



SINCERE
IMMIGRATION

CORPORATE IMMIGRATION
INTO THE UK

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.



INTERNATIONAL OWNERSHIP OF BRITISH BRANDS

Many well-known British brands today are owed 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.

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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.

START UP VISA

- Ideal for early stage entrepreneur
- No funding requirements
- Must have good business ideas that are innovative, scalable and viable
- Perfect footing to get business ready for Innovator visa application process
- Does not lead towards Indefinite Leave to Remain

TIER 1 (INVESTOR)

- Minimum of £2M cash investment into active and trading UK company
- Visa leads towards Indefinite Leave to Remain after 5 years continuous residency
- May be eligible to apply for settlement earlier subject to higher investments

INNOVATOR VISA

- Ideal for seed entrepreneur looking to grow
- Minimum funding of £50,000
- Business must demonstrate innovation, viable and scalable abilities
- Eligible to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain after 3 years

SOLE REPRESENTATIVE (OF AN OVERSEAS BUSINESS)

- Ideal for existing overseas business wishing to open a branch or subsidiary in the UK
- Requires the overseas business to show that they are actively trading and able to send a representative to the UK to set up a branch or subsidiary
- The representative can receive their salary in the UK or overseas
- Visa leads towards Indefinite Leave to Remain after 5 years continuous residency

The Start-up visa category is designed for individual who would be starting a new business for the first time in the UK. You do not need to have an initial secured funding. Once successful, an applicant will receive a visa which is valid for no more than 2 years. It is expected that a Start Up visa holder will convert into the Innovator visa category before the completion of 2 years.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

The applicant must be at least 18 years old.

CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

For all applications

- The Applicant must genuinely intend to undertake, and is capable of undertaking, any work or business activity in the UK as stated in their application
- You must not intend to work in the UK in breach of your conditions
- Any money that you are claiming to be available is genuinely available as described, and that you intend to use it for the purpose described in your application

The decision maker may request additional information from yourself, or your endorsing body, and they can also decide to carry out an interview.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

There are 4 ways in which you can show you meet the English language requirement. These include:

- being a national of a majority English speaking country; or
- passing an English language test level and had taken the test at a Secure English Language Test centre – note that you must achieved the required scores in all relevant component in a single sitting; or
- holding a degree that was taught in English and is equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree or above.
- If you have previously been granted an entry clearance or leave to remain in any of the following categories:

- Start Up
- Innovator
- Tier 1 (General)
- Tier 1 (Post-Study Work)
- Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) under the rules in place before 13 December 2012
- Tier 2 (Minister of Religion)
- Tier 4 (General), supported by a CAS assigned on or after 21 April 2011

MAINTENANCE

In order to qualify for entry clearance or leave to remain under the Start Up visa, you

must show that you have enough money to support yourself (and any dependants). The maintenance requirement is detailed below:

- You must have at least £945 of personal savings
- If the main applicant and their partner or children are applying at the same time, there must be enough maintenance funds in total of the required amount

ENDORSEMENT

Applicants wishes to apply under this category must be endorsed in this category by an endorsing body listed on the gov.uk website.

The endorsement letter must confirm both of the following:

(a) The applicant's business venture meets all of the requirements in the table below:

(b) The endorsing body is reasonably satisfied that the applicant will spend the majority of their working time in the UK on developing business ventures.

Applicants wishes to apply under this category must be endorsed in this category by an endorsing body listed on the gov.uk website.

The endorsement letter must confirm both of the following:

(a) The applicant's business venture meets all of the requirements:

Innovation - The applicant has a genuine, original business plan that meets new or existing market needs and/or creates a competitive advantage.

Viability - The applicant has, or is actively developing, the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and market awareness to successfully run the business.

Scalability - There is evidence of structured planning and of potential for job creation and growth into national markets.

(b) The endorsing body is reasonably satisfied that the applicant will spend the majority of their working time in the UK on developing business ventures.

ENDORISING BODIES

The organisation must be one of the following:

1. An approved UK higher education institution which has established a process for identifying, nurturing and developing entrepreneurs among its undergraduate and postgraduate population; or
2. An approved organisation which has a proven track record of supporting UK entrepreneurs, including resident workers

The Innovator visa category is designed for individuals who have had prior business experience and are looking to establish a business in the UK. Applicants of this category must have an innovative, viable and scalable business idea supporting by an endorsing body.

The applicant can be a sole founder of the business or part of an entrepreneurial team. If you are applying for an Innovator visa for the first time, you must ensure that you have at least £50,000 funds available OR already invested into your business.

Once successful, an applicant will receive a visa which is valid for no more than 3 years. Once the 3 years are over, an applicant may apply for an extension of a further 3 years.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

The applicant must be at least 18 years old.

CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

For all applications

- The Applicant must genuinely intend to undertake, and is capable of undertaking, any work or business activity in the UK as stated in their application
- You must not intend to work in the UK in breach of your conditions

- Any money that you are claiming to be available is genuinely available as described, and that you intend to use it for the purpose described in your application

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

There are 4 ways in which you can show you meet the English language requirement. These include:

1. being a national of a majority English speaking country; or
2. passing an English language test level had taken the test at a Secure English Language Test centre – note that you must achieved the required scores in all relevant component in a single sitting; or
3. holding a degree that was taught in English and is equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree or above.
4. If you have previously been granted an entry clearance or leave to remain in any of the following categories:
 - Start Up
 - Innovator
 - Tier 1 (General)
 - Tier 1 (Post-Study Work)
 - Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) under the rules in place before 13 December 2012
 - Tier 2 (Minister of Religion)
 - Tier 4 (General), supported by a CAS assigned on or after 21 April 2011

MAINTENANCE

In order to qualify for entry clearance or leave to remain under the Innovator visa, you must show that you have enough money to support yourself (and any dependants). The maintenance requirement is detailed below:

- You must have at least £945 of personal savings in cash, held for a consecutive 90 days before the date of application;
- If the main applicant and their partner or children are applying at the same time, there must be enough maintenance funds in total of the required amount
- For dependent(s), each dependent will need to maintain an amount of not less than £630 for a 90 consecutive days

You may satisfy the maintenance requirement if the endorsing body produces a letter confirming that you have been awarded at least £945 in addition to the £50,000 investment funds.

ENDORSEMENT

Applicants wishes to apply under this category must be endorsed in this category by an endorsing body listed on the gov.uk website.

The endorsement letter must not be issued more than 3 months before the date of application.

ENDORSEMENT – NEW BUSINESS

You may apply for an Innovator visa under the “new business” criteria if:

- (a) You are applying for an Innovator visa for the first time; or
- (b) You wish to extend your current Innovator visa and are pursuing a different business than that which you pursued for your initial application; or
- (c) You are currently under the Tier 1 (Graduate) Migrant or Start-Up category and are pursuing the same business you pursued when you applied for your current visa.

If you fall within the “new business” category, the endorsement letter must confirm both of the following:

- (a) The applicant’s business venture meets all of the requirements:

Innovation - The applicant has a genuine, original business plan that meets new or existing market needs and/ or creates a competitive advantage.

Viability - The applicant has the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and market awareness to successfully run the business.

Scalability - There is evidence of structured planning and of potential for job creation and growth into national and international markets.

(b) The endorsing body is reasonably satisfied that the applicant will spend the majority of their working time in the UK on developing business ventures.

You must have at least £50,000 funds available to invest in the business. This may include funds which have already been invested into the business. Please note that if you are applying as part of an entrepreneurial team, each member seeking to apply for an Innovator visa must have at least £50,000 funds individually.

If your endorsement letter does not confirm that there at least £50,000 funds that are available or have already been invested into the business, there are several ways to show that you have these funds, including:

1. Bank statements covering a consecutive 3 months before the date of application, showing that the funds are held in the UK in an institution regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority; or
2. A bank letter, dating no earlier than 1 month before the date of application, confirming that the funds are held in regulated financial institutions and, where applicable, are transferrable to the UK; or
3. Business accounts demonstrating that the funds have already been invested into the applicant's business; or
4. Business bank statements demonstrating that the funds have already been invested into the applicant's business.

ENDORSEMENT – NEW BUSINESS

You may apply for an Innovator visa under the “same business” criteria if:

(a) You are currently under the Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur), Start-up or Innovator category and are pursuing the same business you pursued when you applied for your current visa.

If you fall within the “new business” category, you only need to obtain an endorsement letter that has not been issued more than 3 months before the date of application.

ENDORISING BODIES

The organisation must be one of the following:

1. An approved UK higher education institution which has established a process for identifying, nurturing and developing entrepreneurs among its undergraduate and postgraduate population; or
2. An approved organisation which has a proven track record of supporting UK entrepreneurs, including resident workers



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. You can come to the UK with a Tier 1 (Investor) visa for a maximum of 3 years and 4 months. You can apply to extend this visa for another 2 years.

INITIAL APPLICATION (FROM 29 MARCH 2019)

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. You must show that you are able to make an investment of £2 million or more in the UK. This money may be held overseas at the time of application, or it may already be in the UK.

The money must:

- be held in a regulated financial institution;
- be disposable in the UK; and
- amount to £2 million or more

ABOUT YOUR FUNDING

Your own money

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

Previous investment

As evidence of funds, you may use investments made in the UK within the 12 months immediately before the date of the application, provided they are held in a UK regulated financial institution.

Source of your funds

If you have not held the required no less than £2 million funds for 2 years consecutively 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; or
- awards or winnings.

You must provide the specified evidence shown above in official documents.

OVERSEAS CRIMINAL RECORD CERTIFICATES

If you are applying for an entry clearance as a Tier 1 (Investor) immigrant or are an adult dependant (over 18 years old) of the main applicant in this route, you must provide an overseas criminal record certificate for any country you have resided in continuously or cumulatively for 12 months or more, in the 10 years prior to your application.

EXTENSION APPLICATIONS – IF YOU WERE GRANTED INITIAL TIER 1 (INVESTOR) ON OR AFTER 29 MARCH 2019

If you were granted initial Tier 1 (Investor) entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain under the Rules in place **on or after** 29 March 2019, to extend your leave as a Tier 1 (Investor) Migrant, you must have invested not less than £2 million in the UK by way of **UK share capital or loan capital in active and trading UK registered companies.**

The investment referred to above must have been made:

- within 3 months of your entry to the UK, if you were granted entry clearance as a Tier 1 (Investor) Migrant, or
- within 3 months of the date of the grant of entry clearance or leave to remain as a Tier 1 (Investor) Migrant, or
- where the investment was made prior to the first grant of leave as a Tier 1 (Investor), no earlier than 12 months before the date of the application which led to the first grant of leave as a Tier 1 (Investor) Migrant, and, in each case, the level of investment must have at least been maintained for the whole of the remaining period of that leave

SETTLEMENT (INDEFINITE LEAVE TO REMAIN)

You can apply for settlement under Tier 1 (Investor) once you have reached 5 years of continuous leave in the United Kingdom under the route. However, if you meet additional criteria (explained below), you may apply for accelerated ILR after a continuous period of either 2 years or 3 years:

- If you invested £5 million, you can apply for settlement under Tier 1 (Investor) once you have reached 3 years
- If you invested £10 million, you can apply for settlement under Tier 1 (Investor) once you have reached 2 years

When you apply for settlement you are required to show that you have knowledge of life and language in the United Kingdom before you can be granted (unless you fall under an exemption). You can demonstrate this by passing both the Life in the UK test and holding an English speaking and listening qualification at level B1 or above.

ABSENCES WHEN YOU APPLY FOR SETTLEMENT

You cannot have had more than 180 days' absence from the United Kingdom during each 12 months of the continuous period. You will need to list details of your absences from the United Kingdom, including the reasons for those absences, on the form but you will not need to provide any specified evidence to support this.

YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS

Your family members ('dependants'), your husband, wife or partner and your child under 18 can come with you when you come to the UK on this visa. The dependants of Tier 1 (Investor) will have full rights to work in the UK apart from working as a Trainee Doctor/Dentist or professional sportsperson or sports coach.

Before 11th January 2018, the limitation of 180 absence days in continuous 12 months applies only to the main applicant, but from 11th of January 2018 the same requirement will apply to PBS Dependant partners.

At the stage of initial application, the dependent spouse of Tier 1 (Investor) applicant will have to prove that they are in subsisting relationships with the family members.



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.

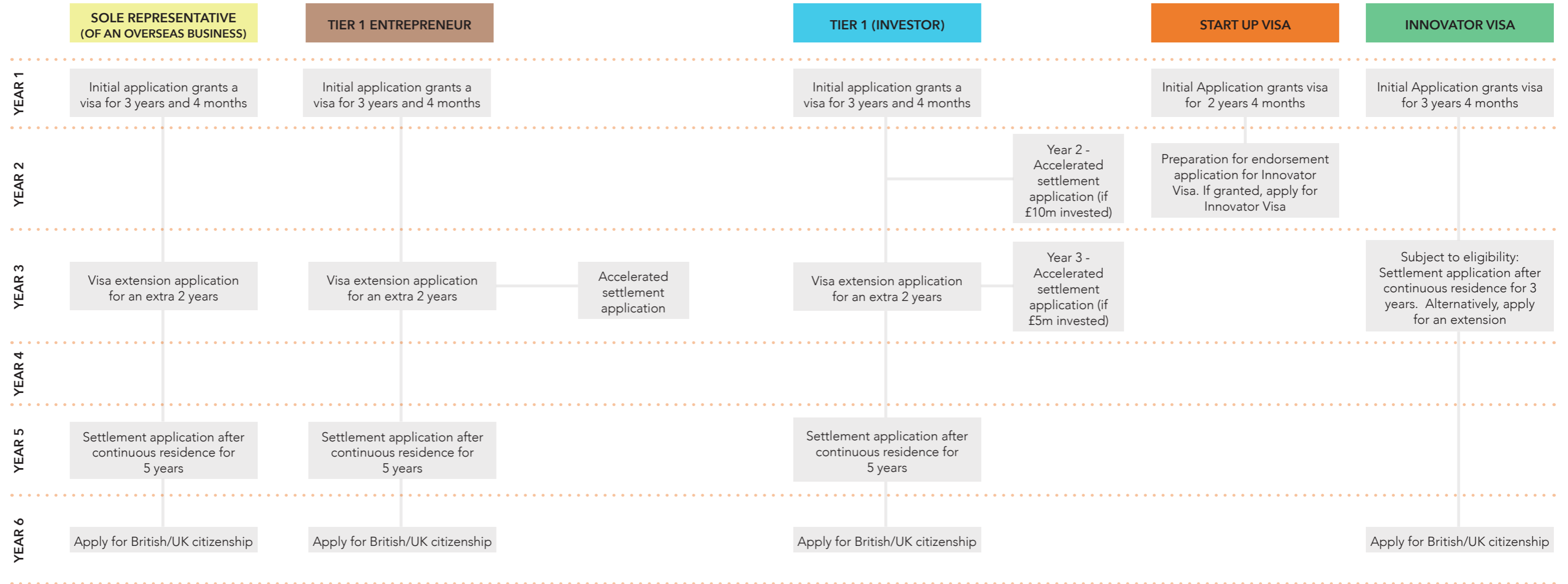
Funds - Not required

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)







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IMMIGRATION

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