



# BUSINESS IMMIGRATION

## Visa services for business at Joelson

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If you would like to come to the United Kingdom to do business, to work, or set up home, or if you are already in the United Kingdom and want to extend your stay, or change your immigration status, Joelson can assist you with obtaining a Visa and advise you on setting up in business, acquiring a business, buying property and sourcing funding.

We advise on all types of business immigration visas, including Tier 1 Entrepreneur and Investor Visas and Representative of Overseas Business Visas. We also assist businesses to obtain employer's sponsor licences and hire under the Tier 2 skilled worker route.

On all these visas you can bring dependants to the UK. We can help with all aspects of the application and guide you through every step.

Here we outline three key visas for business people:

### Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) Visa

Entrepreneur Visas are for people investing in the UK by setting up or taking over and being actively involved in the running of one or more businesses in the UK.

If you have at least £200,000 to invest, or you have funding of £50,000 from a venture capital firm registered with the Financial Conduct Authority or seed funding from the UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) (or other UK government department) to use in business in the UK, you can obtain an Entrepreneur Visa.

If you are part of a team of two people, both you and your business partner can come to the UK on this funding.

You will need English language test IELTS level 4 unless you are coming from an English speaking country or you have a university degree which was taught in English. You will also need to be able to support yourself and any dependants by showing a minimum amount of funds for living needs. We can advise you on all these requirements.

The Entrepreneur Visa is granted for three years plus four months initially and is extendable for a further two years. You can then obtain permanent residency at five years.

To extend the visa you will need to have employed at least two full time employees. We will advise you on these requirements.

If you create at least 10 jobs for people settled in the UK, or you have established a business worth £5,000,000 or more in the UK, or invested in a business which results in a £5,000,000 increase in income, you can apply for permanent residency after three years. In all other cases, you can obtain permanent residency after five years.

## **Tier 1 (Investor) Visa**

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If you have at least £2,000,000 at your disposal in the UK in a regulated financial institution (such as a bank regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority or equivalent overseas regulator) and have opened a UK bank account, you can obtain an Investor Visa.

We can advise you on which documents you need to produce to show that you have sufficient disposable funds and we can help you with every step of your application, including arranging expert tax and wealth management advice.

You do not need to take an English language test or show family maintenance requirements for this Visa.

The Investor Visa is granted for three years plus four months, initially. The visa can be extended and you can apply for permanent residency at five years.

If you invest £5,000,000 or more in the UK, then you can obtain permanent residency after three years. If you invest £10,000,000 or more, then you can obtain permanent residency after two years.

## **Representative of an Overseas Business Visa**

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You can come to the UK as the representative of an overseas company, if your company wants to set up a subsidiary business or branch office in the UK. A visa can be granted for up to three years. The visa can be extended and can lead to permanent residency at five years.

There is no investment by you and you remain an employee of the overseas parent company.

We can advise you on what documentation the overseas parent company will need to provide and also what the representative needs to show regarding his or her employment. You will need English language test IELTS level 4 unless you are coming from an English speaking country or you have a university degree which was taught in English. You will also need to be able to support yourself and any dependants.

A Representative of Overseas Business Visa can be granted for starting up a subsidiary business, with the activities of incorporating the UK company, commencing trading and hiring employees.

You can only work for the company (and no other employer) while you are in the UK.

With this visa, you can be accompanied by dependants, provided you can show that you can maintain them. Dependants can work but they cannot receive social security benefits.

## **Contact us**

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This article is not intended to be a comprehensive review of all potentially relevant points you should consider and does not constitute legal advice. You should not place reliance on this article and should take legal advice in relation to your own circumstances.