

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) ON THE SUSPENSION OF THE EMPLOYMENT PASS ELIGIBILITY SCHEME

Section A: Background and Rationale

Section B: Options for EPEC Holders

Section C: Application of EPEC and LTVP

Section D: Validity Periods for EPEC and LTVP

Section A: Background and Rationale	
Qn.	What is the Employment Pass Eligibility Certificate (EPEC)?
Ans.	The EPEC is a certificate which signals to employers that its holder is likely to be eligible for an Employment Pass. It also allows its holder to stay in Singapore for up to one year to facilitate their job search in Singapore by applying through the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA). The EPEC is not a work pass.
Qn.	Who can apply for the EPEC?
Ans.	There are no restrictions on who can apply for the EPEC. However, the EPEC will only be awarded to applicants who fulfill the necessary criteria, such as possessing selected university qualifications or being a current or former holder of selected skilled migrant visas.
Qn.	Are foreign students allowed to apply for EPEC?
Ans.	There are no restrictions on who can apply for the EPEC. However, the EPEC will only be awarded to applicants who fulfill the necessary criteria, such as possessing selected university qualifications or being a current or former holder of selected skilled migrant visas.
Qn.	When was the EPEC introduced?
Ans.	The EPEC was introduced in 1992.
Qn.	How long is the EPEC valid for, and is it renewable?
Ans.	The EPEC is issued on a one-time basis, and is non-renewable. It is valid for two years.
Qn.	Without the EPEC, how can a foreigner search for a job in Singapore?
Ans.	<p>There are many means whereby foreign talent can search for job opportunities in Singapore without the need to be physically present. For instance, Contact Singapore links interested applicants up with leading employers through the online Contact Singapore job portal at www.contactsingapore.sg/jobs.</p> <p>Foreign students who are graduating from selected local IHLs can apply for a one-year Long Term Visit Pass (LTVP) from ICA to stay in Singapore after graduation to look for a job. The list of IHLs is available on the ICA website (http://www.ica.gov.sg/services_centre_overview.aspx?pageid=396&secid=171).</p>
Section B: Options for EPEC Holders	
Qn.	I am an EPEC holder. What are my current options?

Ans.	<p>If your EPEC is still valid and you are interested in coming to Singapore to look for a job, you may wish to apply for a non-renewable three-month LTVP from ICA, before your EPEC expires.</p> <p>If your EPEC is still valid but you have no plans to come to Singapore to look for a job, you do not need to do anything.</p> <p>If your EPEC has expired, you will not be able to renew your EPEC or apply for a LTVP from ICA.</p>
Section C: Application of EPEC and LTVP	
Qn.	Can I apply for an EPEC after 1 December 2011?
Ans.	No. MOM will not accept any EPEC applications after 30 November 2011.
Qn.	Can I apply for a LTVP after 1 December 2011?
Ans.	Yes, the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) will continue to process LTVP applications from EPEC holders after 1 December 2011. However, instead of a one-year LTVP, successful applicants will be given a non-renewable three-month LTVP.
Qn.	My EPEC application is still being processed. Will my application be rejected?
Ans.	All EPEC applications that are being processed will be assessed with the same criteria as before. EPEC applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application via email. Successful applicants will be issued EPECs which will still remain valid for 2 years from the date of issue.
Qn.	My EPEC has expired. Can I renew my EPEC or apply for a LTVP from ICA?
Ans.	<p>No. The EPEC is issued on a one-time basis and is non-renewable. You will not be able to apply for a LTVP from ICA using the EPEC.</p> <p>Alternatively, if you are a foreign student graduating from selected local IHLs, you may apply for a one-year LTVP from ICA to stay in Singapore to look for a job after graduation. The list of IHLs is available on the ICA website (http://www.ica.gov.sg/services_centre_overview.aspx?pageid=396&secid=171).</p>
Qn.	Can I still use my EPEC during my job search in Singapore after 1 December 2011?
Ans.	Yes, you can use your EPEC as a signal to employers during your job search in Singapore after 1 December 2011, as long as your EPEC is still valid (i.e. 2 years from the date of issue).
Section D: Validity Periods for EPEC and LTVP	
Qn.	I applied successfully for an EPEC before 1 December 2011, but have not applied for an LTVP from ICA. What is the duration of the LTVP I can apply for?
Ans.	You can apply for a non-renewable three-month LTVP from ICA.
Qn.	I have previously applied successfully for an EPEC and LTVP. Can I still apply for another three-month LTVP from ICA using the EPEC?
Ans.	No. You will not be able to apply for another LTVP from ICA with your EPEC if you have already previously done so.