

UNITED KINGDOM

Points based system: Tier 1 (Investor)



Advantages

- One of the highest standards of living in the world and 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 with a broad network of state and private schools, and more than 150 universities and higher education institutions
- 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

Requirements

To qualify for the UK Tier 1 (Investor) Visa the applicant must make an investment of at least £2,000,000 and meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Have opened a UK bank account or investment account
- Have investment funds which must be held in a recognised financial institution for at least 2 years prior to application
- Be able to prove that the money belongs to the applicant or their spouse (or long-term partner)
- Provide evidence that the funds were acquired legally
- The applicant must make the UK their main home and must spend at least 50% of their time in the UK
- Must be at least 18 years old
- The applicant must provide a Criminal Record Certificate confirming they have no criminal convictions
- The applicant must provide a tuberculosis test result
- The applicant can invest a higher sum than the minimum requirement which allows the applicant to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain more quickly

Investment

The applicant must invest 100% of the specified investment amount of capital by way of share capital or loan capital in active and trading UK registered companies, which may be through qualifying managed investment funds. The investment funds must not be used outside the UK.

Process

- The visa application must be submitted to a UK Embassy or Consulate nearest to where the applicant is currently living
- Upon successful application an initial 3-year visa will be issued
- The visa can be extended for a further 2 years providing that the applicant maintains the investment and residency requirements
- Applicants may apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) after a variable period depending on the sum invested as follows:
 - £2,000,000 investment, the applicant may apply after 5 years
 - £5,000,000 investment, the applicant may apply after 3 years
 - £10,000,000 investment, the applicant may apply after 2 years

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 pass a 'Life in the UK' test
- Permanent residents have the freedom to live and work in the UK without any restriction and may leave and return at any time

Citizenship

Applications for citizenship can be made after holding permanent residence for at least 1 year and living at least 5 years in the UK