

CORPORATE IMMIGRATION
INTO THE UK



SINCERE
IMMIGRATION



About us

We are an immigration boutique firm in the heart of London, distinguished by our friendly and solutions-oriented approach to our clients' immigration issues. We offer bespoke client care and a highly qualified team of dedicated staff at our offices in Canon Street.

With over 10 years' experience, our team of immigration lawyers have vast experience in both personal and corporate immigration and will ensure that you receive only the very best service. We have hundreds of satisfied customers, and have a vast amount of knowledge to help you settle here in the UK.

As regulated advisors at OISC Level 3* (highest level), we offer advice and assistance on simple to complex applications and appeals, including investment-based visas, business and private immigration applications.

We understand the emotional stress of leaving familiarity and family, and that starting a new life in the UK can be overwhelming. Having our boutique firm take care of your immigration issues in an efficient, professional and friendly manner can make all the difference.

* The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) is a Government regulating body of all the immigration advisory firms in the UK.





Why invest in the UK?

The UK is one of the leading business locations in the world. It has one of the world's most open economies and boasts a stable business and political environment. With a GDP of around US\$2.44 trillion, the UK is the sixth largest economy in world on the World Economic League Table.

The UK is also the number one destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Europe. Global investors score the UK highly for many reasons such as quality of life, culture and diversity, education, stability of the social climate, telecoms infrastructure and highly skilled talent.

With a rich and diverse market with world-class industries including life sciences, ICT, creative, financial and professional business services, aerospace and automotive engineering, the UK offers an attractive location for your business, with easy access to customers, product innovators, suppliers and partners.

Whether you are a start-up, a medium-sized or family business, a corporate or an institutional investor, the UK is the best place in the world to start, finance and grow a business.

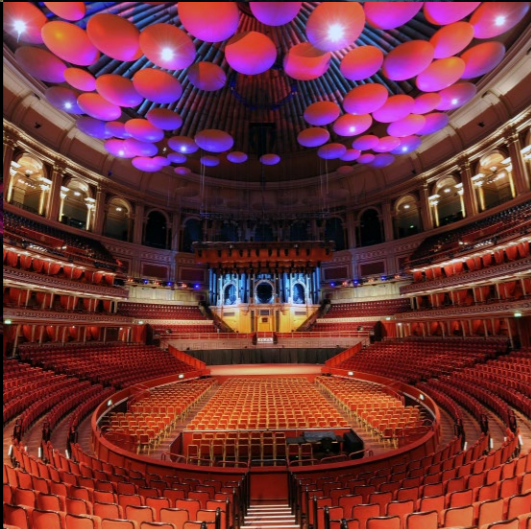
“Open for business”

The UK offers a welcoming environment to international investors. It has a low barrier to entry and a reputation for business-friendly regulation and enforcement.

The World Bank rates the UK tax system as more business-friendly than any other major world economy, and ranks the UK among the top countries for ease of doing business.

The tax rate imposed on your business in the UK is relatively low – the UK's corporation tax is one of the lowest in the EU's big five economies (France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK). And London has a reputation for being welcoming of international businesses who benefit from the favourable tax environment.

The process of setting up your business in the UK is also a simple one, requiring as little as 13 days, compared to the European average of 32 days, which puts the UK in first place in Europe and sixth place in the world. The Department for International Trade (DIT) have helped thousands of businesses locate and expand in the UK.



Why invest in the UK?

International ownership of British brands

Many well-known British brands today are owned by international companies. Some examples include the British department store group House of Fraser, famous breakfast cereal Weetabix and Britain's most iconic toy store Hamleys, all of which are owned by Chinese corporations Sanpower, Bright Food and C Banner International respectively. British car manufacturer Jaguar and Tetley tea, with its decades long English heritage, are both owned by India's Tata Group.

All of these demonstrate that the UK is 'open for business' and a great place to start and establish your business.

Leading financial capital

London has one of the most advanced financial markets in the world next to New York, which makes the securities market a very stable and liquid one for investors looking for exposure outside of the United States. London is highly regarded by investors because of its solid regulatory, legal and tax environment.

World-class education

If education is what you are looking for, then the UK is what you need. The UK has sophisticated world-leading education facilities and a global reputation for quality assured education.

There are a large number of private schools in the UK that boast a long tradition of excellence in education, including Eton, Ludgrove and Downe House. In the Times Higher Education World Rankings 2018, UK universities have seven in the top 50, and three in the top 10 - with Cambridge and Oxford being the top two universities in the world.

All universities and colleges in the UK are held to strict standards by the UK government so you know you are getting the best teaching, support and resources available. Studying in the UK, with the life-changing experience it provides, will help you work towards a successful career.

'Non-domicile' resident

In most countries, you would normally be subject to taxation on all income and capital gains earned in the country where you are resident, as well as overseas. Under UK law however, if you are living in the UK (resident) with your permanent home ('domicile') outside the UK, you are considered to be a 'non-domiciled' resident. As a UK non-domiciled resident, special rules on taxation apply where you may not have to pay UK tax on income or capital gains made overseas. After residing in the UK for 15 out of 20 continuous tax years, you will no longer be entitled to UK non-domiciliary status.



Your UK Corporate Immigration Solution

The UK is one of the top countries to welcome and encourage the international investor or ambitious entities to relocate to the UK. All of the below visa categories lead to settlements for yourself and your dependants.

Tier 1 (Entrepreneur)

- The low investment requirement
- You can invest into multiple businesses by either starting one or more companies or joining an existing UK company
- Perfect for ambitious entrepreneurs who want to thrive in the UK
- Excellent opportunity in the UK market for small new businesses

Tier 1 (Investor)

- The simplest way to invest and to obtain a visa into the UK
- The most flexible visa - allowing you to live, work, study or set up your own business in the UK
- Low-risk investment depending on your investment portfolio
- No english language requirement and maintenance requirement for this application
- Quick visa processing time

Sole representative (of an overseas business)

- A great long-term solution for companies wishing to set up a branch or entity in the UK
- No investment requirement
- Low english requirement for the applicant
- Excellent business opportunities for the international company to expand their business in the UK



TIER 1 (Entrepreneur)

Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) is a visa designed for non-European Union nationals who want to invest in the UK by setting up or buying and being actively involved in the running of a business in the UK.

You can come to the UK with a Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa for a maximum of three years and four months, provided you meet all the requirements of the visa. You can then apply to extend this visa for another two years. After you have completed a total of five years under the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa, you will be able to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) within one month before completing your five years of residency in the UK.

Initial application

Funds - You must have access to not less than £200,000

Maintenance - You must show that you have enough money to support yourself (and any dependants)

English - The ability to speak English (Level B 1)

Genuine entrepreneur - All Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) migrants making an initial application are subject to a genuine entrepreneur test

Funding

The money must be the cash saving in your saving account or deposit account. The funding is disposable in the United Kingdom. If you are using money which has been transferred to you less than 90 days before the application, then you will need to supply the evidence required for third party funding.

Entrepreneurial teams

Money for investment can be shared by a maximum of two entrepreneurs (referred to as an entrepreneurial team). Each team member may apply to come to the UK as a Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) migrant using the same investment funds. Neither applicant must have used the same funds with any other applicant.

Genuine entrepreneur test

- You genuinely intend and are able to establish, take over or become a director of one or more businesses in the UK within the next six months
- You genuinely intend to invest the money in the business
- The money is genuinely available to you and will remain available to you until such time as it is spent for the purposes of this business or businesses
- You do not intend to take employment in the United Kingdom other than working in your business

When you make an initial application, you must provide a business plan, setting out your proposed business activities in the UK and how you expect to make your business succeed.

Extension (3 years and 4 months)

Fund - You have completed invested not less than £200,000

Maintenance - You must show that you have enough money to support yourself (and any dependants)

TIER 1 (Entrepreneur)

Business Activity - You must show you have obtained the necessary business registration

Job Creation - The business must have created the equivalent of two new full-time positions for persons settled in the UK for at least 12 months

Job creation

- A full time job is one involving at least 30 hours of paid work a week
- The jobs must have existed for at least 12 months during the period of the most recent grant of leave as a Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) migrant
- One job could be combined by more than two part-time employees
- The jobs must comply with all relevant UK legislation including, but not limited to, the National Minimum Wage and the Working Time Directive
- Settled workers and members of the EU/EEA. Settled workers are those who have Indefinite Leave to Remain or for other reasons do not have restrictions on their stay in the UK

Settlement - indefinite leave to remain (five years)

You and your dependants can apply for settlement under Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) once you have reached five years' continuous leave in the United Kingdom under the route.

Funds - You have invested, or caused investment, of at least £200,000

Business activity - You have been registered with HMRC as a self-employed person or registered as a director of a business

Job creation - After the extension, the business has maintained the equivalent of two full-time positions for persons settled in the UK for at least 12 months

Continuous residence - You have spent a continuous period of five years lawfully in the UK with leave as a Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) migrant

Knowledge of life and language - When you apply for settlement you are required to show that you have knowledge of life (by passing a 'Life in the UK' test) and language in the United Kingdom before you can be granted (Level B1)

Accelerated settlement

If you meet additional criteria (explained below), you may apply for accelerated settlement (ILR) after a continuous period of three years:

- if you have established a new UK business that has had an income from business activity of at least £5 million during a three year period (in which you have had leave as a Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) migrant)
- if the number of new full-time jobs created is at least 10.



TIER 1 (Investor)

The UK Tier 1 (Investor) Visa is one of the fastest and most simple ways to obtain a UK settlement. Under this route you will not need to show that you have any English language ability and you will not need to show the maintenance for yourself and your dependants when you submit the initial application.

You can come to the UK with a Tier 1 (Investor) Visa for a maximum of three years and four months. You can apply to extend this visa for another two years.

Initial application

Funds - You must have money of your own, under your own control, held in a regulated financial institution and disposable in the UK amounting to not less than £2 million

Investment account - You have opened an account with a UK regulated bank for the purposes of investing not less than £2million in the UK

Maintenance - Not required

English - Not required

Source of your fund

You may rely on money that is owned either jointly with, or solely by, your husband, wife, civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner.

If you have held not less than £2 million funds for less than three consecutive months before the date of the application, you must also provide evidence of the source of the funds.

The source of funds could be from:

- a gift
- deeds of sale
- evidence from a business
- a will
- a divorce settlement
- awards or winnings

Extension (after three years and four months)

Funds - You must show that you have invested not less than £2 million in the UK by way of UK Government bonds, share capital or loan capital in active and trading UK registered companies within 3 months of your specified date.

Maintenance - Not required

English - Not required

Settlement - Indefinite leave to remain (five years).

You and your dependants can apply for settlement under Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) once you have reached five years' continuous leave in the United Kingdom under the route.

Funds - You must show that you have invested not less than £2 million in the UK by way of UK Government bonds, share capital or loan capital in active and trading UK registered companies

Maintenance - Not required

Knowledge of life and language - When you apply for settlement you are required to show that you have knowledge of life (by passing a 'Life in the UK' test) and language in the United Kingdom before you can be granted (Level B1)

TIER 1 (Investor)

Accelerated settlement

If you meet additional criteria (explained below), you may apply for accelerated ILR after a continuous period of either two years or three years:

- if you invested £5 million, you can apply for settlement under Tier 1 (Investor) once you have reached three years
- if you invested £10 million, you can apply for settlement under Tier 1 (Investor) once you have reached two years.



Sole Representative

Sole Representative is the most common application and is typically for a senior manager of an overseas company planning to set up a UK branch or a wholly-owned subsidiary. This is a visa designed to encourage foreign companies to set up their platform in the UK. This is a unique visa where it is divided into two distinctive categories:

- for a sole representative of an overseas company planning to set up a UK branch or a wholly-owned subsidiary for an overseas parent company; or
- for an employee of an overseas newspaper, news agency or broadcasting organisation posted on a long-term assignment to the UK.

Initial application

Funds - Not required

Maintenance - You must show that you have enough money to support yourself (and any dependants)

English - The ability to speak English (Level A 1)

Overseas business - A sole representative must meet a range of criteria by the individual and company at the time of applications:

- That they have their headquarters and principal place of business outside the UK
- Their turnover demonstrates that the company is actively trading
- That they have their registered offices overseas and confirmation that they have no active branch, subsidiary or other representative in the UK

- The type of business - this must be the same type of business as the UK subsidiary or branch

Visa extension

The overseas representative visa lasts for a period of three years and can be extended after this. The extension lasts for a further two years. After the holder has been in the UK for a total period of five years they can then apply for permission to settle permanently in the United Kingdom.

Settlement - Indefinite leave to remain (five years)

You and your dependants can apply for settlement under Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) once you have reached five years' continuous leave in the United Kingdom under the route.

Fund - Not required

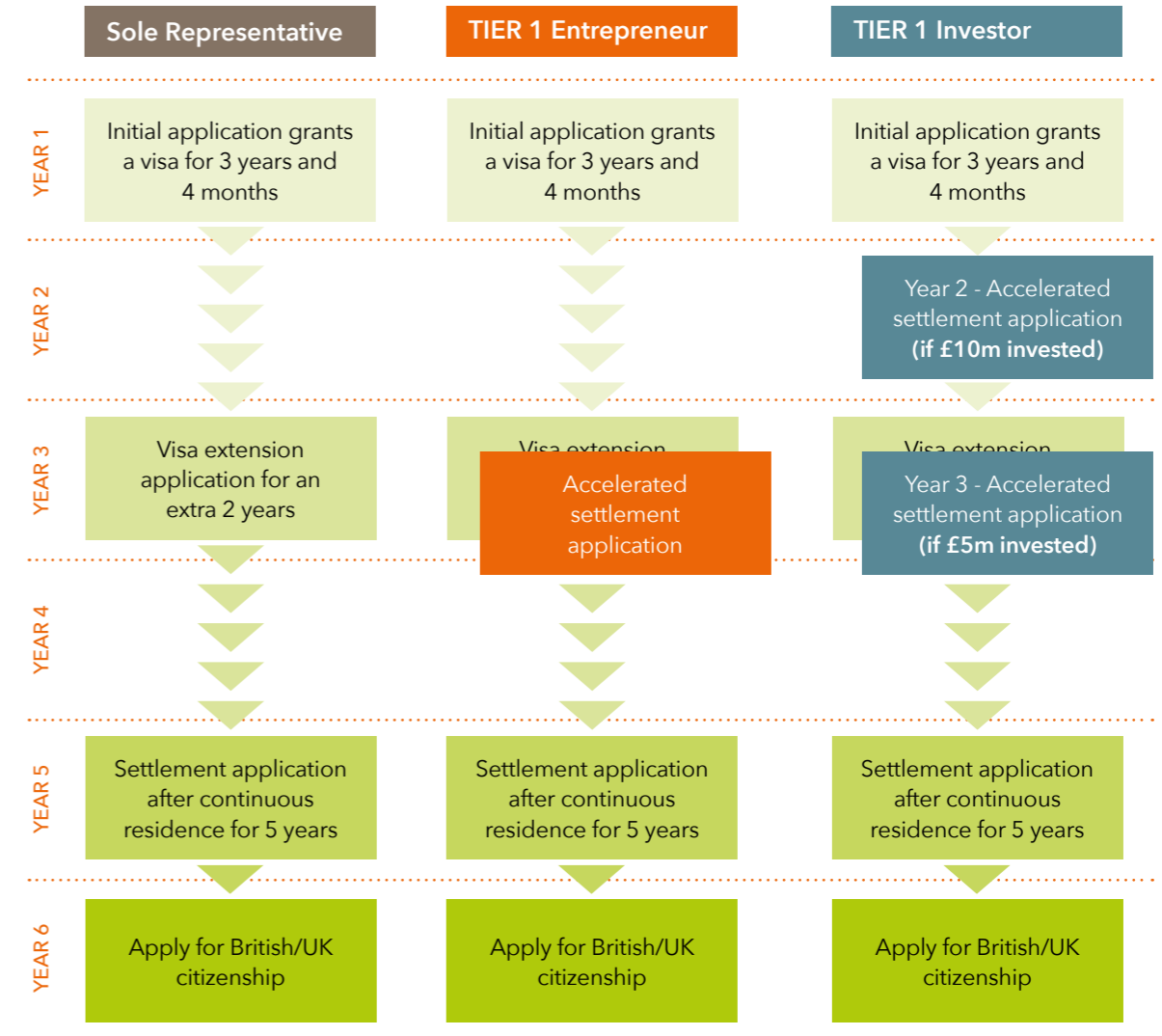
Business activity - You have been registered with HMRC as a self-employed person or registered as a director of a business

Continuous residence - You have spent a continuous period of five years lawfully in the UK with leave as a Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) migrant

Knowledge of life and language - When you apply for settlement you are required to show that you have knowledge of life (by passing a 'Life in the UK' test) and language in the United Kingdom before you can be granted (Level B1)

TIMELINES (per application)

TIER 1 Entrepreneur and TIER 1 Investor applications can be fast-tracked after either Year 2 or Year 3. Please see the chart below:





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