Global overview partner work permits*

Once family member residence permit issued

Oct. '15

Authorised to work on dependant's permit / Open work permit

- Can work for any employer
- Or be self-employed

Work permit linked to employer

- Simple process or letter of consent
- No employment market test
- Procedure < 4 weeks

Europeans in EU/EEA (subject to transition arrangements for Croatia),

Non-EU citizens in Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK.

Argentina, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, N.Zealand, US (L, E visas, and H4 if waiting for Green Card)

Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg (during 1st year, then open) Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore

Work permit linked to employer

- Skills, salary, quota, employment market test; May need to return to home country
- Procedure > 4 weeks

Brazil, Brunei, China, Colombia, Congo, Ethiopia, Egypt, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, S. Africa, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA (H4, O visa), Vietnam.

^{*} Simplified illustration: May apply to specific permits; recognition of non-married partner varies

Best practice model:

Spouse/partner has 'open' permission to work

Argentina * Lithuania

Australia Malta

Austria Netherlands *

Bulgaria New Zealand *

Canada * Norway *

Czech Republic Poland

Denmark * Portugal *

Estonia Romania

Finland Slovakia

France * Slovenia

Germany Spain *

Hong Kong Sweden *

Hungary Switzerland

Italy UK (ENG, WAL, SCT) *

Latvia United States* (L, E visas)

Advantages

- Full access to employment market once resident visa or permit is issued
- Facilitates temporary project work, self-employment, tele-working
- Reduced bureaucracy for the authorities
- Helps employers fill urgent or temporary vacancies
- Attractive investment climate for employers with highly skilled international staff

