



SHEPHERD+ WEDDERBURN



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Immigration Services for Private Individuals

Information about our services and costs

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Why choose Shepherd and Wedderburn?

For our team's knowledge and recognised expertise

Our experienced team is ranked Tier 1 by the highly respected Chambers Legal Directory and is led by [Jacqueline Moore](#), an accredited Law Society immigration law specialist and Tier 1 ranked lawyer with over 20 years' experience in supporting clients make successful visa applications.

Immigration law is very complex and is subject to frequent changes - visa applicants can face refusal due to seemingly small mistakes. Our knowledge and expertise in the intricacies of immigration rules and regulations, including niche and lesser-known areas of immigration law, allows us to provide clients with a comprehensive review of their case.

For a bespoke and end-to-end innovative full representation visa and nationality support service

The nature of the work we do is highly personal and of the utmost importance to our clients and their families. We provide a bespoke and responsive service, recognising the uniqueness of every client's immigration case.

We have developed an innovative Visa and Naturalisation Hub that features extensive key information and provides for easy and smooth uploading of your documentation in order that we can prepare your visa application in line with the Home Office's technical digital requirements as seamlessly as possible.

For transparency on fees and other costs

In accordance with guidance issued by the Law Society of Scotland and rules issued by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, we set out below further details on how we charge.

For our wider in-house legal expertise and access to our global trusted network of advisers and dedicated in-house International Families Group

The immigration team is an integral part of the firm's wider [International Families Group](#) – a dedicated team of in-house specialists co-headed and founded by our Head of Immigration, [Jacqueline Moore](#). The teams regularly collaborate to provide tailored support to international families both living in and relocating back to the UK. As well as supporting clients with visa and passport issues, we can assist you and your family with buying and selling property, establishing a business, employment law queries and personal tax and estate planning.

In addition to our one-stop legal service, our clients also benefit from access to our extensive network of trusted professional advisers, which includes specialist family lawyers, accountants, investment and wealth managers, education providers and placing consultants, and a network of lawyers in more than 45 jurisdictions.

Our Immigration team is supported by experts in Employment, Pensions, Litigation, Corporate and Personal Taxation, Employee Incentives and HR Consultancy to provide a holistic human resource, immigration and employment law service to business and individuals.

Initial consultation

We on-board all new clients with an initial fixed fee consultation that takes place via video platform or in person with one of our immigration specialists. Our initial consultation fees range from £350-£550 plus VAT depending on the seniority of the specialist and the complexity of the subject matter involved.

Our fixed advice consultation covers:

- A meeting with an experienced immigration lawyer lasting up to 50 minutes via video platform or in person; and
- A follow-up summary of advice clearly setting out our recommendations for meeting your immigration goals and providing detailed information on the costs and detailed procedure involved.

To arrange an initial consultation please complete our [enquiry form](#).

Method of charging for visa and / or nationality applications

Whilst some clients consult with us on a one-off basis, where for example they seek our expert opinion on particularly complex nationality laws to ascertain if they are British; the vast majority of clients consult in order that we can represent them in their visa or nationality applications.

After your initial consultation, we will provide you with a “letter of engagement and terms of business” setting out the costs that will apply in respect of our representation service for visa and or nationality applications.

Estimated fees for visa applications

Given the uniqueness of every individual’s immigration case, our fees to represent you are charged on the basis of the time spent by our lawyers and other professionals to undertake the work. Details of our usual hourly rates are set out on page five of this document. Whilst no two visa applications are the same, set out below are estimated fee ranges for different types of visa applications.

Our visa application service package includes:

- A bespoke document list containing all mandatory and recommended documentation required for your visa;
- Full access to our innovative Visa and Nationality Hub – a portal containing (i) regular updates from the Home Office on both procedure and substantive aspects of visa applications; (ii) FAQs on key aspects of the visa application process; and (iii) real time visibility on the document process allowing you to track the preparation of the progress of your visa application;
- A detailed set of tailored legal representations clearly setting out why your application meets the Immigration Rules;
- Assistance with completion of Home Office forms;
- Clear and jargon-free advice on procedure; and
- All communication with the Home Office on your behalf.

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Visa Type	Estimated Fee Range (exclusive of VAT)
Partner/Parent Visa (Made Overseas)	£4,000- £8,000
Partner/Parent Visa (Made in the UK) – Limited Leave	£4,000-£8,000
Partner/Parent Visa (Made in the UK) – Indefinite Leave to Remain	£4,000-£8,000
Long Residence	£4,000-£8,000
Additional Fees for Dependants	£800-£2,000

Factors which will influence where a client's estimated fee sits on the range or in exceptional cases where the work exceeds the estimated fee include but are not limited to the following:

- The client has an adverse immigration history;
- The application is factually complex or document-heavy;
- Unexpected delays or postponements occur; and/or
- The client requests an exceptional level of communication.

Our legal fees will always reflect the estimate given unless new or unforeseen factors arise. If we are required to undertake more work and additional time is spent working on a matter, our legal fees will increase. If this happens, we will provide a revised written estimate of our legal fees.

Our estimated fee ranges do not include:

- Cost of challenging a visa application refusal;
- Home Office fees and any fees paid for expedited services to the Home Office's commercial partners. Please note the current Home Office immigration and nationality fees are available [here](#); or
- Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) - the majority of visa applicants and their dependants require to pay an IHS. For further details see [here](#).

Fixed fees for nationality applications (applications to become a British citizen)

In contrast to visa applications, we are able to offer a fixed fee package to clients looking to become British citizens, as with nationality applications it is easier to predict at the outset the volume of work and time involved. Details of our fixed fee ranges are set out below.

Our nationality application service package includes:

- A bespoke document list containing all mandatory and recommended documentation required for your nationality application;
- Full access to our innovative Visa and Nationality Hub – a portal containing (i) regular updates from the Home Office on both procedure and substantive aspects of nationality applications; (ii) FAQs on key aspects of the nationality application process; and (iii) real time visibility on the document process allowing you to track the preparation of the progress of your nationality application;
- A detailed set of tailored legal representations clearly setting out why your application meets the terms of UK nationality law;
- Assistance with completion of Home Office forms;
- Clear and jargon-free advice on procedure; and
- All communication with the Home Office on your behalf.

Fixed fee ranges for nationality applications

Nationality Application Type	Fixed Fee Range (exclusive of VAT)
Naturalisation Application (Adult)	£2,000-£5,000
Registration Application (Adult)	£2,500-£5,000
Registration Application (Child)	£2,500-£5,000

Our fixed fee ranges do not include:

- Cost of challenging a nationality application refusal; or
- Home Office fees and any fees paid for expedited services to the Home Office’s commercial partners. Please note that the current Home Office immigration and nationality fees are available [here](#).

Litigation services

Our specialist Immigration team has particular expertise in immigration litigation work. Our immigration team has assisted clients in successfully overturning visa refusals for more than 20 years. Our work includes appeal work at all levels including the Immigration and Asylum Tribunal (both First and Upper Tier) and the Court of Session in Scotland and the Supreme Court of England & Wales where that involves appeals from the Court of Session.

Given the bespoke nature of this work, we shall discuss with you our proposed method of charging at the point of being instructed and agree such before any work commences. Our fees for these services are usually charged on the basis of the time spent by our lawyers and other professionals to undertake the work. Details of our usual hourly rates are set out below.

At the point of being instructed, we shall provide you with a “letter of engagement and terms of business” setting out the basis upon which we shall charge for a particular matter, ancillary matters relating to how the work will be conducted and who is involved. Where appropriate, we shall be happy to provide estimated costs for our work. At all times we shall look to be transparent on our fees. If you do have any questions about costs at any time we shall be happy to answer them.

Hourly rates

While our hourly rates will vary depending on various pricing factors, these typically range from £175 per hour up to £595 per hour (depending on the experience and location of the relevant fee earner, the complexity of the matter in question and other pricing factors). All hourly rates are stated exclusive of VAT (charged at 20%) and disbursements. In certain cases, including where matters are particularly complex or high value, we may adjust rates to take account of the work involved. You will be notified of all such rates in writing.

To help to ensure our work for you is carried out cost effectively, our strategic work is led by our accredited Law Society immigration specialist, with junior members of the team (including, our immigration case-worker) handling the more administrative elements of the process.

VAT

If applicable, VAT is charged at 20%. If you are seeking immigration advice and you are resident overseas, VAT may not be applicable.

Other funding sources

Some employers are willing to cover the cost of immigration advice to employees. If you have an employer in the UK, you may wish to enquire about contributions to advice fees.

Legal aid

Please note that Shepherd and Wedderburn does not provide a legal aid service. However, if you consider that you may qualify for legal aid, there are law firms in Scotland who will provide a legal aid service for immigration work. For further information, you may wish to contact the [Scottish Legal Aid Board](#).