Attracting enterprises, investment and talents

Hong Kong is one of the most competitive economies in the world and an important gateway connecting the Chinese Mainland with global markets. With liberal immigration policies, a vibrant cosmopolitan lifestyle and abundant opportunities for career advancement, Hong Kong offers attractive prospects for professionals and experts from around the world. Hong Kong is ranked fourth globally and first in Asia, the highest ranking ever, in the World Talent Ranking 2025 published by the International Institute for Management Development. The Government has announced an array of initiatives to attract enterprises, investment and talents to enhance the city's competitiveness.

Attract Enterprises and Investment

- The **Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises**, proactively attracts high-potential and representative strategic enterprises from overseas and the Mainland, particularly those in sectors of strategic importance, such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, financial technology, advanced manufacturing and new energy technology, as well as cultural and creative industries.
- The **Advisory Committee on Attracting Strategic Enterprises** was set up and representatives from relevant business sectors and social leaders were appointed as members to advise the Financial Secretary on the overall strategy.
- As the professional investment arm of the Government, and leveraging its distinctive market-oriented, industry-focused, and internationally-connected role, the **Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited (HKIC)** deploys thematic capital from the "Hong Kong Growth Portfolio", "Greater Bay Area Investment Fund", "Strategic Tech Fund", and "Co-Investment Fund" to invest in strategic industries, with a view to catalysing and accelerating the growth of high-potential overseas and local enterprises in Hong Kong via market-driven approaches as well as driving the development of these industries, thereby contributing to the city's future growth. By creating long-term values for the local ecosystems and fostering innovation through the flywheel effect of capital, talents and opportunities, the HKIC also contributes to reinforcing Hong Kong's status as an international hub for high-calibre talent.
- The 17 **Dedicated Teams for Attracting Businesses and Talents** based in the Mainland Offices and overseas Economic and Trade Offices proactively reach out to target enterprises and talents and persuade them to pursue development in Hong Kong. The Dedicated Teams liaise with the world's top 100 universities and promote related schemes. They will strengthen links with Hong Kong people studying or working in the Mainland or overseas, encouraging them to return to Hong Kong for development.
- As a dedicated team at Invest Hong Kong, FamilyOfficeHK provides bespoke professional services to facilitate the establishment of family offices in Hong Kong from around the world, ensuring the enduring preservation and growth of family legacies. With a steadfast focus on long-term growth and legacy planning, FamilyOfficeHK guides families at every stage of their journey.

Attracting talents

- **Hong Kong Talent Engage (HKTE)** will step up promotion of its online platforms to offer

comprehensive information on salaries, taxation, education, visas and so on, in addition to providing personalised assistance. It will expand its network of partners and organise online and in-person job fairs with industries and employer organisations, so that employers can directly match jobs with talents.

- In March 2026, HKTE successfully organised the "Global Talent Summit Week". HKTE will continue to organise thematic seminars, job fairs, workshops and integration activities to help incoming talents and their families settle in Hong Kong, as well as to visit Chinese Mainland and overseas to promote Hong Kong's talent attraction measures so as to attract talents of our needs in a targeted manner.
- Implement the **Top Talent Pass Scheme (TTPS)** and various enhanced talent admission schemes.
- **Extend the limit of stay of employment visas** so that talents admitted may be issued with an employment visa valid for a maximum of three years.
- **Abolish employment visa requirement** for people engaging in short-term work in Hong Kong.
- An eligible applicant for the **New Capital Investment Entrant Scheme** who makes investment of a minimum of HK$30 million in the permissible investment assets may apply to reside and pursue development in Hong Kong.
- The **Talent List** comprises 60 professions under nine industry segments, namely business support; creative industries, arts and culture, performing arts; development and construction; environmental technology services; financial services; healthcare services; innovation and technology; legal and dispute resolution services; and aviation and shipping; with more **talent categories relating to AI application** to be added in the first half of 2027. The Talent List reflects the latest shortage situation in different fields to facilitate employers to recruit high-quality talents without the need to prove local employment difficulties to meet their needs thus shortening the time to recruit outside talents, and in support of Hong Kong's development into a high value-added and diversified economy.

Top Talent Pass Scheme

- Under the scheme, eligible high-income talents and talents graduated from top universities will be issued a **three-year and two-year pass respectively to explore opportunities and work in Hong Kong**.
- Eligible talents will include (i) high-income individuals whose **annual salary reached HK$2.5 million or above in the preceding year**; (ii) **degree graduates of the eligible universities** with **at least three years of work experience over the past five years** (no quota); and (iii) **degree graduates of the eligible universities in the past five years with less than three years of work experience** (subject to an annual quota of 10,000).

General Employment Policy and Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals

- Streamline the **General Employment Policy** and **Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals** so that for vacancies falling under the professions with shortage of local supply listed in the Talent List or for vacancies with annual salary of HK$2 million or above, employers do not have to provide proof to substantiate their difficulties in local recruitment to apply for talent admission.
- A new channel under the General Employment Policy and the Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals was introduced in June 2025 to allow eligible non-degree professionals to apply for entry into Hong Kong to join eight skilled trades facing acute manpower shortage.

Quality Migrant Admission Scheme

- The **Quality Migrant Admission Scheme** (QMAS) is open to highly skilled or talented people who wish to settle in Hong Kong. There is no sectoral restriction under the QMAS and successful applicants are not required to have secured a job offer before entry into Hong Kong. There are two point-based tests under the QMAS: **General Points Test** and **Achievement-based Points Test**.
- In November 2024, the Government enhanced the General Points Test under the QMAS by adopting a more objective and clear scoring criteria, and streamlining the application and selection process.
- Talents who meet the Talent List requirements will be favourably considered under the General Points Test of the QMAS.

Innovation and Technology

To foster I&T development, the Government has introduced various initiatives to attract I&T enterprises and expertise:

- Pooled over 1 000 local, Mainland and international AI experts and nearly 1 000 AI companies through the AIR@InnoHK research cluster and our I&T parks respectively.
- To set up the **Hong Kong Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Institute** in 2026 to bolster our research and development (R&D) capacity in the field of AI.
- Implemented the HK$3 billion **Frontier Technology Research Support Scheme** in September 2025 which provides funding support, on a matching basis, to eight University Grants Committee-funded universities in attracting international top-notch researchers to Hong Kong and procuring facilities to conduct research projects in frontier technology fields.
- Actively promote Hong Kong's new opportunities to the Mainland and overseas. By making use of the HK$5 billion Strategic Tech Fund as well as the land and space provided for I&T uses in the Hong Kong -Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park in the Loop, we will attract high-quality enterprises and talents to Hong Kong, primarily focusing on industries such as life and health technology, artificial intelligence and data science, etc.
- In order to enhance the competitiveness of Hong Kong in attracting strategic enterprises to set up production facilities in Hong Kong, the HK$10 billion **New Industrialisation Acceleration Scheme** was launched in September 2024 to provide funding support of up to HK$200 million per enterprise on a 1 (Government) : 2 (Enterprise) matching basis for enterprises engaging in life and health sciences, artificial intelligence and data sciences, as well as advanced manufacturing and new energy technologies to set up new smart production facilities in Hong Kong.
- The **Technology Talent Admission Scheme** aims to attract and nurture R&D talents. It provides a fast-track arrangement for eligible technology companies to admit technology talents from the Chinese Mainland and overseas to work on technology-related R&D in Hong Kong.
- The **Research Talent Hub** provides funding support to each eligible company or organisation to engage up to four research talents to conduct R&D work. Research talents with a doctoral degree will be further provided with a living allowance.
- The **Global STEM Professorship Scheme** supports local universities in attracting R&D talents to work in Hong Kong.

Non-local Graduates

- The **Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates** allows non-local graduates to stay or return and work in Hong Kong.

- Under the scheme, non-local students who have obtained an undergraduate or higher qualification in a full-time and locally-accredited programme in Hong Kong can apply to stay for two years after graduation without other restrictions on conditions of stay. The scheme has also been expanded to cover those who graduated from campuses of Hong Kong universities in the Mainland cities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.
- Implement the pilot arrangement of the Vocational Professionals Admission Scheme and allow non-local students enrolled in eligible full-time Higher Diploma programmes in the 2024/25 to 2027/28 academic years to apply upon graduation to remain in Hong Kong for employment in the skilled trades relevant to their programmes of study.

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