

Residency-by-Investment Programme

The United Kingdom (UK) is one of the most connected countries in the world and a highly desirable destination for private clients. At its centre is the capital city of London, a business and cultural phenomenon that attracts people of virtually every nation in the world. The UK's financial and commercial reach is unparalleled and, when factoring in the attractive tax regime for residents and non-domiciled persons, has contributed to the country's reputation as a safe investment environment.

Although it has left the European Union after more than four decades of membership, there is no reason to believe that the UK's influence in the world will wane. Certainly, the nation's entrepreneurial spirit and high standards of education and governance are set to stay as the nation looks towards a broad-based set of international relationships.

The UK has long been an important link between Europe and the Americas, with multiple daily flights to New York, Los Angeles, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires. It is also well connected to Europe, Asia and the Middle East. With a time zone between the US and Asia, it is ideally suited for international business and travel.

Requirements/Investment Options

The UK Innovator Visa Programme requires an applicant to have a business idea that has been endorsed by an Endorsing body, which is an organisation that has been approved by the Home Office to assess ventures. The business idea must be innovative, viable and scalable.

The applicant must be 18 or over, and be from outside of the EEA and Switzerland, and must meet the English language requirement. A spouse/partner and children under the age of 18 may also be included in the application.

Once approved, the initial entry clearance visa is issued for three years. The applicant's children will be entitled to the same public education benefits as British children during this time. The endorsement letter issued by the Endorsing Body is required at all relevant application stages, namely (a) the initial application, (b) any visa extension application and/or (c) the indefinite leave to remain application (permanent residency).

To be approved for permanent residency the applicant must work entirely on developing their business and may not take employment outside of their business.

The applicant needs to demonstrate that they have spent all of their working time in the UK and importantly, the applicant needs to show that the business has satisfied at least two out of the following seven criteria:

1. At least £50,000 has been invested into the business and has been actively spent furthering the business plan outlined in the applicant's previous endorsement.
2. The number of the business' customers has at least doubled within the most recent three years and is currently higher than the mean number of customers for other UK businesses offering comparable products or services.
3. The business has engaged in significant research and development activity and has applied for intellectual property (IP) protection in the UK.
4. The business has generated a minimum annual revenue of £1 million in the last full year covered by its accounts.
5. The business has generated a minimum annual revenue of £500,000 in the last full year covered by its accounts, with at least £100,000 from exporting overseas.
6. The business has created the equivalent of at least 10 full-time jobs for resident workers, which have existed for at least 12 months.
7. The business has created the equivalent of at least five full-time jobs for resident workers, which have existed for at least 12 months and have an average salary of at least £25,000 a year (gross pay, excluding any expenses)

With respect to physical presence requirements, to qualify for permanent residence the applicant must have spent no more than 180 days, outside of the UK, in any of the preceding 12 calendar month periods.

Physical presence aside, the applicant must also demonstrate that they have sufficient knowledge of the language and life in the UK. This is measured through the completion of the 'Life in the UK' exam and an English language exam.

Once permanent residence has been granted, it is possible to apply for British Citizenship. The status of permanent residence must have been held for 12 months prior to applying. Citizenship is only granted if no more than 450 days were spent outside of the UK over the previous five years, and there were no more than 90 days of absence in the final year preceding citizenship application.





Dual Citizenship

There are no restrictions on dual citizenship in the UK.

Taxation

The UK levels a progressive personal income tax up to 45% dependent on the amount of income earned in the UK.

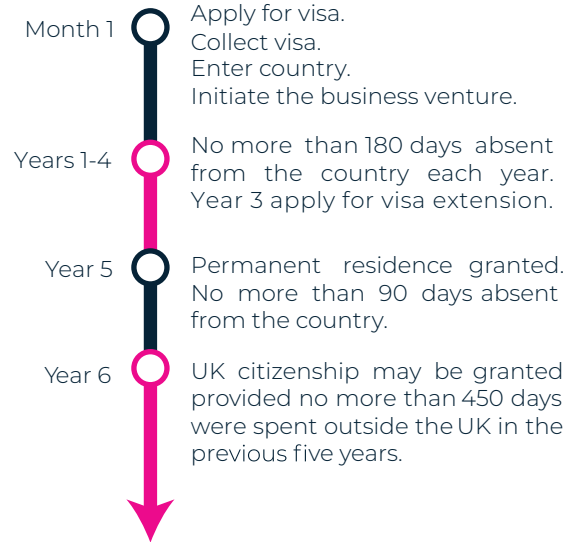
Capital gains taxes is set to a maximum of 28%.

Most applicants would qualify under very attractive resident/non-domicile tax provisions that can shelter your worldwide income.

Summary of Key Advantages

- Visa free travel throughout the UK Common Travel Area
- Application is processed in as little as two weeks
- London is one of the world's most prominent financial, commercial and cultural hubs
- Direct international flight connections to nearly all major cities across the globe
- Very high standard of education provided by world - renowned boarding schools and universities

Application Process



Contact