

Immigration Policy Levers for US Innovation and Startups, Sari Pekkala Kerr and William R. Kerr

DIGITAL APPENDIX

Note: This online appendix was compiled using official government and accelerator program websites accessed during January, 2020. Details represent verbiage sourced from official websites listed in public collections.¹ This appendix does not represent a complete directory of all channels for immigration by entrepreneurs into the countries shown nor a complete listing of all countries with immigration schemes for entrepreneurs.

AUSTRALIA²

- **Benefits:**
 - Ability to carry out entrepreneurial activity in Australia
 - Ability to stay in Australia for 4 years and 3 months
 - Ability to bring eligible members of entrepreneur's family to Australia
 - Ability to apply for a permanent Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) visa (subclass 888) Entrepreneur stream if certain requirements are met
- **Requirements:**
 - Receive an invitation to apply
 - Be nominated
 - Be under 55
 - Have a complying entrepreneur activity
 - Receive funding from an approved entity
 - Have competent English
 - Meet Australia's health requirement
 - Meet Australia's character requirement
 - Sign the Australian values statement
 - Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused

CANADA³

- **Benefits:**
 - Permanent residence
- **Requirements:**
 - Have a qualifying business
 - Obtain a letter of support from a designated organization
 - Meet the language requirements
 - Bring enough money to settle

CHILE⁴

- **Benefits:**
 - A one-year working visa, free coworking space, equity-free funding, and access to Startup Chile resources
- **Requirements:**
 - Be a founder of a company with a functional product and early validation (for Seed Acceleration program), or
 - Be a female founder of an early stage startup (for The S Factory program), or
 - Be a founder of a project with an economic, social and environmental impact (for Huella Acceleration program)

¹ <https://uglobally.com/startup-visa-worldwide/>; <https://www.g20yea.com/index.php/reports/visadir>;
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Startup_Visa

² <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-188/entrepreneur-stream#Eligibility>

³ <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/start-visa/eligibility.html>

⁴ <https://www.startupchile.org/programs/>

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CYPRUS⁵

- **Benefits:**
 - Right to economic activity and residence in the Republic for one year, and with the possibility of renewal for at least another year
 - Right to self-employment or right to paid employment in entrepreneur's registered company within the Republic
 - Prospective residence in the Republic without any maximum time restrictions, if the enterprise succeeds
 - Enjoyment of family reunification, if the enterprise succeeds
 - Prospective recruitment of a specific number of personnel from non-EU countries without prior approval of the Department of Labor, in case of success of the enterprise. The success or failure of the enterprise will be assessed at the end of the second year
- **Requirements:**
 - Be the sole founder of the business and own the majority of the enterprise's shares
 - Have access to €50,000, which may include venture capital funding, crowdfunding, or other sources
 - Hold an undergraduate degree or an equivalent professional qualification
 - Have very good knowledge of the Greek and/or English language

DENMARK⁶

- **Benefits:**
 - Danish residence permit for a period of up to two years with the possibility of extension for three years at a time
- **Requirements:**
 - Have a business plan that is approved by the Startup Denmark expert panel
 - Play an active part in running the business
 - Provide documentation of sufficient funds to cover one's first year in Denmark

ESTONIA⁷

- **Benefits:**
 - Temporary residence permit for up to five years, renewable with option to apply for permanent residency
- **Requirements:**
 - Possess a company conducting business activity in Estonia with a minimum investment of €65,000 (in the case of a self-employed person, €16,000 euros)
 - Have startup evaluated by the expert committee

FINLAND⁸

- **Benefits:**
 - Two year permit, renewable
- **Requirements:**
 - Have a startup team of no less than 2 founders with versatile expertise
 - Have an innovative business plan
 - Show commitment to the business idea and eventually building the company

⁵ <http://www.reform.gov.cy/en/growth-reform/entrepreneurship-and-investments/startup-visa>

⁶ <https://startupdenmark.info/how-apply>

⁷ <https://www2.politsei.ee/en/organisatsioon/organization/>

⁸ <https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/do-business-with-finland/startup-in-finland/startup-permit/>

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- Show significant holding in the company (has no less than 60% of the company)
- Have access to sufficient resources and funding for the company's early stages

FRANCE⁹

- **Benefits:**
 - Residence permit with maximum validity of four years, renewable
- **Requirements:**
 - Prove possession of a real and serious business creation project in France
 - Invest at least €30,000 in the project
 - Hold a degree at least equivalent to a master's degree or be able to prove at least five years of professional experience at a comparable level

GERMANY¹⁰

- **Benefits:**
 - Temporary right of residence for a maximum of three years, renewable with option to apply for permanent residency
- **Requirements:**
 - Demonstrate that there exists an economic interest or regional need in the business (idea)
 - Demonstrate that the activity is expected to benefit the Berlin economy
 - Demonstrate that implementation is financially secured by equity capital or credit
 - Submit a business plan containing capital requirements, liquidity, and a profit/loss
 - Submit a certificate of health insurance cover
 - Submit a curriculum vitae of the entrepreneur

IRELAND¹¹

- **Benefits:**
 - Residence for two years, renewable for a further three years. After 5 years residence, participants will be eligible for long term residence
- **Requirements:**
 - Have a proposal for a startup in the innovation economy (introduces a new or innovative product or service to international markets, is capable of creating 10 jobs in Ireland and realising €1 million in sales within three to four years, is led by an experienced management team, is headquartered and controlled in Ireland, is less than six years old)
 - Have funding of €75,000

ISRAEL¹²

- **Benefits:**
 - Permission to stay in Israel for up to 24 months. Should the project subsequently mature into a company, the foreign entrepreneur will be able to receive an 'expert visa' and file a request for support from the Israel Innovation Authority's different programs. Such further support may allow entrepreneurs to stay in Israel and work on the project as an employee for a period of up to 5 additional years
- **Requirements:**

⁹ https://france-visas.gouv.fr/en_US/web/france-visas/international-talents-and-economic-attractiveness

¹⁰ <https://www.ihk-berlin.de/blueprint/servlet/resource/blob/2265310/4a811090332b9d9797188153ebfa34e7/residence-and-employment-of-foreign-nationals-and-companies-in--data.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Guidelines%20for%20Start-up%20Entrepreneur%20Programme.pdf/Files/Guidelines%20for%20Start-up%20Entrepreneur%20Programme.pdf>

¹² <https://innovationisrael.org.il/en/program/innovation-visas-program-foreign-entrepreneurs-pilot>

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- Possess a technological idea that entrepreneur wishes to develop into a product
- Submit a statement regarding funding sources covering the entire period of entrepreneur's planned stay in Israel
- Be accepted into a "Landing Pad" program

ITALY¹³

- **Benefits:**

- A startup self-employment visa, with a duration of one year which is subject to the annual migration quotas. Visa is renewable for a maximum of two years. It is then renewable at expiration and can be extended for a further two years. After five years, the non-EU citizen can apply for a residence permit for long-term residents, which has no expiry date

- **Requirements:**

- Have an innovative startup that has been operational for three years at least
- Assume the role of Chairman, CEO, member of the Board of Directors, or auditor
- Prove possession of at least €100,000
- Have academic and professional curriculum that is relevant to the core business of the innovative startup

JAPAN¹⁴

- **Benefits:**

- Status of residence of "Designated Activities" of up to one year (needs to be renewed after six months) in Fukuoka City

- **Requirements:**

- Submission of a new business implementation plan to Fukuoka City in the following fields: Knowledge creation industries (e.g., semiconductor related, software development, content production, robot related), Health, medical and welfare related industries (e.g., drug development ventures, medical technology development, regenerative medicine, welfare equipment development), Environmental and energy related industries (e.g., clean energy development, next-generation storage technologies, global information systems), Logistics related industries (e.g., global SCM services, 3PL services, international home delivery, drone logistics development), or Trade related industries (e.g., businesses that contribute to the development of overseas sales routes for goods produced in Fukuoka, businesses that utilize the functions of Hakata Port and Fukuoka Airport)
- Submit a resume
- Demonstrate an ability to cover one's expenses for staying in Japan for one year
- Willingness to open an office
- Hire at least two full-time staffs, or
- Have capital or a total amount of investments of at least 5 million yen

LITHUANIA¹⁵

- **Benefits:**

- Permission to live in the country for one year, with the possibility to extend for an additional year, after which entrepreneur must meet general immigration requirements

- **Requirements:**

¹³ http://italiastartupvisa.mise.gov.it/media/documents/Guidelines%20ISV%20ENG%2020_03_2018%20def.pdf

¹⁴ https://www.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/keizai/r-support/business/startupviza_2_2.html

¹⁵ <https://startupvisalithuania.com/faq>

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- Propose a startup that operates in one of the following fields: Biotechnologies, Nanotechnologies, Information Technologies, Mechatronics, Electronics, Laser Technologies
- Be legally at least a part owner of the newly founded firm
- Have enough financial resources to achieve your set business goals for 1 year

MALAYSIA¹⁶

- **Benefits:**
 - A Professional Visit Pass valid for 1 year (for new entrepreneurs)
 - A Residence Pass valid up to 5 years (for established entrepreneurs) with permission to bring immediate family members such as a husband / wife, child, adopted child or stepchild under the age of 18, and/or a disabled child (no age limit) verified by experts
- **Requirements:**
 - Present a pitch deck presenting the idea, market opportunity, and plans to secure funding
 - Possess a minimum amount of RM50,000
 - Demonstrate no criminal record in country of origin

NETHERLANDS¹⁷

- **Benefits:**
 - Permission to stay and work as an entrepreneur for a maximum of one year. At the end of Year 1, entrepreneur can apply for a permit to work on a self-employed basis
- **Requirements:**
 - Work together with a reliable expert facilitator
 - Present a product or service that is innovative
 - Show a plan to advance the idea to a business
 - Be entered in the Commercial Register of the Chamber of Commerce
 - Possess sufficient money (resources) to reside and live in the Netherlands

NEW ZEALAND¹⁸

- **Benefits:**
 - *Start-up stage:* If the application is approved, entrepreneur will initially be given a 12-month work visa, offering permission to buy or establish one's business
 - *Balance stage:* Once entrepreneur has proven that they have taken steps to establish their business, they are granted the remaining 24 months of their visa
 - After either six months or two years, entrepreneur can then apply for residence under the Entrepreneur Residence Category
- **Requirements:**
 - Invest a minimum of NZ\$100,000 (excluding working capital)
 - Achieve 120 points or more, with points awarded for factors about the likely success of the business and its value to New Zealand
 - Offer a business plan
 - Possess a clean recent history of bankruptcy, business failure and fraud
 - Meet health, character and English language requirements

NORWAY¹⁹

- **Benefits:**

¹⁶ <https://www.mtep.my/>

¹⁷ <https://business.gov.nl/coming-to-the-netherlands/permits-and-visa/startup-visa/>

¹⁸ <https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/investing-in-nz/visas/entrepreneur-visa>

¹⁹ <https://www.udi.no/en/want-to-apply/work-immigration/skilled-workers/#link-831>

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- A permit for one year at a time
- After three years, entrepreneur can apply for a permanent residence permit
- Entrepreneur's family members can apply for family immigration
- **Requirements:**
 - Completion of a vocational training programme of at least three years at upper secondary school level, for example as a carpenter or health worker; there must be a corresponding vocational training programme in Norway, or
 - Completion of education or degree from a university/university college, for example a bachelor's degree as an engineer or nurse, or
 - Special qualifications that entrepreneur has obtained through long work experience, if relevant in combination with courses etc. (under exceptional circumstances)
 - Possess plans to engage in long-term business activities in Norway as a sole proprietorship
 - Plans to engage in business that requires the entrepreneurs' qualifications as a skilled worker
 - Likelihood that the business will generate a profit of at least NOK 246 246 per year pre-tax per an assessment conducted by the county authority
 - Possession of a permit from public authorities, if applicable

PORTUGAL²⁰

- **Benefits:**
 - A residence visas valid for 4 (four) months that can be extended, within national territory for a period of 90 (ninety) days and grants the right to apply for a residence permit
- **Requirements:**
 - Intention to develop a technology startup in Portugal or to expand a startup to Portugal
 - Startup shows potential to the creation of jobs beyond the founding team
 - Startup shows potential to generate a turnover of 325,000€ year and/or assets value over 325,000€ year, within 5 years after the start of the contract with a chosen incubator
 - Have the capacity to establish a company, when applicable, during the undergoing of the program
 - Do not have regular residence in the Schengen area in a recent past
 - Do not have a criminal record
 - Are not under 18 years old
 - Have enough funds in one's bank account in a total amount of 5146.08€ for 12 months (per person)

SINGAPORE²¹

- **Benefits:**
 - An "EntrePass" valid for 1 year with subsequent renewals lasting 2 years
 - Renewal to be determined based on proof of business at least 30% shareholding of the company, as well as minimum business spending and employment of full-time employees based on number of years elapsed
- **Requirements:**
 - Have a company that is less than 6 months old
 - Have raised at least \$100,000 from a government investment vehicle, venture capitalist or business angel that is recognised by a Singapore Government agency
 - Be an incubatee at an incubator in Singapore that is recognised by the Government

²⁰ <https://startupportugal.com/startup-visa>

²¹ <https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/entrepass/eligibility>

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- Possess significant business experience or network and promising entrepreneurial track record of starting highly-scalable businesses and want to establish, develop and manage a new or existing business in Singapore

SPAIN²²

- **Benefits:**
 - A residence visa valid for 1 year
- **Requirements:**
 - Be older than 18 years
 - Possess no criminal record in Spain or countries lived in during the last 5 years for offenses stipulated under Spanish Law
 - Have a public insurance or private health insurance with a Health Insurance Institution authorised to operate in Spain
 - Have sufficient financial resources for oneself and for the members of one's family during the period of residency in Spain (2.130€monthly for oneself and 532€for every family member that is in one's care)

SWEDEN²³

- **Benefits:**
 - A residence permit for two years with ability to obtain a permanent residence permit if entrepreneur can earn a living from their company, comply with good accounting practice, and have the necessary permits for the business. Entrepreneur must also have stayed in Sweden for more than six months each year
- **Requirements:**
 - Show considerable experience in the industry and previous experience of running of one's own business
 - Show relevant knowledge in Swedish and/or English
 - Have executive responsibility and own at least 50% of the company
 - Have the company's services or goods be produced and/or sold in Sweden
 - Possess enough money of one's own to provide for oneself and any family members for the first two years (the equivalent of SEK 200,000 for oneself, SEK 100,000 for one's accompanying wife/husband and SEK 50,000 for each accompanying child)
 - Present plausible supporting documentation for one's budget
 - Show that one has created customer contacts and/or a network in Sweden
 - Show that after the trial period of two years, one's company's finances are in balance and that one can support oneself and any family members

TAIWAN²⁴

- **Benefits:**
 - 1 year renewable residence with unlimited entry
- **Requirements:**
 - Receive venture capital or international fundraising of more than NT\$2 million, or
 - Receive approval to reside at a recognized innovation park or incubator in Taiwan, or
 - Obtain patent rights or professional skills certificate, or
 - Be awarded in a leading startup or design competition, or has been involved in a foreigner entrepreneurship project in Taiwan, or

²² <http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/CIUDADDELCABO/en/InformacionParaExtranjeros/Pages/Law-on-Visas-for-Entrepreneurs.aspx>

²³ <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Working-in-Sweden/Self-employment.html>

²⁴ https://www.roc-taiwan.org/in_en/post/3065.html

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- Be located in a startup accelerator recognized by the Taiwan government, or
- Be nominated or awarded in a film festival, or
- Receive innovation subsidy of at least NT\$3 million from the central government or at least NT\$1 million from the local government, or
- Possess innovation capability specified or recommended by the Taiwan government, or
- Has an established enterprise with innovation capability in Taiwan and acts as its legal representative, manager or director with an investment of at least NT\$1 million

THAILAND²⁵

- **Benefits:**
 - 2-year renewable visa with permission for spouse and children to stay (and for spouse to work)
- **Requirements:**
 - Establish a startup company in Thailand, certified as being the ones in the targeted industries by relevant government agencies such as the National Innovation Agency (Public Organization) and Digital Economy Promotion Agency
 - Hold no less than 25% of the company's registered capital or a position of a director
 - Have a deposit of at least 600,000 Baht or equivalent in a bank account in Thailand or in the country of one's nationality or residence, which has been held for at least 3 months
 - Have a minimum deposit of 180,000 Baht per person in an account at least 3 months old
 - Have health insurance covering the entire period of stay in Thailand for the applicant as well as spouse and children

UNITED KINGDOM²⁶

- **Benefits:**
 - Ability to remain in the UK for 3 years with ability to extend for another 3 years with no limits on the number of times visa may be extend
 - Ability to apply for settlement (known as 'indefinite leave to remain') once entrepreneur has been in the UK for 3 years
- **Requirements:**
 - Desire to set up or run a business in the UK
 - Reside outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland
 - Able to show that one's business idea is a new idea that is viable, with growth potential
 - Have at least £50,000 in investment funds
 - Have company be endorsed by an approved body

²⁵ https://smart-visa.boi.go.th/smart/pages/smart_s.html

²⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/innovator-visa>