

The Government has launched the Pilot Scheme on Immigration Facilitation for Visitors Participating in Short-term Activities in Designated Sectors (the “Pilot Scheme for STV”) with effect from 1 June 2022.

Following a review, the scope of facilitation under the Pilot Scheme for STV is later renamed as Immigration Facilitation Scheme for Visitors (“the STV Scheme”) and has been further expanded with effect from 1 June 2024, including the Hong Kong Baptist University and HKBU Chinese Medicine Hospital Company Limited under the designated sector of Medical and Healthcare (Health Bureau) as an authorised Host Organisation to facilitate more eligible visitors to come to Hong Kong.

This immigration facilitation scheme is launched in addition and on top of the existing scheme to enhance Hong Kong’s competitiveness and raise Hong Kong’s international profile. All UGC-funded universities are authorised host organisations under the Scheme.

Key highlights of the STV Scheme for invitees who will be **remunerated with an honorarium** include:

- The invitees should be either talent in shortage or their short-term presence will be conducive to the furtherance of Hong Kong’s economy or various higher education policy objectives;
- The invitees, being non-local speakers who are enjoying visa-free visit to Hong Kong, will be exempted from applying for an employment visa/entry permit to participate in specified short-term activities including delivery of speeches/presentations for a maximum period of 14 consecutive calendar days (the “Period”), counting from the day when the speakers start to participate in such activities (up from the previous seven calendar days) upon each arrival; and
- There is no cap in the number of events to be engaged during the Period and no overall quota for the number of visitors during the Period.

For the current practice for guests who **will not be remunerated** in waiving the requirement for an employment visa/entry permit still applies. Some of the terms under the current practice are also updated to align with those under the STV Scheme, namely:

- the Period will be extended from seven calendar days to 14 consecutive calendar days;
- the cap on the number of events will be removed; and
- no overall quota.

It is important to note that foreign nationals who cannot enjoy visa-free visit to Hong Kong will still need to apply for a visitor visa/entry permit regardless of whether they are getting any remuneration or not. Persons participating in specified short-term activities should continue to follow FO’s guidelines on reimbursement of expenses (see [Guidelines on Reimbursement of Expenses to Visitors](#)) to non-local speakers/visitors.

All persons are subject to applicable immigration controls for visiting Hong Kong, including examination upon arrival in accordance with the applicable laws, policies and practices. They are also subject to any prevailing COVID-19 related entry restrictions.

For updated information on the STV Scheme, please visit Immigration Department’s dedicated website for the STV Scheme (<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/stv.html>).

Contact phone numbers: The STV Scheme - Human Resources Office: 3411 5052  
Expense reimbursement and payment of honorarium – Finance Office: 3411 7668