

# Global Immigration alert

August 2025

## Vietnam

### New Special Visa Exemption Card for certain categories of foreign nationals

#### Executive summary

Effective 15 August 2025, certain categories of foreign nationals are eligible for a Special Visa Exemption Card (SVEC), which grants them visa-free stays in Vietnam over a five-year period.

#### Key developments

Business executives, investors, experts, scientists, scholars and others in special categories whose activities are deemed to support socio-economic development are eligible to obtain a SVEC. The SVEC allows multiple entries and permits stays of up to 90 days per entry within a five-year period. Upon their first arrival to the country with a SVEC, SVEC holders will be issued a temporary residence certificate. They must present their SVEC and temporary residence certificate for all subsequent entries. The Immigration Control Unit verifies these documents during entry procedures.

Nationals of all countries may apply for the SVEC, as there are no nationality restrictions. To qualify, applicants must: (a) fall within one of the designated categories; (b) meet certain professional or academic qualifications; and (c) submit the required documentation through a sponsoring company.

To apply, the sponsoring company must submit the necessary documents to the Immigration Department, including a scanned copy of the applicant's passport. The authorities review the application and, within three to seven working days, issue either an electronic SVEC or a physical card with a chip. If the application is denied, the sponsoring company receives a written explanation.

#### Impact on employers

These changes are expected to benefit companies that rely on SVEC eligible individuals by reducing the time and costs associated with admission.

#### 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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