

UK immigration law

Tier 1: Investors

Notice: On 6 April 2011 new immigration legislation came into effect making further changes to this category. To read these changes please go to [Immigration news and updates](#).

This category is designed to attract high net worth individuals who genuinely wish to settle in the UK and make it their home. To qualify under this category, you must have a minimum of £1 million invested in the UK.

In order to qualify you must score a total of 75 points for "Attributes" in addition to meeting the general requirements described below.

Attributes: (75 points)

In order to score 75 points, you must produce documentary evidence to show that:

- You have a minimum of £1 million of your own money which is held in a financial institution for a minimum of 3 months. The money must be disposable in the UK **(75 points)**; or
- If you intend to use a loan to finance the £1 million investment in the UK you have a personal net worth of no less than £2 million. Only loans from financial institutions regulated by the Financial Services Authority are acceptable.

If the money has not been held in the portfolio or bank account for 3 months or more, you must provide evidence to establish the source of your funds. Provided you are able to provide documentary evidence to support the source of funds, the following sources are acceptable:

- gift;
- deeds of sale;
- evidence from a business;
- will;
- divorce settlement;
- award or winnings.

Other general requirements

You must also:

- Intend to invest not less than £750,000 of the capital in the UK by way of UK Government bonds, share capital or loan capital in active and trading UK registered companies (excluding those principally engaged in property investment and investment through deposits with the bank, building society or other enterprise whose normal business includes acceptance of deposits);
- Intend to make the UK your main home;
- Maintain and accommodate yourself and any dependants without taking employment (other than self-employment) and without recourse to public funds; and
- Hold a valid UK entry clearance for entering the UK in this capacity.

With the exception of funds specified above being jointly held by you and your spouse, no other person should have a controlling interest in the investment money.

Duration of an investor visa

Tier 1 investor visas are granted for a period of 3 years initially. Before the expiry of this period, you may apply for an extension of a further 2 years, provided that you continue to meet the requirements of the rules.

Extending an investor visa

The criteria for applying for an extension are slightly different from the criteria for an initial application. You are still required to score 75 points for Attributes, but on the extension application you must produce documentary evidence to show that:

- You have money of your own held in the United Kingdom amounting to no less than £1 million **(30 points)**, or
- You own personal assets which, taking into account any liabilities, have a value exceeding £2 million. This must be in addition to having money under your control and disposable in the UK amounting to no less than £1 million which has been loaned to you by a financial institution regulated by the Financial Services Authority **(30 points)**; and
- You have invested not less than £750,000 of your capital in the UK by way of UK Government bonds, share capital or loan capital in active and trading United Kingdom registered companies, other than those principally engaged in property **(30 points)**; and
- You have made the investment within 3 months of the date your application was granted and that the level of investment has been maintained for the whole of the remaining period of your permission to stay **(15 points)**.

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Settlement in the UK

If you have completed a total of 5 years under this category you will be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain (permanent residence) in the UK.

British nationality

You will be able apply for British nationality 12 months from the time you were granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK provided you meet the additional criteria for naturalisation in the UK as a British citizen.

Disclaimer

The information provided on this page is designed to provide general guidance. Nothing in this page constitutes legal advice.

For detailed advice please contact Laya by telephone on 020 7105 6178 or 020 7357 9494 or e-mail: Laya Falsafi lf@lzwlaw.co.uk