

# Applying for a UK business or work visa



UK Visas  
& Immigration



**BUSINESS  
IS  
GREAT**

BRITAIN



*The UK is a great place to work, do business and invest. Whether you are planning a short trip, or want to work in the UK for a longer period, the type of visa you apply for will depend on your individual circumstances. You can find full details, and a tool to help you choose the right visa for you, on our website. Each category has its own set of rules, and the website will tell you what you can and cannot do on each visa.*

For more information visit [www.gov.uk/visas-immigration](http://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration).

## Visit visa

Visit visas are usually suitable if you are planning a short trip to the UK, for no more than six months to carry out activities usually relating to your profession overseas. You can apply for a standard visit visa, for example, to:

- attend conferences, meetings or training in the UK
- take part in a specific sporting or creative activity or event
- have discussions to secure funding to join, set up or take over a business
- undertake a 'permitted paid engagement' (you must have been invited to the UK because of your talents or expertise) - you can only stay for up to 1 month

## 'High value' workers (Tier 1)

A 'high value worker' visa may be suitable if you are:

- an investor
- an entrepreneur
- a graduate entrepreneur
- a leader (or potential leader) in arts, sciences (including engineering, social sciences and humanities) or digital technology

## Skilled workers (Tier 2)

A 'skilled worker' visa may be suitable if you have been offered:

- a 'skilled' job in the UK - see full details on our website [www.gov.uk/tier-2-general](http://www.gov.uk/tier-2-general)
- a role in your overseas employer's UK branch - the visa you apply for depends on your circumstances
- a job in a religious community
- a job as an elite sportsperson or coach

Our website provides full details of the type of work that fits into each of the categories listed above [www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas](http://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas)

## Temporary workers (Tier 5)

A 'temporary worker' visa may be suitable if you want work in the UK for a short time, typically less than 24 months:

- in sports – you will need an endorsement from an appropriate sports governing body
- in arts or entertainment - you will need to meet the eligibility requirements of the creative workers category
- in a work experience training or research role
- for a charity – doing unpaid voluntary work
- for a religious organisation - e.g. preaching or working in a religious order

Young people from participating countries can enter the UK through the Youth Mobility Scheme.

You can also apply for an international agreement visa if you will be doing work covered by international law while in the UK (e.g. working for a foreign government or as a private servant in a diplomatic household).

## Investing in the UK

UK Trade & Investment is the Government Department that helps UK-based companies succeed in the global economy. The department helps overseas companies bring their high-quality investment to the UK's dynamic economy, acknowledged as Europe's best place from which to succeed in global business.

To find out more visit [www.gov.uk/ukti](http://www.gov.uk/ukti)

## How to apply

You must be outside the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man to apply for your visa. Go to [www.visa4UK.fco.gov.uk](http://www.visa4UK.fco.gov.uk)

You will need to:

- register for an account
- fill in the application form in English
- pay for the visa fee online (in most cases)
- print out your form
- book and attend an appointment at a visa application centre and provide your biometric information (fingerprints and photograph)

You also need to:

- have all the supporting documents you need for your visa
- translate any supporting documents and include them with the originals if they are not in English

Always check our website for full details.

## Immigration Health Surcharge

From April 2015, non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals who apply to come to the UK to work for a period of more than 6 months, or extend their stay in the UK, will be required to pay a health surcharge. This is £200 per year payable upfront for the total period of time for which you are given permission to stay in the UK. It is paid at the same time as the visa application and will entitle you to access the National Health Service (NHS) in the same way as a permanent UK resident. For further details, including exemptions, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search for, 'Immigration Health Surcharge'.

## Additional services

We offer a range of premium services to offer you additional speed and flexibility such as:

- Super priority visa service
- Priority visa service
- Premium service lounge
- Prime time appointments
- SMS service

For more information please visit [www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa](http://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)

### Did you know?



**94%** of business visitor visa applications are successful.



The UK currently processes **98%** of non-settlement visa applications within 15 working days.



There are over **200 visa application centres** around the world.

For further information on UK visas and our priority and premium services, please visit [www.gov.uk/visas-immigration](http://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration)

For guidance on travelling to the UK and crossing our border visit [www.gov.uk/uk-border-control](http://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control)