



# BRING YOUR PARTNER TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

GETTING A VISA AND RESIDENCE



Cromwell Wilkes

## Bring your partner to the United Kingdom

**If you are a British Citizen, or if you are a settled person (indefinite leave to remain) and you are married to, or in a long-term relationship with a foreign national then you can bring your husband, wife, or partner to live with you in this country if you meet the rules.**

These rules are however complicated and challenging and it is essential that professional advice is obtained if you want to succeed.

At Cromwell Wilkes we understand that these visas are very important to the people involved. It is therefore an area of law in which we have particularly developed our experience and expertise. We know how to make your application successful, and we never give up fighting for our clients once we take on their case.

### The most important things to think about are the following:

- You will need to convince the UK authorities that your marriage or partnership is genuine and should be accepted in UK law – this is not always as easy as it sounds.
- You will need to show that you intend to live together in this country.
- You will need to meet a minimum financial requirement either from income or savings, unless you are exempt due to certain medical conditions or disability.
- You spouse or partner will need to meet the language requirement unless they are from a majority English-speaking country. This is done by passing an exam to Level A1 or by showing that they have studied at university for a degree taught in English.
- In addition to the visa fee (currently £1,523) you will need to pay the NHS Surcharge (£1,200) to cover the cost of the first three years of your visa.

### Common Questions about bringing your partner to the UK are...

What are the basic requirements to bring your partner to the UK?

*To apply as a partner, you and your partner both need to be 18 or over. Your partner must also either: be a British citizen. have settled in the UK - for example, they have indefinite leave to remain, settled status or proof of permanent residence.*

How long does it take to bring spouse to UK?

*Usually, the average Spouse Visa processing time is around three months. However, your application could take as little as two weeks depending on where you are applying from and how clearly you can satisfy the requirements.*

## What documents do I need to bring my spouse to UK?

- *To summarise, the following documents will be needed when submitting the spouse visa application:*
- *Valid passport.*
- *Evidence of minimum income requirement.*
- *Proof of genuine relationship.*
- *English language certificate.*
- *Right to live in the country where the applicant has applied from.*
- *TB test results, if necessary.*

## Can I sponsor my girlfriend to come to UK?

*As the UK visit visa the sponsor, you need to prove your financial capacity to support your girlfriend once she gets to the UK. You must also demonstrate that you can maintain and accommodate her without recourse to public funds. And you must also prove she can meet the cost of the onward journey ( return air ticket).*

## How much do you have to earn to bring spouse to UK?

*You and your partner must have a combined income of at least £18,600 a year if: you're applying as a partner. you want to settle in the UK (get 'indefinite leave to remain') within 5 years.*

## How to prove your relationship is 'genuine and subsisting' for a UK spouse visa?

- *Tenancy or rental or mortgage/ownership agreements.*
- *Joint bank statements/joint financial statements.*
- *Utility bills or local taxation evidence.*
- *Life insurance and named beneficiaries in policies.*
- *Ask us about more items....*

As you can see you need to be prepared and well documented in each of these areas to be able to answer questions like these thoroughly and appropriately. The specific questions will vary from applicant to applicant and some areas may be covered in more detail than others. This is why we suggest that you work with a qualified Innovator and Start-Up Visa Immigration solicitor to document and prepare for any Home Office interview.

**NEXT STEPS >>>**

Now that you know some of the typical issues and questions that need to be answered to bring your partner to the UK. To understand the entire process in relation to your specific needs please do the following...

1. Gather your documentation and that of your partner.
2. Begin to write out the answers to these questions (if they apply) and any other questions that are relevant to the process.
3. Contact us for a FREE, No Obligation consultation.



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For advice on applying for a Innovator and Start-Up visa and preparing for visa interviews, contact [Cromwell Wilkes Lawyers](https://www.cromwellwilkes.co.uk/contact-us/) today.

