

Startup Program for Foreign Entrepreneurs (Commonly called: Startup Visa System)

Based on the announcement regarding “Managing and Supporting Business Startup Activities by Foreign Entrepreneurs” made by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry on December 28th 2018, Ibaraki Prefecture was recognized by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry on January 8th 2020 as a local authority where projects promoting startup established by foreigners can be implemented. This recognition is in line with our prefecture’s objective to strengthen our international industrial competitiveness and to create a base for international economic activities, as well as our intent to support investments from foreign-owned companies to our prefecture and foreign entrepreneurs establishing businesses.

1 Summary

Through the aforementioned system, foreigners looking to establish a startup in Ibaraki Prefecture will be given a “Designated Activities” visa status granting them residence in Japan for up to 2 years in order to make the preparations their startup business.

【 Conditions required for foreigners partaking in management to receive a management/administration visa (period of residence of 2 years)】

Current Conditions (generally)	After the introduction of the startup visa
① Securing an office in Japan ② Total Capital of over 30 million yen and 1 or more full-time employees. ③ The applicant has had more than 3 years of project management experience (including post-graduate education). Alternatively, the applicant has a doctorate, master’s, or professional degree in business management or the industry of the relevant applicant business. ④ The applicant or full-time employee must possess a suitable level of Japanese language proficiency. In addition to items ①～④, project planning forms must be submitted.	• With the condition of the management and support of the local authority, and entrepreneur who does not necessarily fulfill conditions ①～④ on the left but has received the “Designated Activities (Startup Preparations)” residential status of up to 2 years. • If conditions ①～④ on the left are fulfilled within 2 years of being granted the residential status, the entrepreneurs can attain the “management/administration visa”

2 Applicable Projects

- ① Research projects centered on life sciences (medical treatment, biology, pharmaceutical, etc.)
- ② Projects aiming for high growth using revolutionary technology and skills such as the IT sector (telecommunication enterprises) or robotics
- ③ Pharmaceutical Businesses (genome information, medical information, businesses related

to biological information)

- ④ Food Businesses (food history, breeding information, businesses related to food and drug resource information)
- ⑤ Environmental Businesses (environmental exposure information, behavioral information, businesses related to lifestyle information)
- ⑥ Businesses that offer support for businesses listed in ①-⑤.
- ⑦ Other projects specially acknowledged by the governor

※ In addition to items ①～⑥, since the applicant must have participated in startup support related projects implemented by Ibaraki Prefecture, JETRO, or municipalities planned for expansion, please contact Ibaraki Prefecture first.

3 Applicable Region

All regions of Ibaraki Prefecture

4 Qualified Applicants

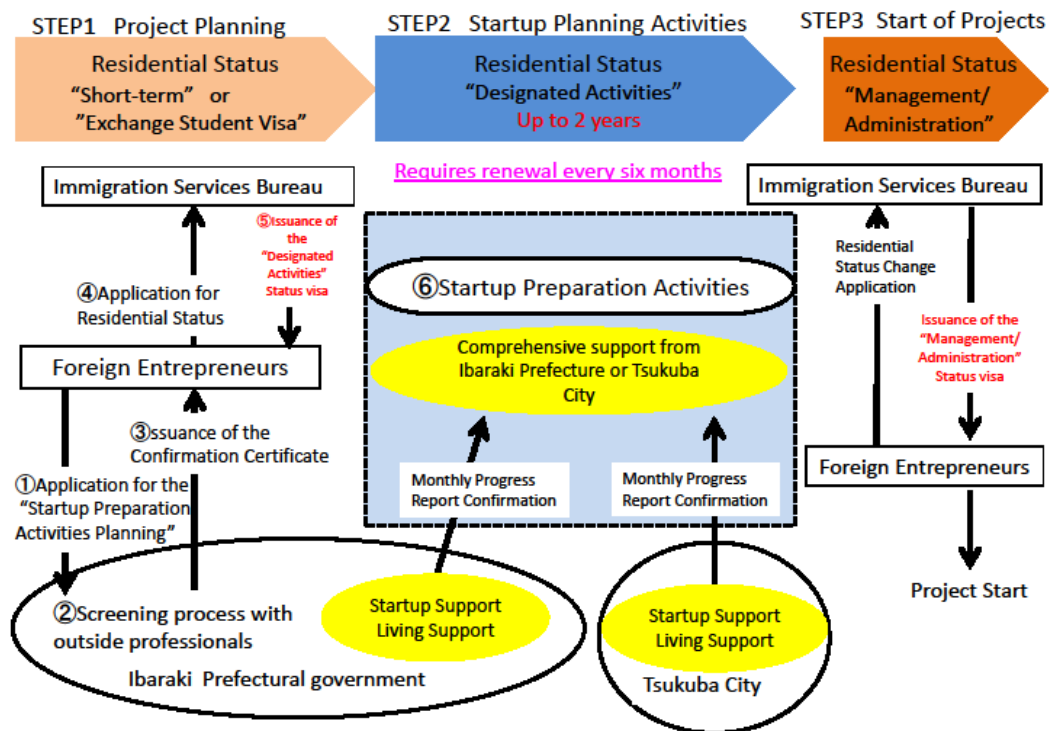
Foreign nationals who will start new projects in Ibaraki Prefecture

5 Procedures

- ① Foreign startup entrepreneurs will submit a “Startup Preparation Activities Plan” to Ibaraki Prefecture.
- ② Ibaraki Prefecture will give out a confirmation certificate to the foreign startup entrepreneurs after gathering thoughts from outside professionals during the screening process.
- ③ The foreign startup entrepreneurs will use the confirmation certificate mentioned in step to apply for their residential status in a regional immigration services bureau.
- ④ The regional immigration services bureau will give the foreign startup entrepreneurs their residential status of “Designated Activities (Startup Preparation Activities)”.
- ⑤ During the period of startup preparation activities (up to 2 years), the foreign startup entrepreneurs will receive comprehensive support from Ibaraki Prefecture and other institutions and in turn will be progress checked by the prefecture and send monthly reports for related institutions.

Tsukuba City will provide support and conduct progress checks for enterprises looking to operate in Tsukuba City.

Overview of the Startup Visa System



6 Document Submission

Foreign startup entrepreneurs who wish to apply should create, prepare and submit all the documents detailed below. Ibaraki Prefecture will provide every form necessary for submission, so please consult with the prefecture first.

In principle, we ask that you please fill out the documents in Japanese. Please consult with the prefecture if filling them out in Japanese is an issue.

(1) New Applicants

- Form No.1 Confirmation certificate of startup preparation activities
- Form No.1-2 Startup preparation activities plan
- Form No.1-3 Work schedule of startup activities
- Form No.1-4 Resume/C.V. of applicant
- Form No.1-5 Contract Papers
- Documents that will clarify where the applicant will reside for the year after landing in Japan or after their residential status change.
- Documents that will clarify the applicant's residential expenses for the year after landing in Japan or after their residential status change.
- Must submit documentation that proves applicability for Announcement Section 5, Subsection 6, Article (1), Item ⑤, Subitems ㄱ or ㄴ.
- Copy of applicant's passport.
- Documents other than the ones listed in the numbers above may be requested by the governor.

(2) Renewal Applicants

- Form No.2 Confirmation certificate of startup preparation activities (used for renewal)
- Form No.2-2 Startup preparation activities plan (used for renewal)
- Form No.2-3 Work schedule of startup activities (used for renewal)
- Documents clarifying the applicant's place of residence during the 6 months after renewing their residential status.
- Documents clarifying the applicant's residential expenses during the 6 months after renewing their residential status.
- Documents other than the ones listed in the numbers above will be requested by the governor.

7 Application Method

In principle, individuals that correspond to the list below must bring in the application form for submission. If you are applying by post, please contact Ibaraki Prefecture beforehand.

(1) Those eligible to submit the application

- ①The applicant themselves
- ②Representative of the applicant (Individual granted power of attorney pursuant to Form No.1-7)

(2) Place of Submission/Contact Information

International Business Development Division,
Department of Business Strategy, Ibaraki Prefectural Government
Kasahara-cho 978-6, Mito City, Ibaraki Prefecture Japan 310-8555
Phone: +81-(0)29-301-2862
Reception Hours: 8:30 to 17:15 (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, National Holidays, and New Year's Holiday)

8 References

【Homepage of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry】

《Startup Program for Foreign Entrepreneurs (Startup Visa System)》

■<https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/newbusiness/startupvisa/index.html>