

# THE PATHWAY TO BRITISH CITIZENSHIP



People apply for visas to enter the UK for a variety of reasons, including to work, study, do business, join family members, visit as a tourist, transit through the country, get private medical care, seek refuge, or settle permanently in the UK. Many UK visas can also be used to obtain Indefinite Leave to Remain, which is an important step on the path to British citizenship.

## UK Work & Business Visas

### UK Innovator Visa

The Innovator visa route is aimed at experienced entrepreneurs seeking to set up or run a business in the UK. Under this route, applicants are required to demonstrate an innovative, viable and scalable business idea which is supported by an endorsing body. With some exceptions, applicants should have access to at least £50,000 to invest in their business.

The initial visa granted is for 3 years and can be extended for a further 3 years. Migrants would be eligible for permanent residence, Indefinite Leave to Remain, in 3 years, and for citizenship after 6 years after initial entry to the United Kingdom.

#### Innovation

The applicant must have a genuine, original business plan that is in line with new or existing market needs and/or has a competitive advantage.

#### Viability

The applicant is actively developing or already has the required skills, knowledge, experience, and market awareness to run their business successfully.

#### Scalability

There needs to be evidence of structured planning and of job creation prospects as well as potential to grow into national markets.

## UK Expansion Worker visa

The **UK Expansion Worker visa** is a new sponsored route for established overseas businesses who wish to set up a branch or subsidiary in the UK. It allows eligible businesses to sponsor an existing senior manager or specialist worker when being assigned to the UK for a temporary period to undertake work related to the expansion of a business in the UK.

This has replaced the previous unsponsored sole representative provisions of the Representative of an Overseas Business route, although visa-holders already in the UK on this route can apply for further permission and will not be required to switch. This means that the predecessor route will remain open to those with existing permission on that route.

UK Expansion Worker Visa isn't a direct route to the residence in the UK. Once in the UK, though, you might be able to change to an immigration path that does result in a settlement. Still, you'll be expected to fulfill the conditions for the immigration path you want to choose.