

# Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2024

## South Korea

### New pilot program for Digital Nomad Visas

#### Executive summary

Effective 1 January 2024, eligible foreign nationals and their dependents may apply for and obtain Digital Nomad Visas that are valid for up to two years.

#### Background

In general, the term “digital nomads” refers to individuals who are employed and receive salaries and benefits in one country (i.e., the home country) but work remotely from another country or multiple countries (i.e., the host country/countries). Digital nomads are typically not permitted to earn remuneration in the host country/countries.

#### Key developments

On 29 December 2023, the South Korean government announced the introduction of a new pilot program for digital nomads called “Workcation.” Under the program, effective 1 January 2024, eligible foreign nationals may apply for Digital Nomad Visas at South Korean consulates or embassies. Additionally, individuals who are present in South Korea as tourists (e.g., holders of B-1, B-2, C-3 visas) may apply for and obtain Digital Nomad Visas from within South Korea provided they meet all the requirements.

If approved, the visas will be issued for an initial period of up to one year with the possibility of being extended for an additional year. In order to be eligible, applicants must:

- ▶ Be 19 or older
- ▶ Receive an annual income that is at least twice the gross national income per capita for 2022 (i.e., KRW 8,496,000,000 or approx. USD 64,748)
- ▶ Have worked in the same industry for at least one year

Applicants are required to submit:

- ▶ Proof of employment with a company outside South Korea
- ▶ Proof that they have private health insurance that covers at least KRW 100,000,000 (approx. USD 76,350) in expenses
- ▶ Criminal records certificates (confirming the applicant does not have a criminal record) issued by competent authorities in the applicant’s country of citizenship and any country where the applicant resided for over one year in the 10 years leading up to the filing of the application

Eligible individuals may enter with their qualifying dependent family members (i.e., spouse and children under the age of 18). Individuals who enter with their spouse must provide their marriage certificate and criminal records certificate(s) for their spouse. Individuals who enter with their children must provide the children’s birth certificates, and for children above the age of 14, criminal records certificates.

#### Impact on employers

Employers may consider South Korea as a potential destination for employees who seek to work remotely.

#### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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**Jee Young Chung**  
Partner - People Advisory Services  
Tel: +82 (0)2 3787 4004  
Email: [jee-young.chung@kr.ey.com](mailto:jee-young.chung@kr.ey.com)

**Zi On Bae**  
Senior Manager - People Advisory Services  
Tel: +82 (0)2 3787 4223  
Email: [zion.bae@kr.ey.com](mailto:zion.bae@kr.ey.com)