
Hong Kong: 'Talent List' for quality migrants released

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In brief

Hong Kong on August 28, 2018 released a 'Talent List' of 11 highly-skilled professions in which the government seeks to attract workers to reside in Hong Kong and contribute to economic development in the immediate to medium term. Individuals with qualifications on the list are eligible for immigration facilitation under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme (QMAS).

In detail

Following consultation, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has released its first Talent List with the aim of attracting migrants in 11 professions currently considered critical for Hong Kong's economic development.

Individuals with the requisite qualifications and levels of experience may apply for a visa to stay and work in Hong Kong under the points-based QMAS. Qualified applicants in the 11 following fields who meet Talent List criteria will be awarded additional bonus points under the scheme:

- Waste Treatment Specialists
- Asset Management Professionals
- Marine Insurance Professionals
- Actuaries
- Fintech Professionals
- Data Scientists & Cyber Security Specialists
- Innovation and Technology Experts

- Naval Architects
- Marine Engineers & Superintendents of Ships
- Creative Industries Professionals
- Dispute Resolution Professionals & Transactional Lawyers.

The government envisages further professions may be added to the Talent List as the economic landscape evolves. The most up-to-date position and qualification/experience requirements are set out on the dedicated government [website](#).

QMAS

QMAS is a quota-based immigration scheme with a points-based selection mechanism. It aims to attract highly-skilled persons to settle in Hong Kong and contribute to the territory's economic competitiveness.

QMAS is limited to 1,000 entrants per year. Points are allocated based on age, educational qualification, work experience, language proficiency, and family

background. An additional 30 points will be awarded to a Talent List applicant if the requirements of one of the 11 specified professions are met.

The takeaway

Successful applicants under QMAS are not required to have secured an employment offer in Hong Kong and are therefore able to take up self-employment or set up in business in Hong Kong. Depending on their circumstances, qualified individuals in the 11 listed professions as well as other talents also may consider applying for visas under other non-quota based immigration arrangements, such as an employer-sponsored employment visa under the General Employment Policy.

Interested applicants are advised to understand the requirements and logistics for respective visas in order to make an informed decision.

Let's talk

For a deeper discussion of how this issue might affect your business, please contact your regular PwC Global Mobility Services engagement team or one of the following team members:

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