

CAPITAL INVESTMENT VISA

The Capital Investment Entrant Scheme

HONG KONG VISA
CENTRE

CIES SUSPENDED

www.hongkongvisahandbook.com

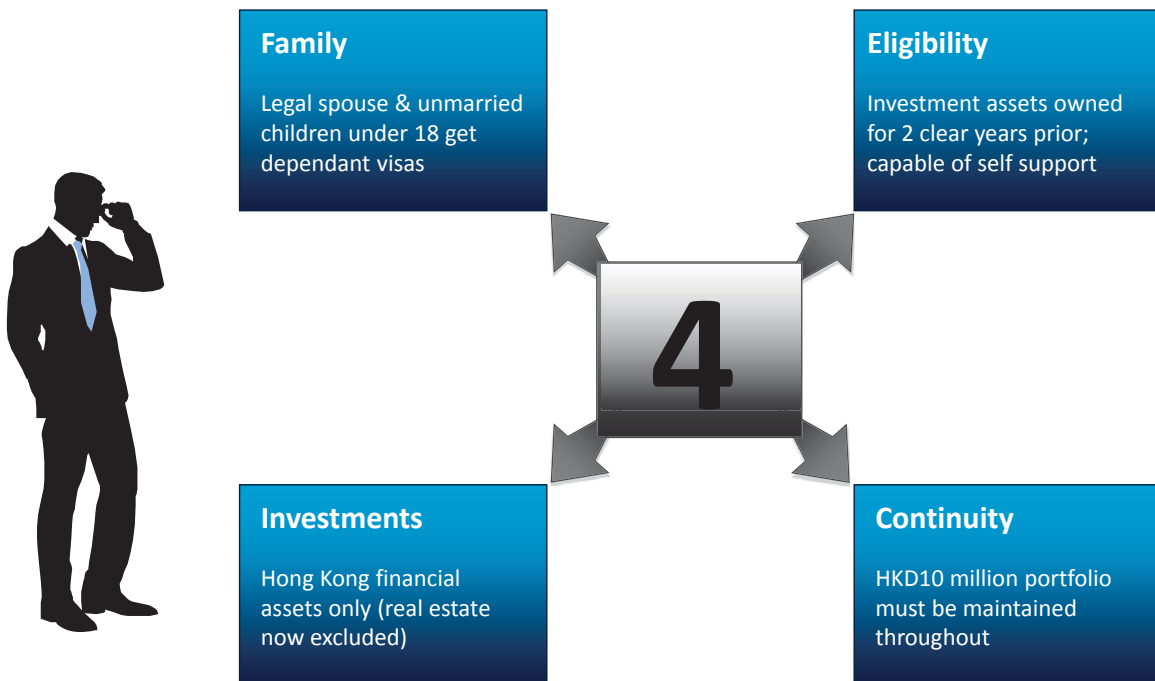
- 24,000 Approvals
- 23,000 From Mainland
- 20, 000 Applications Still Being Processed
- Unlikely to be Reinstated

CIES OVERVIEW



Invest hard cash in Hong Kong and secure residency permissions

KEY CONSIDERATIONS



THE ORACLE

Jake van der Kamp, Monitor, SCMP, October 1, 2004

“ Let us get it straight about this initiative to give foreigners Hong Kong identity cards if they bring a certain amount of money with them. It represents a complete misunderstanding of how our balance of payments system works. Foreigners who come here do not bring Hong Kong dollars. They do not have them at home. They bring their own currencies and we then exchange them for Hong Kong dollars. This results in our holding their foreign currency denominated money, which we then spend or invest in their countries ...

... Net gain to us?

... Nothing. ”

ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS

www.hongkongvisahandbook.com

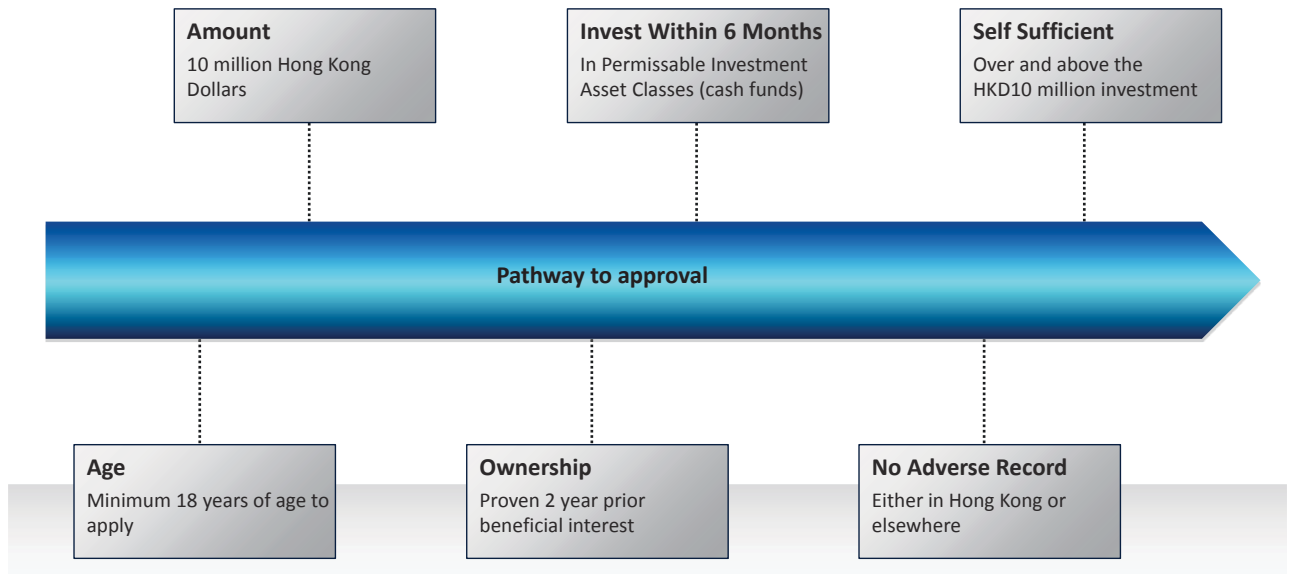
Qualifying Nationalities

- Foreign nationals (except Afghanistan, Cuba, North Korea & Albania)
- Residents of Macau & Taiwan
- Chinese nationals with PR overseas
- Stateless people holding PR overseas with proven re-entry facilities

FX issues preclude Mainland residents from inclusion in the programme

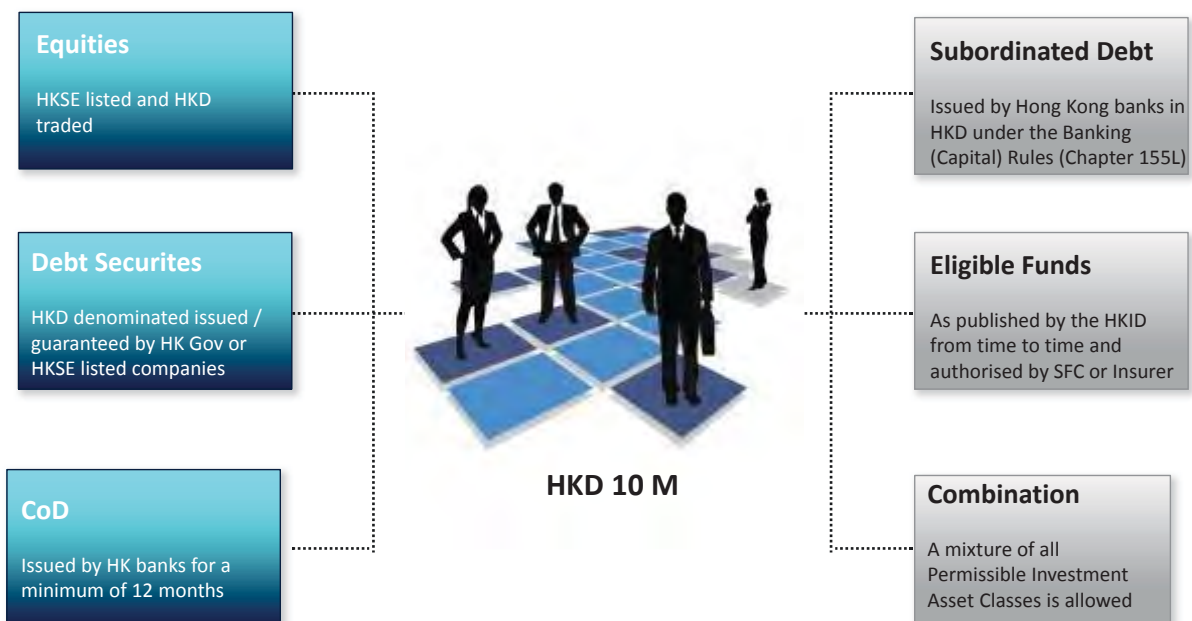


ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



A visa programme for the very well heeled

PERMISSIBLE INVESTMENT ASSET CLASSES



APPROVAL OUTCOMES



The CIES visa allows any lawful permitted activity in Hong Kong by the holder and his family

Capital Investment

Rationale

The Capital Investment Entrant Scheme commenced in October 2003 with the objective of allowing well-heeled people to take up residence in Hong Kong without them needing to join in or establish an operating business. The programme rules are reviewed regularly and at this time the funds required are HKD10 million with qualifying investments now excluding Hong Kong real property.

Eligibility

An application for admission under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme will be successful if:

- You are aged 18 or above.
- You have net assets of not less than HKD10 million to which you have been absolutely beneficially entitled for at least 2 years immediately prior to making the application.
- You have invested (within 6 months prior) or will invest (within 6 months post) not less than HKD10 million in permissible investment asset classes nominated for the CIES programme.
- You have no adverse record in Hong Kong, your country of origin and present country of domicile (if different).
- You are a Chinese national with PR overseas, a foreign national (other than citizens of Cuba, Afghanistan, Albania and North Korea), a resident of Macau or Taiwan or a stateless person with PR in a third country.

Application Procedure

Applying for a Capital Investment visa is a matter of (a) completing the application form ID967, furnishing a referee, setting out your net worth, articulating how you intend to invest at least HKD10 million into qualifying investments (if you have not yet already) and if you are going to appoint a Hong Kong CPA to attest to your net worth (speeding up the application process generally). On the basis that all of this stacks up and the normal background checks which the HKID undertake do not reveal any security objection to you becoming resident in Hong Kong, they will issue with either (a) formal approval (if you have already invested the HKD10 million) or (b) approval in principle (giving you a period of stay in Hong Kong as a visitor for up to six months in order for you to make the HKD10 million investment) whereupon, once proof is provided to the HKID that the investment has been made, your formal approval will be issued and you can become formally resident in Hong Kong under the Capital Investment programme.

Arrangements for Dependants

You are permitted to bring your dependant family members (legal spouse and unmarried children under the age of 18) under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme who secure dependant visas (allowing them to work and/or study full time). Their period of stay mirrors the principal visa holder's exactly.

Period of Stay

You will receive a 2 year period of stay in the first instance. Extensions are readily available subject to you being able to satisfy the portfolio maintenance requirements and otherwise demonstrate to the Director of Immigration that you continue to meet the eligibility criteria. The principal applicant enters into a specific Undertaking in respect of continuing beneficial ownership of the HKD 10 million which, if breached, will lead to loss of status when the current period of stay expires.



Preparing Your Case

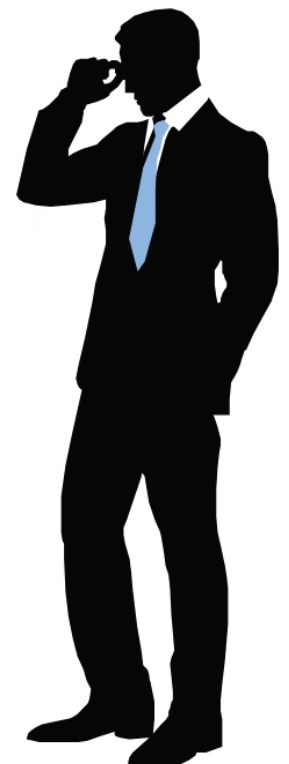
[\(Click to Watch\)](#)

Highlights

- Scheme designed to attract new investment to Hong Kong
- HKD10 million into qualifying investments
- No longer includes real estate
- The investment funds must have been beneficially owned for at least 2 years prior
- Not available to PRC nationals resident on the Mainland



Discussion



HKD10 Million & Permissible Investment Asset Classes

The applicant needs to invest not less than HKD10 million in one, or a combination, of the following qualifying investments:

Equities

HKSE listed shares and traded in Hong Kong Dollars.

Debt Securities

Issued in HKD by nominated government agencies (MTR, HK Airport etc).

COD

Issued by Hong Kong banks in HKD and for a minimum of 12 months each deposit.

Subordinated Debt

Issued by Hong Kong banks in HKD.

Eligible Collective Investment Schemes

As prescribed and authorised by the HKID from time to time.

All permissible investment assets need to be held in a designated account in the applicant's own name and operated by a single financial intermediary and a contract has to be entered into between the financial intermediary and the applicant on terms which are set out by the HKID. The financial intermediary must be either an authorised institution as defined by the Banking Ordinance or a licensed corporation licensed to perform Type 1,4 or 9 regulated activities under the Securities and Futures Ordinance.

An essential element of the Capital Investment programme is that the applicant needs to be able to demonstrate that he is capable of supporting and accommodating himself and his dependants, if any, on his own without relying on any return from the HKD10 million invested. Moreover, at the point of application, he should be sufficiently well heeled such that he does not need to rely on working in Hong Kong or need to start up a business in order to finance his residence—both of which are permitted once the Capital Investment visa is issued.



**Click to Access all the
Scheme Rules**

Portfolio Maintenance

The entire HKD 10 million investment is ring fenced for the life of the Capital Investment visa status. The visa holder is not required to top up the HKD10 million if the value of his portfolio drops nor is he allowed to withdraw any increase in value. Any such increase must be reinvested if a choice is made to move between permissible asset classes.

Scheme Rules

The Director of Immigration has set out detailed rules on the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme. These are available here:
[http://www.immd.gov.hk/pdf/forms/id\(e\)968.pdf](http://www.immd.gov.hk/pdf/forms/id(e)968.pdf)

Submitting Your Application

The application is submitted to the HKID either (a) via post from overseas or in person to the Receipt & Dispatch Unit of the Immigration Tower (2/F). The HKID will also entertain applications from current residents who wish to change their category of visa. Applications can also be submitted on a change of status basis, whilst a visitor in Hong Kong.



Refusal & Appeal

If your case is denied, you can elect to start the appeal process with a formal request for Reconsideration. If you are a visitor seeking to change your status, the HKID will usually afford you an extension to your current period of stay during the Reconsideration process. See the section on Appeals.



Documents Required

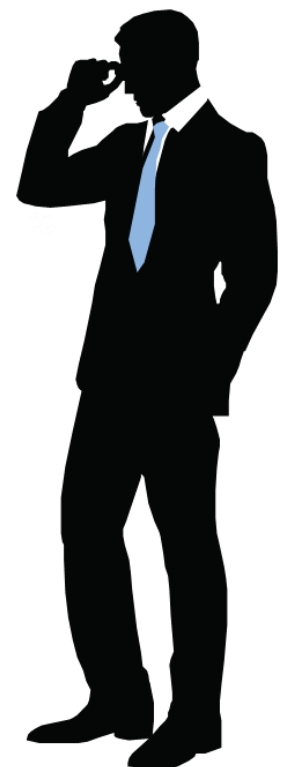
- Application form ID967.
- Recent photograph affixed to the form.
- Copy passport details page and current visa/period of stay if presently in Hong Kong.
- Copy up-to-date CV.
- Photocopy of all graduation certificates/proof of academic qualifications.
- Copies of documents which show your prior employment and/or business record for the past 5 years.
- Supporting proof of your net worth for the last 2 years showing that you have beneficially owned absolutely the HKD10 million you will be investing in Hong King under the Capital Investment programme.
- Supporting proof of the HKD10 million you have already invested (within the prior 6 months) - if applicable.
- If applying with Family Members, Form 997 and the following documents:
 1. A confirmation letter to be signed by the CIES applicant confirming that he will be responsible for meeting his dependant's financial needs in Hong Kong.
 2. Family photos evidencing the CIES applicant and the dependants relationship.
 3. Copies of birth (where applicable for dependant children) and marriage certificates.
 4. Copy passports details page of all dependants included in the application.
 5. Documentary proof indicating the CIES applicant and the dependants were living together overseas .



After 7 Years

Once a Capital Investment visa holder and his family have been continuously resident in Hong Kong for a period of not less than 7 years and are able to declare that they have taken Hong Kong as their only place of permanent residence, they can apply for the Right of Abode. Other such persons who are not able to show 7 years continuous ordinary residence are eligible for Unconditional Stay. In either case, the HKD10 million investment is released and the residence is no longer subject to any conditions of stay.

A Space for Your Notes





Capital Investment

- Application form ID967.
- Recent photograph affixed to the form.
- Copy passport details page and current visa/period of stay if presently in Hong Kong.
- Copy up-to-date CV.
- Photocopy of all graduation certificates/proof of academic qualifications.
- Copies of documents which show your prior employment and/or business record for the past 5 years.
- Supporting proof of your net worth for the last 2 years showing that you have beneficially owned absolutely the HKD10 million you will be investing in Hong Kong under the Capital Investment programme.
- Supporting proof of the HKD10 million you have already invested (within the prior 6 months) - if applicable.
- If applying with Family Members, HKID form ID997 and the following documents:
 - A confirmation letter to be signed by the CIES applicant confirming that he will be responsible for meeting his dependant's financial needs in Hong Kong.
 - Family photos evidencing the CIES applicant and the dependants relationship.
 - Copies of birth (where applicable for dependant children) and marriage certificates.
 - Copy passports details page of all dependants included in the application.
 - Documentary proof indicating the CIES applicant and the dependants were living together overseas.





Capital Investment

Notes



www.hongkongvisahandbook.com