

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Innovator Visa



#### Advantages

- One of the highest standards of living in the world and is a member of the G-7 group of countries
- Diverse and multicultural society, represented by large cultural and ethnic communities
- A high standard of education including state and private schools, higher education institutions and universities
- One of the best free medical care services in the world
- Access to business opportunities throughout Europe
- London is unrivalled as a financial business centre
- The travel mobility and security of a UK passport
- Can include spouse/partner and children under 18 years

#### Requirements

To qualify for the Innovator Visa the applicant must want to set up or run a business in the United Kingdom (UK) and meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Have the business or business idea endorsed by an approved endorsing body prior to application
- Pass an approved English language test with at least CEFR level B2 in reading, writing, speaking and listening (unless exempted)
- Have at least £50,000 in investment funds which can come from any legitimate source
- Have sufficient funds to support the applicant and dependents which have been held in a UK bank account for at least 90 days
- Provide evidence that all funds were acquired legally
- Provide a Criminal Record Certificate confirming they have no criminal convictions
- Provide a tuberculosis test result (depending on residence)
- May not be employed outside the qualifying business

#### Investment and Endorsement criteria

The applicant must invest at least £50,000 in the business. To obtain an endorsement from an approved body, the applicant must provide a business plan and supporting documents showing that the business meets Innovation, Viability, Scalability and Commitment requirements.

#### Process

- Following endorsement, the application must be made to a UK Embassy or Consulate nearest to where the applicant resides
- Upon successful application an initial 3-year visa will be issued to enable the applicant to move to the UK to commence the business
- Progress must be reviewed by the endorsing body at the 6, 12- and 24-month marks
- The visa can be extended for a further 3 years providing that the business is still running and validated by an approved body
- Applicants may apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) after 3 years subject to meeting minimum business performance requirements.

#### Permanent Residency

- Foreign nationals must apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain to become UK permanent residents
- Applicants must have spent at least 50% of their time in the UK
- Applicants must demonstrate a knowledge of the English language and life in the UK
- Permanent residents have the freedom to live and work in the UK without any restriction

#### Citizenship

Applications for citizenship can be made after holding permanent residence for at least 1 year and meeting residency requirements