

INFORMATION BOOKLET

BRITISH NATIONAL OVERSEAS CITIZEN (BNO) VISA (HONG KONG)

(Entry Clearance or
Extension in the UK)



WEST LONDON IMMIGRATION SERVICES LTD.

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VISIT US : www.wlisuk.com

ABOUT US:

West London Immigration Services (WLIS) specialises in providing UK immigration advice and representing clients towards visa success. Whether it is in applying for Entry Clearance, Further Leave to Remain, Settlement in the UK or as a citizen of the European Union, our experienced advisor will guide you through the process representing you for immigration purposes. West London Immigration Services are authorised and regulated by the Office for Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC[registration number F201400882]) to provide immigration advice and represent clients for UK immigration purposes.

OUR HISTORY:

West London Immigration Services (WLIS) started its immigration advisory practice in 2013 in Ealing, West London, United Kingdom. Now based in Durham in the North East of England, WLIS serves clients throughout the United Kingdom and rest of the world using modern technology to provide flexible service conducive to supporting clients' convenience.



How Do We Work ?

Following relocation from London to Durham and changes in the UKVI application process we require that approaching clients work with us on the following arrangement:

01

INITIAL CONTACT

Kindly contact us by our website, telephone or other social media channels requesting our advice/services and outlining your preferred contact time.

02

IDENTIFICATION

We need a copy of the client's passport/ID, email and current address prior to providing the appointed advice or service. We therefore request this information be sent to us by email or post as soon as possible.

03

CALL BACK

We would be pleased to respond to a request for a call back happily contacting you to discuss your query via telephone (including mobile, WhatsApp, Viber, Skype) depending on your stipulated choice of communication.

04

INITIAL DOCUMENT ASSESSMENT

Initial documentation to support assessment can be sent to the advisor directly on WhatsApp, Viber or iMessage for initial advice purposes. N.B. Documents sent to us through this medium will not be used for the official application to the authorities and are only used for the purposes of providing quick advice to clients remotely.

05

CONTRACT OF ENGAGEMENT

We will issue you with a client care letter by email which is a legally binding contract confirming your instruction for WLIS to represent you for immigration purposes.

06

RETURNING A SIGNED CONTRACT

We ask that you kindly return a signed copy of a client care letter to us via email or post. To help save paper and the environment, just the signature page and GDPR consent page of the client care letter are necessary.

07

RECEIPT OF DOCUMENTATION

We will further assess all documents received at our offices via email or post. N.B. For documents you intend to post, kindly include a prepaid return envelope to avoid us charging a £15 admin fee plus postal cost.

We advise that clients send colour scan copies of documentation.



08

HOME OFFICE APPLICATION

We will complete the application on your behalf using communication channels such as WhatsApp and Viber in order to obtain the appropriate level of details from yourself enabling us to represent you for immigration purposes. These communication channels provide you with the flexibility of responding at your own convenience enabling speedy communication for when such requested information is available to you. Please be assured, we may send you multiple drafts for your confirmation and review prior to making the final submission.

Note: Once the client confirms details on a partially completed application, only then will we proceed towards submission of the application to the authorities.

09

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

We will submit your application on the Access UK site at gov.uk for both UK and overseas-based applicants. As payment to the authorities must be made directly and at this point, the payer must be available at the time the application is submitted.

10

DOCUMENTS SUBMISSION

For the purposes of having a record of successful submissions, we prefer to submit supporting documentation online ourselves to the Home Office authority through its chosen contractors' portals (VFS, Teleperformance or Sopra Steria (UKVCAS)). Note: We will therefore request from you your login details and consent prior to accessing the submission portal.

11

BIOMETRIC ENROLMENT

We will book an appointment on your behalf for biometric enrolment with the Home Office at the Visa Application Centre (VAC) aimed at being as convenient for you as possible in terms of location and time.

**IN COUNTRY:**

1. Usually, the UKVI will write to us with the outcome of your visa application.
2. Decision received by us:
 - We will provide you with an update via email
 - BRP card received at our address (We will post it to your address £15 admin and postal cost applies)

OVERSEAS APPLICATION:

1. An email of the outcome is generally sent in many countries however some countries only find an outcome once the passport is collected at the VAC where the application was made.
2. Upon receiving a decision, you agree to send us a copy of the decision (visa or refusal).
3. Upon arrival in the UK and on collection of BRP you agree to send us a copy for our compliance and record purposes.

FILE CLOSURE

When all above twelve steps are concluded we will close your file providing you with confirmation of file closure by email.

NOTE : Any new instruction to us upon the UKVI decision is treated as a new case, thereby requiring a repeat of the above process as necessary and incurring corresponding fees.

BRITISH NATIONAL OVERSEAS (BNO) VISA

The BNO visa is a UK immigration route for British National (Overseas) citizens from Hong Kong to reside in the UK with their immediate dependants, including those without BNO status. The BNO visa route opened for applications from 31 January 2021 for BNO citizens connected to Hong Kong.

There will be no cap on the number of BNO visa applicants. Those already within the UK will be able to switch into the BNO visa route from 31 January 2021. If an applicant will arrive before January 2021, leave can be granted to BNOs and their dependants at the border, outside of the rules, for six months.



MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR A BNO VISA (HONG KONG):

- Applicant must be a British National (Overseas), regardless of whether they hold a current valid passport;
- Family members must be either a partner, spouse, or children under 18, with additional requirements for children over 18 and non-BN(O) adult dependant relatives;
- Both applicant and dependants must be ordinarily resident in Hong Kong;
- Both applicant and dependants must be able to demonstrate their ability to accommodate and support themselves in the UK for at least six months;
- Applicant and dependants must have no serious criminal convictions, or record of behaviour deemed not conducive to the public good, and not be subject to other general grounds for refusal;
- Applicant and dependants must be committed to learning English in the UK;
- Both applicant and dependants must each have a valid TB Certificate from an approved clinic, where necessary;
- Applicant and dependants must pay the application fee and Immigration Health Surcharge fee.

PROVING BNO STATUS

The applicant for a BNO visa must hold BNO status. In families where more than one parent holds BNO status, only children will need to apply as dependants. There is no requirement to hold a BNO passport. However, the Home Office recommends that “valid or expired BN(O) passports should be kept and submitted with an application as evidence of BN(O) status”.

ENTITLEMENT FOR BNO STATUS

British Dependent Territories citizens with a connection to Hong Kong were entitled to register as British in the 10 years leading up to handover of Hong Kong. No person born after 30 June 1997 is a British National (Overseas), and the status cannot be passed by descent.

DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBERS OF BNOs

The Hong Kong BNO visa covers “immediate family dependents, comprising spouse or partner and children aged under 18” and dependents do not need to have BNO status.

Elder family members such as parents or grandparents of adult BNOs will need to be BNOs themselves to be eligible under the Hong Kong BNO visa route.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT OF HONG KONG BNO VISA

BNOs and their dependents must be ordinarily resident in Hong Kong. If applicant is currently in the UK, they must otherwise be ordinarily resident in Hong Kong.

GENERAL LIST OF EVIDENCE TO PROVE RESIDENCE IN HONG KONG:

- a Hong Kong identity card
- a letter from an employer or education provider confirming employment or study in Hong Kong
- a Hong Kong medical card
- a voter's card
- a visa or residence permit or other immigration documents
- an educational record, for example a school report
- a letter from the local council or a government department in Hong Kong
- tax records
- records of rent or mortgage payments.

LIST OF FINANCIAL EVIDENCE:

- bank statements that show savings
- evidence of regular income that will continue whilst in the UK, such as salary, investment or pension payments
- investment details
- receipt of educational grants from overseas
- an offer of employment in UK
- income of a partner, spouse or other family member to which you have access, for example parental funding or a spouse's salary earned through lawful working in the UK
- an offer of accommodation from family or friends.



ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

- no serious criminal convictions
- not otherwise engaged in behaviour which the UK Government deems not conducive to the public good, and not be subject to other general grounds for refusal set out in the Immigration Rules
- To settle in the UK after 5 years, they will likely need to meet the Knowledge of Language and Life in the UK requirements. If under 65, they will need to show they meet an English language requirement to the level of B1 of the CEFR and pass the Life in the UK test.
- TB certificate.

WHEN APPLYING FOR A HONG KONG BNO VISA, THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS IN TERMS OF LENGTH OF VISA:

- leave to remain in the UK for a period of five years; or
- leave to remain in the UK for an initial period of 30 months' leave (2.5 years), renewable by a second charged application for a further 30 months (2.5 years).

THE CONDITIONS OF THE HONG KONG BNO VISA ARE OUTLINED BELOW:

- Access to education including:
- Schooling for under 18 child dependants
- Education and training for young people aged 16-19
- The ability to apply for higher education courses
- Right to work in the UK in almost any capacity as an employed or self-employed person, consistent with UK employment laws and subject to having the appropriate skills and qualifications
- Access to healthcare free at the point of use on the same terms as British residents, contingent on payment of the Immigration Health Surcharge
- No recourse to public funds.

CURRENT FEES:

Visa Application Fee :

- £180 if you're applying for 2 years and 6 months
- £250 if you're applying for 5 years

Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) Fee :

For each adult (18 or older) it costs:

- £1,560 if you're staying for 2 years and 6 months
- £3,120 if you're staying for 5 years

For each child (under 18), it costs:

- £1,175 if you're staying for 2 years and 6 months
- £2,350 if you're staying for 5 years

WHERE TO SEND YOUR DOCUMENTS

You may email or post all documents and information to the contact details provided below:

BY POST:

WLIS, c/o Rupak Paudyal, 19 North Terrace, DURHAM, DH1 5EF, United Kingdom
T: +44 (0) 191 386 2327 Mob: +447739864487.

BY EMAIL:

To Rupak Paudyal: E: rupak@wlisuk.com or to applications@wlisuk.com with your client reference number.

OUR FEES:

Our fees for BNO Visa Entry Clearance or Further Leave to Remain visa application and representation are £500 per applicant.

NOTE : Our fees are non-refundable upon completion of instruction and we do not guarantee success on the visa outcome being as the final decision lies with the Home Office.

PAYMENT METHOD/INSTRUCTIONS

Payment method would be via bank transfer and WLIS do not accept cash payments or in person.

Payment instructions will be sent to you by the advisor, mentioned on client care and will also be available on the invoice of service upon agreement.

Call us on 0191 3862 327 for more information or contact Mr. Rupak Paudyal directly on 07739864487 for a free initial assessment of your requirements and more details.