

The Technology Talent Admission Scheme (TechTAS) of the Innovation and Technology Commission provides a fast-track arrangement to admit overseas and Mainland technology talent to undertake research and development work. Companies engaged in R&D in the 13 specified technology areas (artificial intelligence, biotechnology, cybersecurity, data analytics, financial technologies, material science, robotics, 5G communications, digital entertainment, green technology, integrated circuit design, Internet-of-Things or microelectronics) are eligible to apply for quotas. The allotment of quotas to companies provides certainty to their recruitment work and the streamlined visa application process enables non-local talent to come to take up the position the earliest possible. Companies using quotas will need to hire the required number of local employees who would engage in technology-related work. This arrangement helps nurture local technology talent and encourages cross-fertilisation of local and non-local talent facilitating Hong Kong's technology development.

Edmund Lee (Director, Application Technology Co. Ltd):

We are mainly engaged in AI computer vision projects, such as queue management and customer flow system analysis. It is very difficult to get AI talent nowadays, especially for SMEs and start-ups like us. As we are not well-known, it is even harder for us to attract overseas talent. Having successfully obtained a quota under TechTAS, we mentioned the quota and the scheme in our recruitment advertisement. Job seekers, having read our advertisement would consider that we were recognised by the Government. This would give them much more confidence in our company. The procedure of making application under TechTAS is simple. The processing time for both visa and quota application is short.

Finn Niu (Artificial Intelligence Specialist, Application Technology Co. Ltd.):

I obtained my Master's degree from The University of Manchester, majoring in Computer Science. I am currently responsible for the development and enhancement work in relation to AI visual image recognition. I applied for my visa under TechTAS. The procedure is simple. Once I have submitted relevant information, the visa was soon approved.

Edward Leung (Co-founder, Pecutus Technology Technologies Limited):

We are a financial technology start-up focusing on the development of a P2P platform for foreign currency. As this a worldwide platform, we hope to bring in overseas R&D talent in data analytics to make our team more international and enhance our competitiveness. To seize suitable talent in scientific research is key to shorten the recruitment process. By adopting TechTAS, we can use the shortest time to hire overseas talent. Not only can they share with us their R&D experience, they can also help our local employees and interns, facilitate exchange of ideas, thus help train up our local talent.

James Butler (Data Scientist, Pecutus Technologies Limited):

I'm a Doctoral graduate in Applied Machine Learning from the University of York. I'm working here as a data scientist for 4 months. I'm developing resource allocation models for travel money in the Asia Pacific region. The process of applying for TechTAS was really smooth. It only took 3 weeks from start to finish to complete the process. It's really fantastic to work in a city as vibrant as Hong Kong, especially working with people with such different background.

All these companies have brought in talent through TechTAS. The application procedure is simple. Fill-in a simple form and submit all the necessary documents. For details, please visit techtas.itc.gov.hk.