

COMING TO THE UK
VISA CATEGORIES
INDIVIDUAL GUIDE



VISA ROUTES

- **GLOBAL TALENT VISA**
- **UK INNOVATOR FOUNDER VISA**
- **UK ANCESTRY VISA**
- **INTERNATIONAL SPORTSPERSON VISA**
- **ELIGIBILITY**

GLOBAL TALENT VISA

This visa route is only for applicants who are considered to possess exceptional talent or exceptional promise and are leaders or potential leaders in the following fields: science, medicine, engineering, humanities, combined arts, dance, literature, music, theatre or visual arts, architecture, fashion design, film and television (includes animation, post-production & visual effects) and digital technology.

The applicant must either be recognised internationally as a leading person in their field and has won an eligible award or has achieved endorsement from one of the government approved endorsing bodies, which are the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, Royal Society, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Arts Council England (includes the Producers' Alliance for Cinema and Television (PACT) and Tech Nation.

The applicant can apply to settle permanently in the UK (also known as 'indefinite leave to remain') after:

- 3 years if applying as a leader in their particular field
- 5 years if applying as a potential leader
- Significant evidence is required to achieve endorsement, if endorsement is required.

UK INNOVATOR FOUNDER VISA

A new Innovator Founder route, for those seeking to establish an innovative business in the UK, has been introduced from 13 April 2023. This has replaced the Innovator and Start-up routes which will be closed to new applicants from that date, although new applications under the Start-up route will continue to be considered until 13 July 2023, where supported by endorsements issued before 13 April 2023.

The changes aim to make the criteria applicable under the current Innovator route more flexible. Under the new Innovator Founder route, an entrepreneur's business plans will still need to be endorsed by a registered endorsing body, but the current £50,000 minimum funds requirement under the Innovator route will be removed. In order to be granted an Innovator Founder Visa the applicant must be proposing a new business idea that meets the following requirements:

- Innovation
- Viability
- Scalability

Applicants must be at least 18 years old and be able to speak English to Level B2 CEFR. Individuals will also be able to engage in employment outside of running their business, provided that this secondary employment is in a skilled role of at least RQF Level 3 (A level or above).

Settlement will also be possible under the new route after spending three years continuously resident in the UK.



UK ANCESTRY VISA

An applicant can apply for a UK Ancestry visa if they are one of the following: a Commonwealth citizen, a British overseas citizen, a British overseas territories citizen, a British national (overseas), a citizen of Zimbabwe.

- To be eligible you must be able to prove that one of your grandparents was born in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.
- The applicant must prove that they are 17 or over, have enough money without help from public funds to support and house themselves and any dependants and can and plan to work in the UK.

The applicant must show that they have a grandparent born in one of the following circumstances:
in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man

- before 31 March 1922 in what is now Ireland
- on a ship or aircraft that was either registered in the UK or belonged to the UK government

The applicant can claim UK ancestry if:
they or their parent were adopted

- their parents or grandparents were not married.
- The applicant cannot claim UK ancestry through step-parents.
- The Visa is granted for 5 years and then the applicant can apply for permanent residence and then 12 months after this, they can apply to naturalise to become a British Citizen.
- The applicant can bring their spouse and children with them to the UK (children must be under 18 years old).

INTERNATIONAL SPORTSPERSON VISA

The sportsperson visa is a common visa route for professionals in sports such as football.

The applicant can apply for an International Sportsperson visa if all of the following apply:

- They are an elite sportsperson or qualified coach, who's recognised by their sport's governing body as being at the highest level of their profession internationally.
- The sport's governing body is endorsing their application.
- Their employment will develop their sport in the UK at the highest level.



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Charles is Head of Immigration, specialising in Personal and Corporate immigration to the UK.

Charles provides advice and support to high-net-worth individuals and their families (and family offices) wishing to relocate; to international entrepreneurs and investors; and to both UK companies wishing to employ foreign nationals (recruiting from abroad or transferring employees to the UK from an overseas office) and to foreign businesses wishing to start a business in the UK.



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Charlie is a Partner in our Trusts, tax and estate planning team, specialising in advising resident non-domiciliaries, UK and international trustees and domestic clients on matters spanning pre-immigration planning, residency and domicile rules, international tax planning and UK wills and estate planning. Charlie also advises on a full range of immigration matters. On the personal immigration side, he specialises in advising private clients and their families throughout their immigration journey, from initial visa applications through to applications for indefinite leave to remain and naturalisation. He also advises entrepreneurs about setting up businesses in the UK under the Innovator or Start-Up immigration routes, and advises younger clients on Student visas and the Graduate visa. With businesses, Charlie advises corporate clients on recruiting and retaining top talent from the global market.

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