

How to Register a Company in Singapore:

A COMPLETE GUIDE



Picking the right company structure for your business is as important as any other business-related activity. The correct business structure will allow your enterprise to operate efficiently and meet your required business targets.

WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE SINGAPORE TO START YOUR BUSINESS



Singapore is ranked #2 in the world for its ease in doing business. Singapore never fails when it comes to running a company.

What are the advantages of Registering in Singapore?

There are many advantages to starting your company in Singapore. Some of them are as follows:



Demography

An island with only 722.5 square kilometres, Singapore is a vibrant city populated with about 5.64 million people and boasts a GDP/capita of US\$58,248.

Despite being one of the smallest countries in the world, Singapore is renowned for its world-class Changi Airport and it is strategically located to many key business hubs in Asia. In just a few hours, you could reach destinations such as China, Hong Kong, Indonesia and India.



Vibrant Startup Ecosystem

Recognised as the World's Freest Economy 2020, Singapore has consistently proven that it is a business haven for many startups and growing companies. With tons of support from the government, starting a business in Singapore has an added advantage, making the initial process less painful. Growing into one of the biggest tech hubs in Asia, some booming verticals in Singapore include ridesharing, logistics, biotech, and fintech. Here are some figures that you can relate to.



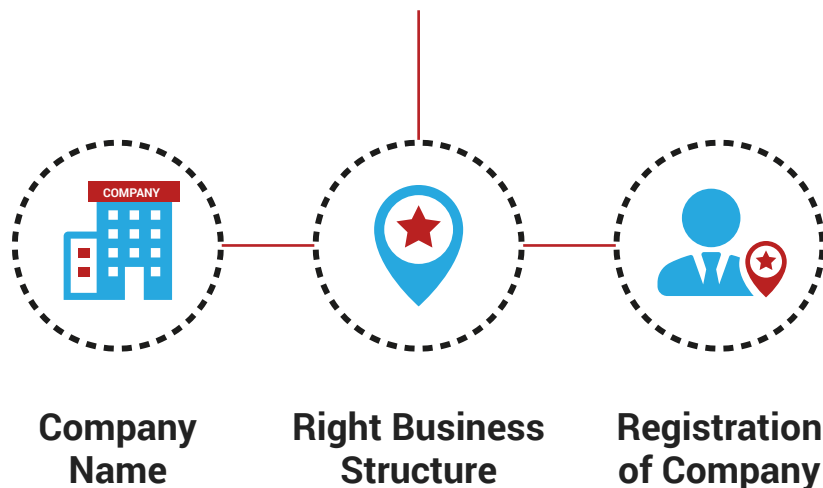
Special Tax benefits

While high corporate taxes may be a pain in the neck for many businesses in other parts of the world, Singapore has built an attractive tax system where corporate tax rates range between 0%-17%.

Besides low corporate tax rates, there are other incentives such as:

- Tax-free dividends
- No tax on capital gains
- Tax credit pooling
- Unilateral tax credit
- Reduced withholding tax on foreign-sourced income

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO START A COMPANY IN SINGAPORE?



1. Company name

The most initial step in forming your company would be choosing the most suitable company name. By choosing a company name that identifies with your product or service, it will be easier for clients to stay connected.

You are required to submit your desired company name to ACRA to seek an approval before forming your company. This application process only takes an hour and your approved company name can be reserved for 60 days thereafter.

For the application process to be seamless, you should ensure that your chosen company name:

- Does not infringe any trademark rights
- Is not obscene or vulgar
- Is not similar or identical to existing companies
- Is not reserved

Refer to our Singapore company name checker tool to find out if your preferred name is available.

2. Right Business Structure

In your progress and the eventual success of your company, choosing the right business structure is important. When choosing a business structure, one thing to consider is its tax and liability structure.

3. Registration of Singapore Company

Registering a company in Singapore is a relevantly smooth process. With all your required documents in place, you can have your company incorporated in less than 24 hours.

Apart from corporate service provider fees, there is an additional mandatory government fee of \$315 that you will be required to pay to register your company.

What business structures are available to Register in Singapore?

Private Limited Company

A structure that allows up to 50 shareholders, a Private Limited Company offers special tax exemptions and incentives, making it the most popular choice.

Limited Liability Company

An LLP is a versatile choice for business owners wanting a partnership while retaining a separate legal identity.

Subsidiary Company

A subsidiary company is a private limited company with its own legal identity, which separates it from the parent company. The majority shareholder can be based overseas or locally.

Sole Proprietorship

A sole proprietorship only requires one owner to be responsible for all of the business' assets and liabilities.

Branch Office

Foreign companies are able to operate in Singapore as non-residents upon registering a branch office. It is an extension of the parent company and is part of the same legal entity. However, branch offices are not eligible for any tax incentives or exemptions.

Representative Office

A representative office has a maximum limit of up to 3 years, make it a short-term arrangement. In this set-up, foreign companies are only allowed to explore the Singapore market and are not permitted to engage in selling of products/services to generate revenue.

Variable Capital Company

Launched in early 2020, the VCC is an investment vehicle that is set to be a game-changer for Singapore. Providing high flexibility, the VCC is definitely an upcoming popular vehicle to register.

Here are **the requirements of forming the most common business entity in Singapore, a Private Limited Company** :

- Min. 1 Shareholder
- Min. 1 Resident Director
- Min. 1 Local Company Secretary
- Min. S\$1 Paid-up Capital
- Local Registered Address

Take note that as a foreigner, you can set up a private limited company without the need to relocate to Singapore. However, either way, you will still need to seek the assistance of a corporate service provider to register a Singapore company.

Note: Foreigners are allowed to have 100% foreign ownership of the incorporated company.

How to Register a Company in Singapore?

There are 2 common ways that foreigners register a Singapore company and start operations. You can either:

1. Relocate to Singapore with an Employment Pass (EP) or;
2. Engage Nominee Service and run your business from anywhere in the world.

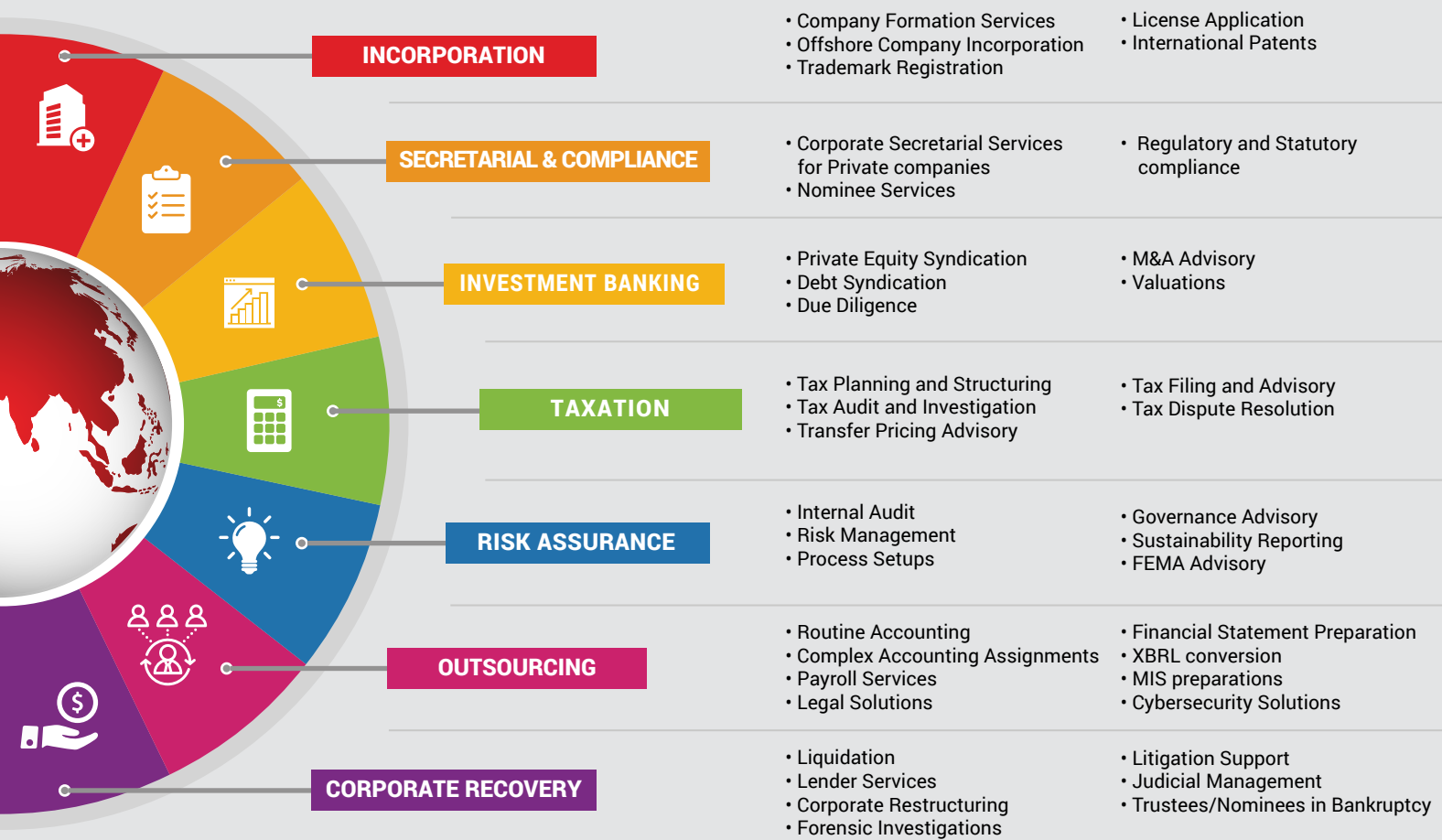
If you choose **option 1**, this is what you can do:

Engage Resident Nominee Director (ND) > Incorporate Company > Apply for EP > Upon EP approval, take over current ND as Resident Director > Run your business

If **option 2** is preferred, you only need to:

Engage Resident ND > Incorporate Company > Run your business from anywhere

Our Services



Ready to incorporate your company in Singapore?

InCorp is a leading corporate service provider who will go the extra mile to ensure your company registration experience seamlessly.

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