



THE NEW START-UP VISA

GETTING A VISA AND RESIDENCE



Cromwell Wilkes

On 29th March 2019 the graduate entrepreneur visa is being replaced with a new category of business “Start-Up”.

This new visa will present increased opportunity for those who have the talent and desire to start a new business in this country.

And you will no longer need to have graduated from university. The new Start-Up is available to anyone who has the potential to be a genuine success in business.

The main rules for the Start-Up are:

- There is no minimum investment level.
- You will need to show that you have the developing potential to become a successful businessperson.
- You will need to have your business plan “endorsed”. This means that an independent organisation must agree that your business idea is a good one, and that you have the potential to make it succeed.
- You will need to have passed an English Language exam to level B2 unless you have completed a university degree taught in English.

Cromwell Wilkes has the expertise and experience to make sure that applicants for the new Start-Up visa have every chance of success – from the first enquiry, to ongoing support after you start running your business.

We can provide everything you need:

- specialist legal advice at every stage of the application process
- help with business planning from experienced experts
- assistance in having your business endorsed
- ongoing advice in business, company, and commercial law after you arrive and as your business grows, as well as referral to specialist accounting and other business services

Here are some things to consider...

Overview

You can apply for a Start-up visa if:

- you want to set up a business in the UK
- you're from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland
- you meet the other eligibility requirements

Getting endorsed

You must be endorsed by an authorised body that is either:

- a UK higher education institution
- a business organisation with a history of supporting UK entrepreneurs

You must be able to show that your business idea is:

- a new idea - you cannot join or invest in a business that is already trading
- innovative - you must have an original business idea which is different from anything else on the market
- viable, with potential for growth

Read the endorsing bodies list - you should only approach ones that are suitable for your business idea.

How long it takes to get a visa

The earliest you can apply is 3 months before you travel.

Example

- You can apply from 16 March if you plan to travel on 15 June.
- You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks when you apply from outside the UK.
- Find out about paying for a faster decision by contacting us.

Eligibility

Before you apply you need to have your business or business idea assessed by an approved body.

They will provide you with an endorsement letter if your business is viable.

You must also:

- be at least 18 years old
- meet the English language requirement
- be able to prove that you have enough personal savings to support yourself while you're in the UK

Read the specific requirements for the Start-up visa before you apply. We can provide you with this information.

Supporting yourself

You need to have had at least £945 in your bank account for 90 consecutive days before you apply.

Knowledge of English

You may need to prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply.

You can prove your knowledge of English by either:

- passing an approved English language test with at least CEFR level B2 in reading, writing, speaking and listening
- having an academic qualification that was taught in English and is recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD

You do not need to prove your knowledge of English if you've already proved it to be level B2 or above in an earlier successful application.

Documents you must provide

When you apply you need to provide an 'endorsement letter' from an authorised body.

You'll also need to provide:

- a current passport or other valid travel identification
- bank statements showing you've had at least £945 in savings in your bank account for 90 consecutive days before you apply
- your tuberculosis test results if you're from a country where you have to take the test
- proof that you have knowledge of the English language

You'll need to have a blank page in your passport on which to put the visa.

You'll need to provide a certified translation of any documents that are not in English or Welsh.

You may need to provide additional documents depending on your circumstances.

NEXT STEPS >>>



Now that you know some of the typical issues and questions that need to be answered to immigrate 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](#) today.