- Businesses which promote the development of food-related industries that utilize regional resources
- Businesses which promote Hokkaido tourism, and help to elevate tourism in Hokkaido to that of an advanced region in the tourism industry
- Businesses which promote developing manufacturing industries which generate added high values
- Businesses which promote the creation of industries that correspond to market size and shifts in market needs
- Other businesses deemed necessary by the governor

## **3 Eligible Persons**

Foreigners who intend to start new businesses in Hokkaido

## 4 The Flow of the Startup visa System (Startup Visa System Flowchart)



## 5 Acceptance of Applications

### (1) Eligible Persons

Applications should be brought to the reception desk at the address written below, by a person falling under either of the following categories. Mailed applications will not be accepted.

#### (I) An applicant

(Ro) A lawyer or an administrative scrivener recognized by the Sapporo Immigration Bureau as a proxy

※In the case of (Ro), please submit documents which detail the relationship to the applicant and proof explaining the lawyer or administrative scrivener's position to do so.

### (2) Office

Small and Medium Enterprise Division, Bureau of Regional Economy,  
Department of Economic Affairs, Hokkaido Government  
Kita 3-jo, Nishi 6-chome, Chuo-ku, Sapporo  
Reception Hours : 8:45~17:30  
(closed on weekends, national and New Year holidays)  
TEL : 011-204-5331

## 6 Documents to Be Submitted

Those who wish to apply for a New Business Implementation Confirmation shall create, prepare and submit all the documents below. All documents must be completed in Japanese.

### ( 1 ) New Applications

- New Business Implementation Confirmation Application (Form 1-1)
- New Business Implementation Plan (Form 1-2)
- Resume (Form 1-3)
- Letter of Commitment (Form 1-4)
- Documents that verify the applicant's address for the one year after arrival in Japan or change of status of residence (e.g., copy of a rental agreement or copy of a rental application form)
- Documents that verify the applicant's expenses for staying in Japan for the one year after arrival in Japan or change of status of residence (e.g., copy of applicant's bankbook)
- When applying, if the applicant falls under any category listed under the Notification, Article 5:6(1)(v) Sections I, RO, HA, or NI, verifying documents are required to be presented.(e.g., certificate of graduation, certificate of employment).
- Photocopy of applicant's passport (the page containing applicant's photo and passport number)
- Other documents deemed necessary by the governor

### ( 2 ) Renewals

- New Business Implementation Confirmation Application (For Renewal) (Form 2-1)
- New Business Implementation Plan (For Renewal) (Form 2-2)
- Documents that verify the applicant's address for the six months after arrival in Japan or change of status of residence (e.g., copy of a rental agreement or copy of a rental application form)
- Documents that verify applicant's expenses for staying in Japan for the six months after arrival in Japan or change of status of residence (e.g., copy of applicant's bankbook)
- Other documents deemed necessary by the governor