

HERE'S WHY THE E-2 VISA IS BECOMING A POPULAR OPTION FOR JAPANESE COMPANIES WANTING TO DO BUSINESS IN THE U.S.

Insights
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Given the strong economic ties between Japan and the U.S., the E-2 visa has become a well-established option for individuals looking to expand their business across the border. The E-2 visa is a type of nonimmigrant visa that allows nationals of treaty countries, including Japan, to establish, operate, or work in a business in the United States with a significant investment of their own. The visa also allows officers, supervisors, or employees with critical skills to work in the business. Here's what Japanese companies need to know about the E-2 visa when looking to enter the U.S. market, establish a new business, or invest in an existing U.S. company.

Key Benefits for Japanese Nationals

- 5-year validity and multiple entry permit, allowing for flexibility in and out of the U.S.
- Renewable indefinitely, as long as the business meets the requirements (including continuous operation of the business and significant investment).
- Benefits for family members. E-2 visa holders can be accompanied by their spouse and children under age 21. Spouses can also apply for work authorization while in the U.S.

Steps for Applying for an E-2 Visa

The first step is to register your company with the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo or the U.S. Consulate General in Osaka.

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After your company is registered, your employees can apply for E-2 visas directly through the Consulate General.

Because the E-2 visa application is complex, we recommend consulting with an experienced immigration lawyer. This will ensure that each step is handled appropriately for your specific situation. The general steps are as follows:

- Establish or acquire an E-2 business that meets the treaty requirements (including being at least 50% owned by Japanese nationals).
- Prepare the necessary documents to apply (including evidence of investment, a business plan, and operational readiness documents).
- Submit the completed application to the U.S. Embassy in Japan.
- Schedule and attend an interview at the U.S. Embassy.

However, because each case may have different procedures and requirements, it is important to work with an experienced professional to ensure you comply with all requirements, expedite the process, and maximize your chances of approval.

Conclusion

If you have any questions about the E-2 visa, please contact a Fisher Phillips attorney, the authors of this Insight, or an attorney in our [Immigration Practice Group](#). We will provide updates as warranted, so make sure you are subscribed to [Fisher Phillips' Insight System](#) to get the most up-to-date information directly to your inbox.

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