

# UNITED KINGDOM IMMIGRATION SERVICES

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## OVERVIEW

The UK offers an array of attractive immigration solutions best suited to investors, entrepreneurs, and affluent individuals. Due to the 2016 Referendum that resulted in the UK's departure from the European Union, interest has peaked in the various avenues that are available to reside and engage in business in the UK.

## THE UK START UP VISA

The UK Startup Visa is an innovative visa route in the UK that allows entrepreneurs from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland to establish their business presence in the UK.

It is mostly geared towards start-up entrepreneurs and replaces the previous Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur). The aim of this visa route is to offer innovative entrepreneurs a means to access the UK market and scale their businesses.

In order for an entrepreneur to apply they must have endorsement from an approved endorsing body - UKVI has a list published stating the approved endorsing bodies. It includes amongst others UK tertiary education institutions and start accelerators and innovators.



## PROCEDURE

UK Start up Visas grant the applicant a maximum of two years residence in the UK. There are no academic requirements or prohibitive funding requirements but the business plan must be innovative, viable and scalable. Most importantly it must be supported by an Endorsing Body.

To obtain this endorsement the business plan must demonstrate:

### INNOVATION

A unique business plan that meets new or existing market demands, has a unique selling proposition and value vis a vis the existing market players/competitor.

### VIABILITY

The necessary skill set, knowledge, experience and business acumen to operate the business effectively, as well as access to the necessary supplies, suppliers, networks or processes to run the business.

### SCALABILITY

Detailed plans to demonstrate that the business concept can grow in terms of size, customers and staff needed

Applicants may apply at the UK Foreign Office where they are resident abroad or transfer from a Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur, Tier 2 General or ICT Skilled Worker or Tier 4 General Student. They may apply with their dependents and undertake other work apart from their business venture so long as they meet the reporting requirements of the Endorsing Body that has supported their business idea.

Once the visa term ends the applicant may consider applying for alternative visa categories such as the UK Innovator visa which can lead to settled status after a further 3 years.

## REQUIREMENTS

In order to comply with the requirements applicants must demonstrate that they fulfil the following criteria:

- Have no previously established UK Business unless the applicant has a Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visa
- Have endorsement from an authorised body that has assessed the business idea and plan 3 months prior to the application
- Demonstrate a good level of English (CEFR B2 or IELTS 5.5)
- Show at least GBP 945/month in the applicants' bank account for over 90 days prior to the application date.

## THE GLOBAL TALENT VISA

The Global Talent visa is a UK immigration visa for talented individuals in key industries in the UK. In order to be considered eligible under the Global Talent Visa, the applicant must have obtained an endorsement for a UK approved endorsing body.

Prior to 2020, the UK had in place the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa, which has now been replaced by the Global Talent Visa. Key areas under which applicants fall are science, engineering, medicine, the social sciences or the humanities, or niche research sectors of innovation.

The Global Talent visa may lead to settlement/Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) after 3 or 5 years living in the UK. The qualifying period will depend on whether the applicant is endorsed as a 'leader' or 'emerging leader'.

The endorsing bodies for the Global Talent Visa include:

- The Royal Society, for science and medicine
- The Royal Academy of Engineering, for engineering
- The British Academy, for humanities
- Tech Nation, for digital technology
- Arts Council England, for arts and culture
- UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

## PROCEDURE

The Global Talent immigration category is similar to the Tier 1 Exceptional Talent but offers a simplified route for talented individuals in the science, engineering, medical, and cultural arts and unlike its predecessor, has no caps on the annual number of applicants per annum. It grants applicants the right to work in any paid job except for doctors or dentists in training, sportsperson or sports coach.

Once the applicant obtains endorsement as an emerging leader or leader or endorsed funder, they submit the Global Talent visa application. The Global Talent Visa can be requested for one up to five years. Emerging Leaders can apply for settled status (indefinite leave to remain) after five years and Leaders can apply after three years.

An applicant's endorsement application will need to meet the Endorsing Body's requirements and the process can take 8 weeks. Subsequently the UK Home Office will review the application for a Global Talent Visa and normally provides a response within 3 weeks.

Applicants may apply at the UK Foreign Office where they are resident abroad or transfer from a Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur, Tier 2 General or Tier 5 (Temporary Worker).

In order to qualify for an extension of stay the applicant will need to demonstrate they have sufficient funds and generated income in the UK that pertain to the field of talent in which they have been endorsed. Absences of up to 6 months are permissible in order for the applicant to qualify for Indefinite Leave to Remain.



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## REQUIREMENTS

In order to comply with the requirements applicants must fall under one of the following criteria:

- Academic and research appointments are granted to individuals who are undertaking a research function or innovation leadership function at a UK academic institution.
- Researchers and specialists who are endorsed by a funder approved by the UK.
- Individual Fellowship granted by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society
- Peer Reviewed individuals who are granted endorsement by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society.

## THE UK TIER ONE INNOVATOR VISA

The Tier 1 Innovator visa is targeted for experienced entrepreneurs who wish to set up or operate their businesses from the UK. It allows business owners to access global markets from London and offers non-domiciled residents an attractive tax regime. In order for an entrepreneur to apply they must have endorsement from an approved endorsing body published by UKVI. It includes amongst others UK tertiary education institutions and start accelerators and innovators.

## PROCEDURE

In order to apply the applicant must demonstrate funds of at least GBP 50,000 – from any source – which is readily available to invest in their UK business. Those applicants who have previously been endorsed by an approved endorsing body or under another visa such as the UK Start Up visa do not need to show proof of available investment funds.

The applicant's submission at the foreign UK embassy/consulate may take up to eight weeks, if granted the applicant will have the right to reside in the UK for up to 3 years after which an extension of stay can be obtained for a subsequent three-year period. The applicant should not spend more than 6 months outside the UK in any 12 month period during the Innovator Visa term.

The applicant must have registered with Companies House as a Director or Shareholder of their business within the first 12 months and undertake an active role in the day-to-day management and operation of their business. To renew the Innovator Visa the business must have created a minimum of 5 full-time jobs for residents averaging GBP 25,000 per annum, or at least 10 full-time lower paid jobs. Moreover, the business should be generating significant revenue and/or have substantial exporting activity depending on the nature of the business.

Once having lived in the UK for 5 years the applicant may seek indefinite leave to remain and/or apply for British Citizenship. Applicants may apply at the UK Foreign Office where they are resident abroad or transfer from a Tier 1 (Graduate) Entrepreneur, Tier 2 General or ICT Skilled Worked or Standard Visitor (arrived to obtain UK funding and endorsement). They may apply with their dependents and undertake other work apart from their business venture so long as they meet the reporting requirements of the Endorsing Body that has supported their business idea.

## REQUIREMENTS

In order to comply with the requirements applicants must demonstrate that they fulfil the following criteria:

- Have endorsement from an authorised body that has assessed the business idea and plan not older than 3 months prior to the application date
- Demonstrate a good level of English (CEFR B2 or IELTS 5.5)
- Invested GBP 50,000 in their business
- Are living outside the UK at the time they apply
- Show at least GBP 945/month in the applicants' bank account for over 90 days prior to the application date.

## THE UK TIER ONE INVESTOR VISA

The UK Tier 1 Investor visa is an investment migration solution that lures high net worth individuals from across the world interested in obtaining residency in the UK.

In order to obtain this visa, applicants must invest at least GBP 2 million in the UK which must be sourced from their own funds held in a regulated financial institution.



## PROCEDURE

The application can take approximately 8 weeks and is in most cases submitted to the UK authorities in the applicant's country of residence. The applicant may choose to invest in the UK via share capital in active and trading UK companies (except for those in real estate) or through loan capital.

Government bonds are no longer permitted under the latest changes to the UK Tier 1 Investor. UK Tier 1 Investors can apply with their dependent families, they may be employed in the UK and or undertake an academic course of study.

The visa is initially granted for a period of 40 months. An investment account must be opened with a UK financial institution for the purpose of transferring the investment funds to the UK. The applicant must enter the UK within 30 days of being granted their clearance entry and register with the Overseas Visitors Records Office.

Upon arriving in the UK the applicant has 90 days to complete the GBP 2 million investment. The investment must be kept for so long as the visa is valid. Once the initial 40-month period of the visa validity terminates, the applicant can obtain an extension of stay, subject to meeting the necessary criteria.

For high-net-worth individuals who invest GBP 5 Million, they can obtain an expedited route to settled status after only 3 years, as opposed to 5. For those who invest GBP 10 million, their application is expedited further and they may obtain settled status after only 2 years.

For all other investor visa holders, they must wait 5 years to obtain Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR). Absences up to 6 months a year are still permissible for applicants who qualify for ILR.

## REQUIREMENTS

In order to comply with the requirements applicants must demonstrate that they fulfil the following criteria:

- Be non-EU or EEA citizens
- Invest a minimum of GBP 2 Million in the UK which you have had access to for the past 2 years or alternatively provide a full file of documents supporting your source of funds
- Clean Criminal Record from any jurisdiction where resident for over 12 months in the past 10 years
- Certain nationalities may need to demonstrate a TB test before submitting their application.

## WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

ATG offer a comprehensive spectrum of services from advising and implementing an immigration strategy to supporting our clients with all their corporate and tax advisory needs. For those individuals who seek to relocate to the UK, we offer support throughout the entire process through our Private Wealth services which encompass concierge and relocation services.

We provide tailored support across an array of UK immigration solutions for both entrepreneurs and investors assisting clients with UK Start Up Visas, Global Talent Visas, UK Innovator Visas and UK Tier 1 Investor Visas. Our guidance enables our clients to complete the full immigration process from the preparation of documents for file submission to extensions, settled status/indefinite leave to remain and citizenship.

**For a FREE Initial Consultation to discuss the specifics of your enquiry please contact Andreas Athinodorou on + 357 22057560 or [andreas.athinodorou@atgwealth.com](mailto:andreas.athinodorou@atgwealth.com)**

## ATG SERVICES

### OVERVIEW AND SET-UP

- Initial discussion with applicant regarding potential avenues for immigration
- Liaising with wealth advisers and legal counsel
- Funding considerations
- Business plan considerations

### IMMIGRATION SUPPORT

- Liaising with Endorsing bodies
- Supporting with all compliance and due diligence documents
- Liaising with the UK Home Office
- Submitting Visa application
- Immigration Permits for dependents

### ONGOING ADMINISTRATION

- Providing support with the UK Foreign office on the application progress
- Liaising with endorsing bodies at the outset and at all checkpoints required by the visa category
- Liaising with local banks to assist in the investment bank account opening and deposit

### TAX AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

- Global tax considerations (e.g. FATCA Reporting)
- Personal income tax planning
- Real estate investment advisory
- Business plan review from a legal compliance perspective

### REDOMICILIATION AND RELOCATION

- Transfer of legal domicile to/from the UK
- Family relocation support
- Estate Planning
- Concierge services
- Supporting applicants and dependents with Indefinite Leave to Remain and/or British Citizenship applications

## YOUR TRUSTED SERVICE PARTNER

We pride ourselves for our service approach to our clients, the development of our people, our network of trusted associates and strive to continuously offer our experience and support to the communities which we operate in. We currently have around EURO 1bln Assets under Administration. We serve a number of significant investment structures with focus in Europe, CIS Countries, Middle East and the UK. ATG principals are founding members of the industry representation bodies - Cyprus Investments Funds Association (CIFA) and Cyprus Fiduciary Association (CyFA). Our companies are regulated by Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus ICPAC and the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission CySEC. Get in touch today to schedule a Free Consultation with us.