

Singapore Attracts Foreign Workers with New Visa Rules

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Ministry /'mɪnɪstri:/ (noun) a government department
Example: How can I contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?
2. Achievement /ə'tʃi:vmənt/ (noun) a thing done successfully
Example: She listed down all her achievements from the time that she turned 20.
3. Regional /'ri:dʒənəl/ (adjective) of or relating to a particular area of a country
Example: He was promoted as the company's regional manager.
4. Headquarters /'hɛd,kwɔ:rtərz/ (noun) the place where an organization is controlled from
Example: The headquarters is located in London.
5. Restriction /rɪ'strɪkʃən/ (noun) a law or rule that limits what is allowed to happen or be done
Example: The government implemented a lot of restrictions for the safety of the country's people.
6. Commitment /kə'mɪtmənt/ (noun) the state or quality of being dedicated to something; a serious promise or undertaking
Example: He has a strong commitment to his work.



Singapore's **Ministry** of Manpower has announced new work visa rules to encourage foreigners to work in the country. The Overseas Networks & Expertise Pass, which will be available from January 2023, will allow foreigners making at least 30,000 Singapore dollars — about \$21,500 — a month to work in the country for five years. Workers will also be allowed to work for — or start — more than one company in Singapore at one time, and their partners will be able to apply for jobs within the country too.

The ministry said people with great **achievements** in the arts, sports, and science and technology can apply for the visa even if they make under \$21,500 a month. The Ministry of Manpower also announced that, from September 2023, tech workers whose skills are badly needed will be able to apply for five-year visas instead of the usual two- or three-year visa.

Singapore is a popular place for foreign firms to have their **regional headquarters**. But many foreigners left the country during the COVID-19 pandemic because of local travel **restrictions**, causing the number of people in Singapore to decrease for the first time in nearly 20 years. This has left the country with many available jobs but not enough workers. The new rules are part of Singapore's **commitment** to be "open to the world," the ministry said, and to create a global city made of local and foreign workers.

DISCUSSION

1. If you could live anywhere in the world for five years, where would you choose?
2. Has your country made any changes to its visa rules in recent years?
3. Are there any industries in your country that are struggling to find workers?
4. What do you imagine makes foreigners want to live in your country?
5. What do you imagine are the main reasons people from your country look for work abroad?