

Indefinite leave to remain if you have a business, investor or talent visa

1. Overview

You may be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain if you have one of the following visas:

- Global Talent
- Tier 1 (Investor)
- Tier 1 (Entrepreneur)

Indefinite leave to remain is a way you can settle in the UK. It's also called 'settlement'. Getting it means you can live, work, study or claim benefits in the UK without time restrictions. You can use it to become a British citizen.

The Global Talent visa has replaced the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa. If you have a Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa, apply for indefinite leave to remain as someone with a Global Talent visa.

Eligibility

Time in the UK and financial requirements

You must:



- have lived in the UK for long enough - this can be from 2 to 5 years
- meet the financial requirements

The specific eligibility depends on your visa - check the [time in the UK and financial requirements \(/indefinite-leave-to-remain-business-investor-global-talent/eligibility\)](#).

If you're not eligible using one of these visas, there are [other ways to apply for indefinite leave to remain \(/indefinite-leave-to-remain\)](#).

If you've been a partner or child (a 'dependant') on a visa

In the time you've lived in the UK, you cannot include any time you've spent in the UK as a partner or child (a 'dependant') on a visa.



Time on other visas

If you have a Global Talent visa, you can include any time you've spent on the following visas to meet the requirements for time spent in the UK:

- any Tier 1 visa - except Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur)
- Tier 2 (General) or Skilled Worker
- Scale-up Worker
- Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) or T2 Minister of Religion
- International Sportsperson, T2 Sportsperson or Tier 2 (Sportsperson)
- Innovator Founder
- Representative of an Overseas Business

If you have a Tier 1 (Investor) or Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa, you cannot include time you've spent on other visas.

Time outside the UK

You must have spent no more than 180 days outside the UK in any 12 months.

If you think you're affected by this rule, find out how to [calculate your time in the UK \(/government/publications/indefinite-leave-to-remain-calculating-continuous-period-in-uk\)](#) ('continuous residence').



If you have a Global Talent visa, time you've spent outside the UK doing work related to your job may not count towards this 180-day limit. This rule applies if you were endorsed by the Royal Society, Royal Academy of Engineering, British Academy or UK Research and Innovation. It also applies if you did not need an endorsement for your visa because you had won an eligible award in the fields of science, engineering, humanities or medicine.

Knowledge of language and life in the UK

If you're 18 to 64 you'll need to [book and pass the Life in the UK Test \(/life-in-the-uk-test\)](#).

You'll also need to [meet the English language requirements \(/english-language\)](#) if you're applying with a Global Talent visa or Tier 1 (Investor) visa.

When to apply

The earliest you can apply is 28 days before you've met the requirements for the time you need to have lived in the UK - check the [time in the UK and financial requirements \(/indefinite-leave-to-remain-business-investor-global-](#)

[talent/eligibility](#)). Your application may be refused if you apply earlier.

Do not wait until your current visa expires. If your visa expires before you can apply for indefinite leave to remain, you'll need to renew it first.

Fees and how long it takes

It costs £3,029 for each person applying. You can include your [partner and children \(/indefinite-leave-to-remain-business-investor-global-talent/family-members\)](#) on the same application form, if they're eligible.

You'll each need to have your biometric information (fingerprints and a photo) taken - there's no fee for this.

You'll usually get a decision within 6 months if you apply using the standard service.



You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

Get a faster decision on your application

If you're applying using your Tier 1 (Investor visa), you can pay an extra £500 to use the priority service to get a decision within 5 working days.

If you're applying using your Tier 1 (Investor) or Global Talent visa, you can pay an extra £1,000 to use the super priority service to get a decision:

- by the end of the next working day after providing your fingerprints and photo (known as 'biometric information') if your appointment is on a weekday
- 2 working days after providing your biometric information if your appointment is at the weekend

Working days are Monday to Friday, not including bank holidays.

The priority and super priority services are not available if you're applying with a Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa.

2. Time in the UK and financial requirements

You must:

- have lived in the UK for long enough - this can be from 2 to 5 years
- meet the financial requirements, if relevant

The rules depend on your type of visa.



Global Talent

The time you must have been in the UK depends on how you were endorsed.

You can apply after 3 years if you were endorsed by either:

- the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Royal Society or UK Research and Innovation
- Arts Council England or Tech Nation - this must be as a recognised leader ('exceptional talent')

Or if you were endorsed by Arts Council England or Tech Nation as an emerging leader ('exceptional promise'), you can apply after 5 years.

If you did not need an endorsement for your visa because you had won an eligible award, you can apply after 3 years.

Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa

The time you must have been in the UK depends on how much you've grown your business.

You can apply after 3 years if you've either:

- created the equivalent of 10 new full-time jobs that existed for 12 months
- generated £5 million business income in 3 years

You can apply after 5 years if you've created the equivalent of 2 new full-time jobs that existed for 12 months.

Tier 1 (Investor) visa

The rules depend on when you successfully applied for your first Tier 1 (Investor) visa.

On or after 6 November 2014

The amount of time you must have spent in the UK depends on how much cash you've invested.

Time living in the UK	Cash
2 years	£10 million
3 years	£5 million
5 years	£2 million

You must have invested those funds in share capital, loan capital or UK government bonds in active UK companies within 3 months of your 'investor start date'.

You cannot include UK government bonds if you first successfully applied for your visa on or after 29 March 2019.





There’s more about investment criteria in the detailed [Tier 1 \(Investor\) guidance \(/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-1-investor\)](/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-1-investor).

Before 6 November 2014

The amount of time you must have spent in the UK depends on your level of investment.

Time living in the UK	Cash	Personal assets	Loans from a UK-regulated financial institution
2 years	£10 million	£20 million	£10 million
3 years	£5 million	£10 million	£5 million
5 years	£1 million	£2 million	£1 million



You must have invested at least 75% of those funds in UK government bonds, share capital or loan capital in active UK companies within 3 months of your ‘investor start date’.



There’s more about investment criteria in the detailed [Tier 1 \(Investor\) guidance \(/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-1-investor\)](/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-1-investor).

3. Your family members

You can include your partner and children on your application if they’re eligible.



Your partner and children can [apply separately at a later date \(/indefinite-leave-to-remain-family/partner-dependant-work-visa\)](/indefinite-leave-to-remain-family/partner-dependant-work-visa), for example if they’re not eligible yet. They can continue to extend their visa as your tier

1 dependant, even after you get indefinite leave to remain.

Eligibility for partners

Your partner may qualify if all the following apply:

- they have permission to be in the UK as your partner (as a 'dependant' on your tier 1 visa)
- they've lived in the UK with you as your dependant for at least 5 continuous years
- your relationship is genuine
- you intend to keep living together
- you have enough income to support yourselves and your dependants
- you're not using [public funds](/government/publications/public-funds--2/public-funds) (benefits)



Your partner can include time they've spent as your dependant on another visa to count towards the continuous years they need to qualify. They cannot count any time spent on their own visa (not as your dependant).

Your partner must:

- pass the [Life in the UK Test](/life-in-the-uk-test)
- meet the [English language requirements](/english-language)

Eligibility for children

You can include your child on your application if:

- they have permission to be in the UK as your child (as a 'dependant' on your visa)
- they are not married or in a civil partnership
- they will live with you and be supported by you without using [public funds \(/government/publications/public-funds-2/public-funds\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-funds-2/public-funds) (benefits)
- you and your child's other parent are both currently applying to settle, or are already settled

Your child can also apply to settle in one of the following situations:

- you're the child's sole surviving parent
- you have sole responsibility for the child's upbringing
- there are serious or compelling family or other considerations, for example you (if you're settled in the UK) or your child has a serious illness



Extra documents for children over 16

You'll need to prove:

- where they live - you'll need to explain why if they do not live with you
- any rent or upkeep they pay you each month
- that you support them financially if they do not live with you

You'll need to provide 2 documents from this list to prove where they live:

- bank statement
- credit card bill
- driving licence
- NHS registration document

- a letter from their current school, college or university, on headed paper and issued by an authorised official of that organisation

The documents you provide cannot be more than a month old on the date you make your application.

If your child lives away from home, you'll need to provide:

- bank statements for you and your child covering the 3 months before the date you apply (to prove you've supported them)
- confirmation from their university or college on headed paper and issued by an authorised official (if they're studying)



Children 18 and over

You can only include older children in your application if they both:

- were under 18 when they got permission to be in the UK as your dependant
- still do not live an independent life - for example, they have not got married or had children

They also need to:

- pass the [Life in the UK Test \(/life-in-the-uk-test\)](#)
- meet the [English language requirements \(/english-language\)](#)

If your child is over 18 by the time you apply and does not meet these requirements, they must [apply separately \(https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/set-o\)](#).

4. How to apply

You must [apply for indefinite leave to remain online \(https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/set-o\)](#).

Once you've started your application, you can save your form and complete it later.

When you apply, you'll be asked which category of indefinite leave to remain you're applying in. If you have a Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa, you should use 'Global Talent'.

You'll be told which documents you need to provide when you apply. You might need to show that, for example:

- you meet the English language requirements and have passed the Life in the UK Test
- you meet the financial requirements, including proof of where your money came from

You'll need to pay the fee as part of your application.



Get help to apply online

You can [get help with completing the online form \(/assisted-digital-help-online-applications\)](/assisted-digital-help-online-applications) if you:

- do not feel confident using a computer or mobile device
- do not have internet access

You can only use this service if you're applying in the UK.

You cannot get immigration advice through this service.

5. After you apply

You'll be asked to make an appointment at a [UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services \(UKVCAS\) \(/ukvcas\)](/ukvcas) service point to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo).

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

- upload them into the online service

- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

Any children aged 6 or over must provide biometric information if you're applying for them on your form.

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

Getting a decision

You'll usually get a decision within 6 months. If you paid to use the 'super priority service' you'll get a decision within 2 working days, or within 5 working days if you paid to use the 'priority service'.

Working days are Monday to Friday, not including bank holidays.

You'll be contacted if your application is complex and will take longer, for example:

- if your supporting documents need to be verified
- if you need to attend an interview
- because of your personal circumstances, for example if you have a criminal conviction

If your application is approved

You can do the following:

- work
- run a business
- study



- use public services, such as healthcare and schools
- apply for [public funds \(/government/publications/public-funds--2/public-funds\)](/government/publications/public-funds--2/public-funds) (benefits) and pensions
- apply for [British citizenship \(/apply-citizenship-indefinite-leave-to-remain\)](/apply-citizenship-indefinite-leave-to-remain), usually after a minimum of 12 months (as long as you've lived in the UK for 5 years)

If you stay outside the UK for 2 years

You can lose your indefinite leave to remain if you stay outside the UK for 2 or more years at a time. You may need to apply before you can [return to the UK \(/returning-resident-visa\)](/returning-resident-visa).



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