IMMIGRATION – INVESTOR VISAS

The Tier 1 (Investor) category is for high net worth individuals making a substantial financial investment in the UK.

Who is eligible?
Investment requirements

- Applicants with £2m of their own funds to invest in the UK
- Funds must be held in a UK or overseas-regulated financial institution
- Must have opened an account in a UK regulated bank for purpose of investment
- Funds must have been available to applicant for > 2 years before date of application OR further evidence of source required
- Must have control of funds- Home Office can investigate provenance of funds

Additional requirements

- Must be over 18 years old
- Overseas criminal record certificate required for each country spent > 12 months (continuously OR cumulatively) in 10 year period preceding the application
- No adverse immigration history

Benefits of an Investor Visa

- Unrestricted right to self-employment and employment in the UK*
- Accelerated route to permanent right to live in the UK (Indefinite leave to remain)
- No English language requirement
- Can bring dependants

Time-scale, fees and period of grant

- Average decision making time is 3 weeks
- Home Office Fee - £1623
- Immigration Health Surcharge - £1400
- Initial visa granted for 3 years and 4 months

Main requirements to extend initial visa

- Applicants must invest £2m within 3 months
- Investments must be maintained at £2m or visa curtailed (cancelled)
- Portfolio must be managed by FCA regulated financial institution

How to acquire permanent right to live in the UK

- 2 years residence required if have invested and maintained £10m or more in the UK in accordance with the rules
- 3 years residence required, if have invested and maintained between £5m and £10m, or
- 5 years residence required, if have invested and maintained between £2m and £5m.
- Meet rules on absences
- Meet English language requirements
- Pass Life in the UK test

Our immigration team is dedicated to providing solutions for clients in this complex, ever changing area of the law. Our commercial expertise in navigating immigration law, and experience in negotiating with Home Office decision-makers, saves clients time and hassle.

We are one of a handful of law firms in Scotland that advise on all areas of UK immigration law, and unlike some firms that use employment lawyers to deal with business immigration cases, we are a specialist immigration law team with notable expertise in managing all types of personal and business immigration matters.
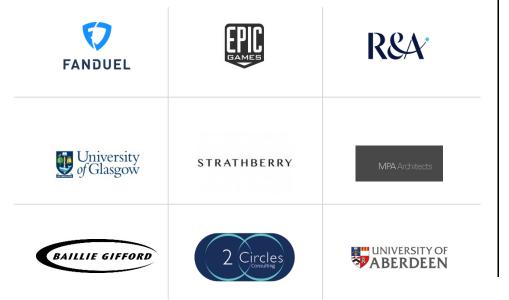
Jacqueline Moore, our Head of Immigration, is a highly respected immigration specialist with more than 19 years' experience in this specialist field of law, covering both business and personal immigration. Jacqueline was the instructing solicitor in the first reported successful legal challenge to the refusal of a sponsor licence in the UK.

Immigration Services

We regularly provide the following immigration services:

- Assistance with bringing international talent to the UK
- Bespoke in-house training for HR teams
- Global network access offering clients support to trusted immigration experts world-wide
- Hiring international talent already in the UK
- Support with a sponsor licence application and a pioneering sponsor licence maintenance service
- Support with a UKVI sponsor licence audit and general compliance
- Support for individuals making personal immigration applications
- Strategic Brexit advice

A selection of our clients:

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Immigration law is incredibly complex and bureaucratic. Due to the politicised environment in which immigration law operates, strict compliance with the rules is essential to a successful outcome. Our team can help you navigate the ever-changing and complex immigration landscape to meet your business requirements."

Jacqueline Moore, Head of Immigration

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