

UK immigration law

Unmarried partners

Individuals wishing to enter the UK on the basis of their relationship with a British national or a person present and settled in the UK do not have an automatic right of entry. Instead it is necessary to apply for a visa to enter the UK in the correct capacity.

In order to qualify for entry to the UK as an unmarried or same sex partner, you must show:

- You are the unmarried partner of a person present and settled in the United Kingdom or who is on the same occasion being admitted for settlement;
- Any previous marriage, civil partnership or similar relationship, has permanently broken down;
- You and your partner are not involved in a consanguineous relationship with one another;
- You have been living together in a relationship similar to marriage or civil partnership for two years or more;
- You have suitable accommodation which is owned or lived in only by you and your household, and where you and your dependants can live without any help from public funds;
- You can support yourselves and any dependants without any help from public funds;
- You intend to live together permanently;
- Your partner is not under 21;
- You are not under 21 at the date of arrival in the UK; and
- You hold a valid United Kingdom entry clearance for entry in this capacity.

Duration of unmarried partners visa

Unmarried partners visas are normally granted for a period of 2 years during which time you can take employment.

Settlement in the UK

If you continue to meet the requirements of the rules after 2 years, it will be possible 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