

UK immigration law

UK ancestry

If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth country and one of your grandparents were born in the UK (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man), you have UK ancestry.

Requirements

You can apply to come to the UK under this category if you can show that:

- You are a Commonwealth citizen;
- You are aged 17 or over;
- You have a grandparent who was born in the UK (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man), or a grandparent who was born before 31 March 1922 in what is now the Republic of Ireland;
- You are able to work and you plan to work in the UK; and
- You can adequately support and accommodate yourself and your dependants without help from public funds.

Applications from outside the UK
You must obtain permission to enter the UK on the basis of your UK ancestry before you travel here. The application should be made at the British Diplomatic Post in the country you live in and if the visa is granted you will be given permission to work and live in the UK for 5 years.

Applications from inside the UK
If you have already entered the UK under a different immigration category, you are not allowed to switch into the UK ancestry category. The UKBA will only give you permission to stay in the country on the basis of UK ancestry if:

- You entered the UK holding entry clearance based on your UK ancestry; or
- They have already given you permission to stay based on your UK ancestry.

Duration of an ancestry visa

UK Ancestry visas are granted for a period of 5 years.

Extending an ancestry visa

If you do not want to settle in the UK, you can apply to extend your stay.

Settlement in the UK

If you have completed a total of 5 years under this category and continue to meet the requirements of the rules 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