

Fukuoka Startup Visa — Japan's First Municipal Fast-Track for Foreign Founders

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Japan

Quality score: 76/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Since 2015 Fukuoka has waived Japan's strict founder-visa capital rules for foreign entrepreneurs under a special economic zone — 247 approved by 2024 with an 82% five-year survival rate, though only 612 accompanying technical staff have arrived in five years.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	3/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	3/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-08

[Fukuoka City Government / Startup Café \(National Strategic Special Zone\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-08

[Fukuoka City — Startup Visa \(official\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-08

[KiTalent — Fukuoka Tech Hiring in 2026: The City That Creates Startups Faster Than It Can Staff Them](#) — accessed 2026-07-08

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