

Skilled Worker Visa

UK Self Sponsorship Route for Businesspeople and Professionals



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Partner with a firm that not
only understands UK
immigration law but shapes
the journey to your success.

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UK Self-Sponsored Skilled Worker Visa

This visa program is designed for entrepreneurs who seek to establish their business presence in the UK. It provides a streamlined avenue to residency, bypassing the need for third-party endorsements. The primary requirements are the establishment of a bona fide UK business and B1 level English proficiency for the main applicant.



Key Requirements

- Establish a genuine UK-based business (e.g., tech company, hair salon, consultancy)
- Own 100% of the business or enter a partnership
- Business must be viable and capable of meeting market needs
- B1 level of English proficiency
- No minimum investment required

Benefits

- No need for endorsement or an innovative business idea, unlike other visa routes
- Flexibility in the type of business you can establish
- Pathway to permanent residency after 5 years and citizenship after an additional year
- Access to the UK's thriving business environment and markets
- Eligibility to bring dependents, including spouse and children under 18



About Us

At Garth Coates Solicitors, we blend tradition with expertise. Founded in 2008, we've built a reputation as one of the UK's foremost immigration law firms. Our founder, Mr. Garth Coates, carries over a quarter-century of experience, including invaluable insights gained as an immigration officer within the Home Office. Operating from the heart of London, our team delivers a blend of personalized service and legal excellence, evidenced by our remarkable success rates.

Key figures



Garth Coates

Snr Partner & Co-Founder

Garth has over 25 years' experience as a solicitor in the immigration and commercial sectors. Prior to qualifying as a solicitor, he worked at the Home Office as an Immigration Officer and so has experience of every aspect of UK immigration and nationality law.



Michele Martin

Partner & Co-Founder

Michele qualified as a solicitor in 1994. In addition to her immigration background, she has extensive experience in Commercial and General Litigation along with Family Law and Criminal Law. This enables the firm to provide holistic advice and support to clients.



Celemet Yener

Partner & Solicitor

Celemet is a qualified senior solicitor. He deals with cases under almost all immigration categories, including Corporate/Business Immigration Law (Investor, Innovator, Start-Up, Entrepreneur, Representative of an Overseas Business), Global Talent and Human Rights related Applications.



Leqa Al Habib

Partner & Solicitor

Leqa joined Garth Coates Solicitors in 2016 as an associate solicitor and became a partner in 2023. She advises our corporate and individual clients on all aspects of UK Immigration including Expansion and Skilled Workers, Nationality Law, Human Rights and the Refugee Convention.



Iyiola Ojo

Area Manager & Solicitor

Iyiola has over 2 decades of senior leadership experience in global immigration sectors. He has a BSc degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA). He has recently been qualified as a solicitor.



Our role

Our role transcends mere guidance; we are your strategic partners in the UK business establishment, procurement of sponsorship licenses, and navigating the intricate legal frameworks. Our track record speaks volumes of our expertise, with a success rate that nearly perfects the art of visa acquisition.

Why Choose Us

Proven Expertise: Our decades-long practice in immigration and commercial law ensures adept handling of complex cases.

Home Office Insight: We offer unparalleled perspectives, thanks to our founder's direct experience with UK Visas and Immigration.

Comprehensive Services: We adeptly manage all aspects of UK entry and residency, including intricate Points-Based System applications.

Dedicated Oversight: Every case receives the meticulous attention of our partners, ensuring the highest standard of care.



Questions?

Can my family join me in the UK with this visa?

Your spouse and children under 18 are considered dependents and can be included in your visa application, enabling you to move to the UK as a family unit.

What are the English language requirements for me and my dependents?

As the main applicant, you must demonstrate English proficiency at B1 level. Your dependents are not required to prove their English skills initially; however, for any dependents over 18, including your spouse, B1 level English is required when they apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) after five years.

Are there specific types of businesses that qualify for this visa?

There are no specific restrictions on business types; whether it's a startup or an established business model, it must be legitimate, viable, and capable of fulfilling market demands within the UK. The emphasis is on establishing a bona fide business that is capable of success and growth within the UK economy.

What is the expected timeframe for the visa application process?

The duration can range from 3 to 10 months, influenced by the nature of your business and your individual circumstances.



Must I reside in the UK once I obtain the visa?

Not necessarily. However, to qualify for Indefinite Leave to Remain, you should not exceed 180 days of absence from the UK in any 12-month period within the five years prior to your permanent residency application in the future. This applies to both you and your spouse, but not to your children.

Is a minimum investment required for the business?

No minimum investment is mandated, but your business should have sufficient funding to ensure smooth operation and growth potential.

What if my business does not succeed while I'm on the visa?

It's vital to consult with legal experts promptly. Although business failure may impact your visa status, alternative options could be available depending on your case.

Can I take on additional employment?

While your primary focus should be on your business, you are permitted to undertake additional work within the field of expertise, as long as it doesn't compromise your business activities.

Is British citizenship attainable through this programme?

Yes, after a continuous five-year residency period in the UK, you're eligible to apply for permanent settlement. Following one more year, you may qualify for British citizenship.





What expenses should I anticipate beyond the visa fees?

When planning your move to the UK on the Self-Sponsored Skilled Worker Visa, it's crucial to budget for several additional expenses such as visa application fees and IHS-Immigration Health Surcharge which is approximately £624 per person for each year of the visa. (This will increase to £1,035 on 16 January 2024.) Legal fees will vary based on the complexity of your case and the services you require. Business establishment costs can also vary widely depending on the nature and scale of your business. Additionally, you'll need to ensure you have enough maintenance funds to support yourself and any dependents without access to public funds.

How do I decide the length of my initial visa, and why might I choose a shorter visa period?

The duration of your visa can be selected based on your personal preference and financial planning. A five-year visa offers the peace of mind of long-term stability in the UK, but it also requires a larger initial financial outlay, as you must pay the Health Immigration Surcharge for the entire period upfront, as well as potentially higher visa fees. Some applicants may prefer a shorter visa duration to decrease initial expenses. The choice should be made considering both your immediate financial situation and your long-term plans in the UK.

More Questions?



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