

Singapore Employment Pass Eligibility Certificate (EPEC) - Singapore licence to job hunt

By satish bakhda

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The economic boom and the abundant growth prospects forecasted for all the key industries have escalated the job opportunity in all spheres. In tune with its foreign talent friendly policies the government is welcoming the niche talents that will contribute to the economic prosperity of the city state. Singapore's strategy to become a knowledge-based economy (KBE) has to balance the aim of a high-skills economy and society with its policy of recruiting foreign talent for knowledge work. When it comes to sustaining a resilient, vibrant economy with the requisite workforce, the Government is singular in its commitment to a 'flow-through' model of bringing in foreign capital, technology, talent and whatever it takes to sustain itself as a 'top globalizer'.

Various policies and incentives are used to attract foreign talents. CONTACT SINGAPORE was launched in 1997 by the International Talent Division of the Ministry of Manpower to facilitate the inflow of international talent to Singapore. The Singapore Talent Recruitment (STAR) Committee was formed in November 1998 with the aim of attracting foreign talents to Singapore. Ever since many talent pro policies and schemes have been introduced in the country including a scheme for Housing of Foreign Talents with the aim of providing affordable yet comfortable accommodations for foreign talents, in order to attract them to work and stay in Singapore. Employment Pass Eligibility certificate (EPEC) is one such scheme to encourage qualified foreign talent to find a suitable job in Singapore.

With an EPEC in hand Foreigners who are interested in finding a job in Singapore, can commence their job hunt personally. Foreigners who wish to spend some time in Singapore to look for a job can apply for the Employment Pass Eligibility Certificate (EPEC). EPEC grants the holder a Social Visit Pass (SVP) valid for up to one year.

Persons with recognized tertiary/ professional qualification are eligible apply for the EPEC. The processing period is 7 working days from the date of receipt of application and no processing fee is charged. From 2 May 2007 all applications have to be submitted online and manual submissions are not allowed. All correspondence is via email, so it is important to provide the correct email address and to check the mail frequently.

While applying online for an EPEC, softcopy of the following documents have to attached and remember that the system can only accept standard file size and format for the supporting documents

A certified true copy of your tertiary academic qualification, transcript or your professional qualifications;

A copy of your passport particulars page; and

A recent passport size photo taken within the last three months

It's a good time for job-hunting in Singapore. Total employment grew by almost 50,000 jobs in the first quarter of 2007, with services in the lead, followed by manufacturing and construction sectors. Job vacancies rose to 32,200, a 30% increase from the same period last year. Wages have gone up by 5% and government believes a wage hike is needed to improve declining productivity.

Ms. Ragini Dhanvantray CEO of www.rikvin.com which is offering a seamless immigration and company incorporation services says “Singapore is building its knowledge base on the electronics, chemicals, and engineering and biomedical sciences industries so ex-pats with related skills and experience should do well. The number of foreign workers increased from almost 250,000 in 1990 to 670,000 in 2006. Of last year’s 176,000 new jobs, nearly half went to foreigners who make up almost a third of Singapore’s work force. The Singapore government is keen to build a comprehensive knowledge pool, so it is keen on facilitating talent immigration into the country, and for professionals who wish to personally explore the job opportunities and the Singapore lifestyle, EPEC with one year validity is an extended ticket for them to stay, explore and decide. Furthermore it is entirely done online so quick and easy and for busy people, there are service providers like Rikvin who can make the application process all the more hassle free.”

Rikvin consultancy provides highly professional company incorporation services, both in attractive standard packages as well as customized services.

Online incorporation being a hallmark service, other services of Rikvin include

- Offshore Incorporation
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- GST Registration
- Accounting Services
- Tax Planning & Consulting
- Business Plan Drafting

For more information, please visit <http://www.rikvin.com/singapore-employment-pass-eligibility-certificate-EPEC.html>

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