

United Kingdom | Fact Sheet

Overview

- Minimum investment of £2 Million
- 75% of investment deposited to either UK government bonds (no longer allowed), share capital or trading UK-registered companies.
- Remaining 25% invested through purchasing assets or by depositing into a regulated financial institution.
- Tier 1 UK Investor Visa
- ½ year (180 days absent) a year
- Allows Temporary residency in the UK for investor & immediate family.
- The residency lasts for 3 years, applicants can apply for extension for another 2 years. The investors are then allowed to apply for indefinite leave to remain after 5 years & British citizenship after 6 years
- Main applicant, spouse, & children under age 18 can apply to be dependents.
- Investors can apply for indefinite leave to remain after 5 years and British Citizenship after 6 years. There is no direct citizenship by investment program.

Eligibility requirements:

- Have at least £2 Million
- Be 18 or over to apply for the Tier 1 (Investor) Visa
- Have opened an account at UK regulated bank to use for your funds
- Funds must be:
 - Held in one or more regulated financial institutions
 - Free to spend ('Disposable') in the UK
- Your money can be in the UK or overseas when you apply

Students with financial sponsorship:

- You may be able to apply for a Tier 1 visa if you are already in the UK and you're a student (including Tier 4) visa holder
- You must have unconditional agreement in writing from your financial sponsor to re-enter or stay in the UK if your courses fees and living costs were paid by either:
 - Government
 - An international scholarship agency

To qualify:

- Ability to invest the required amount & no funds withdrawn during the period
- Investor & dependants hold an English speaking & listening qualifications + level B1 or above
- Investor & dependants have passed the life in the UK test

Accelerated Permanent Residence:

- In 2011, the UK government announced a new rule that provides the ability to obtain legal residency through the accelerated route. New requirements is an increased UK investment:
 - £2 Million, settlement after 5 years
 - £5 Million or more, settlement after 3 years
 - £10 Million or more, settlement after 2 years

Benefits Include:

- Access to free health care services
- Attractive tax regime for high-net-worth investors
- Spouse & dependant children enjoy the benefits

Documentation:

- A current passport or other valid travel identification
- TB results, if you are from a country where you have to take the test
- A criminal record certificate from any country you have stayed in for a total of 12 months or more over the last 10 years
- You will need to provide a certified translation of any documents that are not English or Welsh
- Evidence of Investment funds:
 - Your own Money:
 - How much money you have & where it is held?
 - Where the money came from if you've had the money for less than 2 years, for example you inherited it from a relative
 - That the money can be transferred to the UK and converted to sterling (if already not in the UK)
 - Your partners money:
 - A certificate of marriage or civil partnership, or in the case of unmarried or same-sex relationships, proof that you are in a long-term relationship (at least 2 years)
 - A statement from your partner confirming that they will allow you to control the funds in the UK
 - A letter from a legal adviser stating the declaration is valid
- Evidence you have a UK bank account
 - Have been issued by an authorised official
 - Be dated within 3 months of your application
 - Be on the official headed paper of the bank
 - State your name & bank account number
 - Confirm you've opened an account with the bank in order to invest £2 Million
 - Confirm the bank is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
 - Confirm checks for money-laundering have been carried out

How to apply outside the UK:

- Must apply online (<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/apply-visa-type/tier1>)
- You will need to have your fingerprints & photograph taken at a visa application center (to get a biometric residence permit) as part of your application
 - <https://pos.tlscontact.com/south-africa>
- You must collect your biometric residence permit within 10 days of when you said you'd arrive in the UK (even if you actually arrive at a later date)

Extend your visa

- You may be able to extend your Tier 1 (Investor) visa.
- You should include any dependants who are on your current visa on your application to extend - including children who have turned 18 during your stay.
- You should apply before your current visa expires. Read the [full guidance on the Tier 1 \(Investor\) visa](#) before you apply.
- You successfully applied for your visa before 6 November 2014

You can apply to extend your visa if you:

- have at least £1,000,000 under your control in the UK
- have invested at least £750,000 (or 75%) of that in UK government bonds, share capital or loan capital in active UK companies
- invested this sum within 3 months of your 'investor start date'

Funds under your control in the UK

- This sum should include the £750,000 (or more) investment and £250,000 (or the balance needed) to bring it up to at least £1,000,000.

These funds can be either:

- your own money or your partner's money that has been loaned to you by a UK regulated financial institution, as long as you have personal assets with a value of £2,000,000 or more
- You cannot mix the 2 sources of funds.

You can apply to extend your visa if you:

- have at least £2,000,000 under your control in the UK
- have invested those funds in share capital or loan capital in active UK companies
- invested this sum within 3 months of your 'investor start date'
- If you successfully applied before 29 March 2019, you can also apply to extend if you invested your funds in UK government bonds.

Funds under your control in the UK

- You must have invested the full amount made up of your own money or your partner's money.

You'll need to provide a series of investment portfolio reports produced by a UK regulated financial institution that show:

- you invested at least £750,000 in UK government bonds or UK business within 3 months of your investor start date (if you first got your visa under the Immigration Rules in place before 6 November 2014)
- you invested all £2 million (if you first got your visa under the Immigration Rules in place on or after 6 November 2014)
- this level of investment has been maintained for the length of your visa

Your 'investor start date' is either:

- the date you came into the UK (if you have proof of this)
- the date your original visa application or switch from a different visa category was approved (if you cannot prove your date of entry)

How to extend your visa if you're in the UK

- You must apply online.

Fees

For each person, you'll need to pay:

- £1,623 to extend this visa
- the healthcare surcharge - check how much you'll have to pay
- £19.20 to have your biometric information (fingerprints and a photo) taken

If you want to get a decision more quickly than the standard 8 weeks, you can pay an extra £500 for the priority service to get a decision within 5 working days.

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo).

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

How long it takes

A decision will usually be made:

- within 8 weeks of your application date if you use the standard service
- within 5 working days of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the priority service

Once you've got your decision letter, your biometric residence permit will take up to 10 working days to arrive.

You'll be contacted if your application is complicated and will take longer, for example because:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- of your personal circumstances, for example if you have a criminal conviction

Once you've applied you can stay in the UK until you've been given a decision, as long as you applied before your last visa expired.

If you're outside the UK, you must apply online to extend a Tier 1 (Investor) visa.