

Mobility: Immigration alert

February 2024

Japan

Japan to launch Digital Nomad Visa in March 2024

Executive summary

The Japanese government recently introduced a bill that would create a new Digital Nomad Visa for eligible foreign nationals and their dependents. The bill is now at the public comment stage and is expected to become law in late March 2024.

Background

In general, the term “digital nomads” refers to individuals who are employed and receive salaries and benefits in one country (i.e., the home country) but work remotely from another country or multiple countries (i.e., the host country/countries). Digital nomads are typically not permitted to earn remuneration in the host country/countries.

Key developments

If the bill passes in its current form (with no further amendments), Digital Nomad Visa applicants will need to:

- ▶ Be nationals of specific jurisdictions, including those that signed a [tax treaty](#) with Japan and are part of Japan’s [visa waiver program](#). At the time of writing, these jurisdictions include Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Uruguay.
- ▶ Be employed by (i.e., have an employment contract with) and deliver services on behalf of an entity established outside Japan, provide professional services to individuals outside

Japan, or sell certain goods to overseas entities or individuals, using information technology (e.g., via a laptop).

- ▶ Have an annual income of at least JPY 10 million (approx. USD 67,020).
- ▶ Hold valid medical insurance that covers the costs of treatment in Japan and repatriation in the case of death.

Eligible individuals will be allowed to work remotely from Japan for up to six months per calendar year and enter with qualifying dependents (i.e., spouse and children) provided they too are nationals of specific countries and hold valid medical insurance.

Impact on employers

Employers may consider Japan as a potential destination for employees who seek to work remotely.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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EYG no. 001263-24Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

ey.com

Yoshito Kijima

Partner - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration

Tel: +81 70 2478 0144

Email: yoshito.kijima@ey.com

Yoko Kiumi

Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration

Tel: +81 90 1133 6287

Email: yoko.kiumi@ey.com