

Singapore Immigration Updates - Tech@SG and Tech.Pass Programmes

December 2022

Overview

This 3rd part of our immigration alert covers the Tech@SG programme and the Tech.Pass which aims to facilitate the development of Singapore's technology industries and ecosystem.

1. Tech@SG programme

The Tech@SG programme is one of many schemes introduced to drive Singapore's Smart Nation initiative. Launched in 2019 and jointly administered by the Economic Development Board (EDB) and Enterprise Singapore, Tech@SG aims to attract established/fast-growing tech companies with the commitment and ability to build teams and products to set up operations in Singapore. It is also designed to help Singapore-based technology companies recruit highly skilled foreign talent so that such companies can grow and scale their business in the region.

Benefits of the Tech@SG programme include company-level endorsement to the MOM for up to 10 new EPs over 2 years for foreign employees who will be hired as part of the company's core team, thereby reducing the risk of rejections as well as coverage for first renewal of their EP.

The company must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ Incorporated a business entity in Singapore with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA)
- ▶ Have a digital or technology offering as its core business product or service (e.g., software-as-a-service, e-commerce, digital media, digital gaming, medtech,

biotech, cleantech and fintech companies)

- ▶ Secured more than US\$10 million (cumulative) in investment funding in the past 36 months
- ▶ Received funding (no minimum amount) from a programme recognised investment firm in the past 36 months

Foreign employees are subject to the following requirements:

- ▶ Applicant's fixed monthly salary meets MOM's minimum prevailing EP salary criteria
- ▶ Applicant passes MOM's background and due diligence checks
- ▶ Applicant should be filling core business roles (e.g., business development, human resources, finance, partnerships, strategy, general management) or technical roles (e.g., product management, product development, software engineering, solution architecting, product design, data science)
- ▶ Applicants should be in roles that are Manager-level and above

Companies with 30% or more local shareholding should submit the Tech@SG application to Startup SG (i.e., an entity under Enterprise Singapore) instead of the EDB.

After 10 successful EP applications or 2 years of support, whichever earlier, EDB/Enterprise Singapore will notify companies on the end of support.



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2. Tech.Pass

The Tech.Pass is an extension of the Tech@SG programme. It is a visa targeted at established tech entrepreneurs, leaders, founders, technical experts with experience in established or high-growth tech companies. The Tech.Pass is administered by the EDB and is open for applications from January 2021, with up to 500 passes available for the first tranche.

The Tech.Pass provides pass holders with the flexibility to concurrently perform any of the following activities:

- ▶ Start and operate one or more tech companies
- ▶ Be an employee in one or more Singapore-based companies at any time
- ▶ Transit between employers or to an entrepreneur
- ▶ Be a consultant or mentor, lecture in local institutions of higher learning, or be an investor and director in one or more Singapore-based companies

To qualify for Tech.Pass, applicants must meet at 2 of the following criteria:

- ▶ Have a last drawn fixed monthly salary (in the last 1 year) of at least S\$20,000
- ▶ Have at least 5 cumulative years of experience in a leading role in a tech company with a valuation/market capitalisation of at least US\$500million or at least US\$30million funding raised
- ▶ Have at least 5 cumulative years of experience in a leading role (e.g., design, development and/or deployment) of a tech product that has at least 100,000 monthly active users or at least US\$100million annual revenue

The Tech.Pass is valid for 2 years and can be renewed for another 2 years, if the pass holder meets the following conditions:

- ▶ Have earned at least S\$240,000 in assessable income based on the latest Notice of Assessment from the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (can be made up of salaries and/or business income); OR
- ▶ Demonstrate total annual business spending of at least S\$100,000 and employ at least 1 local PME¹ or 3 LQS² AND

At the time of renewal, be performing at least two of the following roles, at least one of which must be in Column (A):

A	B
1. Founded a company in Singapore, offering a tech-based or tech-enabled product or service	1. Served on the Board of Directors of a Singapore-based company (need not necessarily be a tech company)
2. Served a leading role (e.g., CEO, CTO, APAC MD) in a Singapore-based tech company	2. Acted as advisor/mentor to a Singapore-based start-up
3. Served a leading role in two or more Singapore-based tech companies	3. Served as professor lecturer/adjunct professor/adjunct lecture in a Singapore Institute of Higher Learning (IHL)
4. Employed in a technical role leading a team in a Singapore-based company, e.g., senior engineer or senior researcher leading a team in a particular tech field	4. Provided training in some form not covered by B2 or B3 above (e.g., workshops, corporate training classes)
5. Employed in a technical role leading a team in two or more Singapore-based companies	5. Invested in one or more Singapore-based tech companies

As part of Singapore's efforts to remain competitive, the Tech@SG and Tech.Pass programmes aim to develop a strong base of technology companies and talent, which help to cement Singapore's status as a global technology hub. With the recent introduction of the Overseas Networks and Expertise Pass ("ONE Pass"), the EDB is reviewing the possibility of merging the Tech.Pass with the ONE Pass.

1. Local PMEs refer to professionals, managers, and executives who are Singaporeans or Singapore Permanent Residents, and who earn a fixed monthly salary of at least S\$3,900 and receive Central Provident Fund ("CPF") contributions for at least 3 months.

2. LQS (i.e., Local Qualifying Salary) refers to Singaporeans and Singapore Permanent Residents who earn a monthly salary of at least S\$1,400 and receive CPF contributions for at least 3 months.

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新加坡移民信息更新

- Tech@SG及Tech.Pass项目

2022年12月

简介

我司移民快讯的第三部分内容介绍旨在促进新加坡科技行业和科技生态发展的Tech@SG和Tech.Pass项目。

1. Tech@SG项目

Tech@SG项目是新加坡为推动智慧国家倡议而出台的众多计划之一。Tech@SG于2019年推出，由新加坡经济发展局（EDB）与新加坡企业发展局共同管理，致力于吸引有能力且有意愿的知名/快速增长的科技公司在新加坡创建团队和产品，开展业务。亦致力于帮助新加坡本土科技公司招聘高技能的外籍人才，从而在本地区实现增长和扩大业务。

Tech@SG项目的优点是，对于任职于公司核心团队的外籍雇员的EP准证，可在2年内为多至10份新准证向人力部(MOM)提供公司层面的认可，从而减少拒签的风险，以及首次续签EP的情况。

公司必须满足以下要求：

- ▶ 在会计与企业管制局(ACRA)注册了一个新加坡商业实体
- ▶ 核心业务产品或服务为数字或科技产品（如：软件即服务、电子商务、数字媒体、数字游戏、医疗科技、生物技术、洁净科技、以及金融科技公司）

- ▶ 在过去36个月中获得超过1000万美元（累计）的投资基金
- ▶ 在过去36个月中获得来自本项目所认可的投资公司的基金（无最低金额要求）

外籍雇员需满足如下要求：

- ▶ 申请人的固定月薪达到人力部的最低EP月薪标准
- ▶ 申请人通过人力部的背景调查和尽职调查
- ▶ 申请人应担任核心业务职位（如：业务拓展、人力资源、金融、合伙人、策略、综合管理）或科技职位（如：产品管理、产品开发、软件工程、解决方案架构、产品设计、数据科学）
- ▶ 申请人的职位应在经理级及以上

本地人持股30%或以上的公司应将Tech@SG申请提交到Startup SG（即新加坡企业发展局下属实体），而不是EDB。

在成功申请10份EP或获得2年支持后，以较早时间为准，EDB/新加坡企业发展局将通知公司支持终止。

更多详情，请联系

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2. Tech.Pass

Tech.Pass是Tech@SG项目的扩展项目。为具有知名或高增长科技公司工作经历、已有建树的科技企业家、领袖、创始人、科技专家而设的签证种类。Tech.Pass由EDB管理，从2021年1月开始接受申请，第一批签发的准证多达500份。

Tech.Pass为准证持有人提供可同时从事下列任何事项的灵活性：

- ▶ 创立并经营一家或多家科技公司
- ▶ 随时入职一家或多家新加坡公司
- ▶ 受雇于不同的雇主或成为企业家
- ▶ 在当地高等院校担任顾问或导师、讲师，或在一家或多家新加坡公司担任投资人和董事

为获签Tech.Pass，申请人必须满足下列条件中的至少2条：

- ▶ 最近赚取的固定月薪（最近1年）达到2万新元
- ▶ 在估值/市值达5亿美元或至少融资3亿美元的科技公司具有累计达5年的担任领导职位经历
- ▶ 在每月活跃用户至少达10万名或年营收至少达1亿美元的科技产品的开发中，具有累计达5年的担任领导职位的经历（如：设计、开发和/或部署）

Tech.Pass的有效期为2年，如果准证持有人符合下列条件可续签2年：

- ▶ 依据新加坡国内税务局最新的评估通知，已赚取至少24万新元的应税收入（可由薪金和/或营业收入组成）；或
- ▶ 证明年度业务总支出达10万新元，并聘用至少1名本地PME¹或3名LQS²，以及

在续签之时，担任下列职务中的至少两项，其中一项职务必须位于(A)栏：

A	B
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 在新加坡创立了一家公司，提供基于科技的产品或服务或科技赋能产品或服务 2. 在新加坡科技公司担任领导职位（如：CEO, CTO, APAC MD） 3. 在两家及以上新加坡科技公司担任领导职位 4. 供职于一科技职位，在一新加坡公司带领一个团队，如：带领某个科技领域的一个团队的资深工程师或资深研究员 5. 供职于科技职位，在两家或多家新加坡公司带领一个团队 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 任职于某个新加坡公司的董事会（不局限于科技公司） 2. 担任一新加坡初创公司的顾问/导师 3. 在新加坡高等院校(IHL)担任教授、讲师/兼职教授/兼职讲师 4. 以上述B2或B3未提及的某种方式提供培训（如：研讨会、公司培训课程） 5. 投资于一家及多家新加坡科技公司

Tech@SG和Tech.Pass项目作为新加坡保持竞争力的其中两项举措，旨在培育一个牢固的科技公司基地和人才基地，助力新加坡巩固其全球科技中心的地位。随着顶级专才准证（ONE准证）在近期的推出，EDB在考虑将Tech.Pass和ONE准证合二为一的可能性。

1. 本地PME指专业人士、经理、和行政人员，他们是新加坡人或新加坡永久居民，固定月薪至少为3900新元，并获得至少3个月的公积金（CPF）缴款。
2. LQS（即：本地员工薪金门槛）指月薪至少1400新元并获得至少3个月CPF缴款的新加坡人和新加坡永久居民。

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