



**GLOBAL**  
Citizen Solutions

# United Kingdom

INVESTOR IMMIGRATION  
PROGRAMME



CITY OF LONDON  
SCHOOL



# Investor Immigration Programme

Great Britain (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) is home to nearly 70 million inhabitants. A leading international hub of culture, entertainment, education, business and finance, the UK enjoys political and economic dominance on a global level.

As a member of the UN Security Council, NATO and the Commonwealth, the UK prides itself on being politically secure and economically dynamic. It promotes democracy, human rights and good governance and, thanks to its foreign and pro-business policies, the UK is known for creating exciting platforms for local and international trade, giving rise to many exciting ventures and establishing itself as an attractive option for would-be entrepreneurs.

The UK is still a member of the EU but following a referendum in June 2016 in which the British people voted to leave the union, the UK is currently negotiating its exit and future relationship.

The country boasts some of the best educational institutions in the world, from pre-school to university. London is a leading global city and the world's most influential financial centre. London has the highest GDP of any city in Europe and houses the corporate headquarters of numerous multinational corporations, financial institutions, professional firms and major organisations.

# Main advantages of the Investor Immigration Programme

## **Residents of the United Kingdom can take advantage of a range of benefits, including:**

- Life in a major economic and financial centre, recognised as such both in Europe and in the rest of the world;
- Easy access to other major business hubs and financial centres;
- A stable and democratic political system, as well as a respected legal system;
- An established and secure system of property ownership;
- The opportunity to attend highly respected educational institutions;
- Attractive tax planning options for non-domiciled residents;
- Universal healthcare and world-renowned medical specialists.
- Direct international flight connections to most major cities in the world;

- Fast investor immigration application processing;
- No business or management experience required;
- Very objective entry criteria, and predictable outcomes.

## **The benefits of the United Kingdom's Investor Visa Programme include:**

- Inclusion of the applicant's family in the visa application;
- The ability to apply for permanent residence (i.e. Indefinite Leave to Remain) after 5 years, and citizenship after obtaining permanent residence;
- Citizens of the United Kingdom may travel visa-free to approximately 174 countries and territories.

# Routes

## INVESTORS VISA PROGRAMME

The UK TIER 1 Investor Visa programme has replaced the old “highly skilled workers” immigration route into UK, and is designed to attract non-European, wealthy investors and entrepreneurs. Under the Investor Visa Programme, non-EU nationals may remain in the United Kingdom if they are willing to invest at least £2 million in Britain’s economy. The application is a points-based system, and requires that applicants score sufficient points based on their investment funds.

Once the visa is granted, usually valid for three years (or three years and four months if the application is made outside of UK), an applicant can enter the UK. Within three months (90 days exactly) after their arrival in the UK they must invest their funds. Once the initial period of the visa has expired, the investor is required to provide evidence that their funds were invested during the period and they must also show that their investment amount has not fallen below the figure required.

Providing that these obligations are fulfilled, the visa is extended for an additional 2 years. Furthermore, the UK expects the investor to spend at least 50% of their time in the UK and it must be clear that the investor intends to set up their main home in the UK.

Subject to a five-year period, and providing that the investment had been maintained consistently, an investor

will be eligible for permanent residency, i.e. indefinite leave to remain. Twelve months after gaining permanent residency an investor can apply for naturalisation.

Importantly, Permanent Residence will only be issued under the circumstances noted above if the applicant passes the ‘Life in the UK’ test and the Government’s English language test (or equivalent), and if the applicant can demonstrate that he or she was not outside the United Kingdom for more than 180 days in a period of 12 months.

## Family Involvement

Applicants under the Tier 1 (Investor) Visa Programme may bring their spouse, or same-sex or unmarried civil partner and their children under the age of 18 to the United Kingdom with them. Dependants will need to complete a separate application. Spouses, partners, and children have the right to work in the United Kingdom as dependants under the Investor visa, and may be eligible for Permanent Residence at the same time as the main applicant. A dependant may apply at the same time or after the main visa-holder’s application.

## English Requirement

The investor does not need to demonstrate an ability to speak English in order to qualify for entry into the United Kingdom. However, if the investor and his or her family members wish to apply for Permanent Residence, they must pass an English language test or hold an English-taught, UK-equivalent degree. Furthermore, they must pass

the 'Life in the UK' test, which consists of multiple choice questions about living in the United Kingdom. They must be able to read and understand English to answer the questions on the test.

## **British Citizenship**

One year after obtaining their Permanent Residence (i.e. Indefinite Leave to Remain), an applicant may become eligible to apply for citizenship if he or she has:

- Lived in the United Kingdom for 5 years prior to the application;
- Spent no more than 450 days outside of the United Kingdom in the previous 5 years; and
- Spent no more than 180 days outside of the United Kingdom in the year immediately preceding the application for citizenship.

***Successful applicants for citizenship may thereafter receive a British passport – one of the best travel documents in the world, with visa-free access to over 170 countries.***

## **EARLIER SETTLEMENT**

Where an investor is able to increase their investment to GBP 5,000,000 and/or GBP 10,000,000 or more, they will be eligible for earlier settlement within either three years or two years based on the amount invested. This rule applies to main applicants only; dependents will only be eligible to apply for permanent residence after living for five years in the UK.

Global Citizen Solutions will provide and prepare these application forms and will assist clients with the right choice of supporting evidence.

# Requirements

## THE INVESTMENT

To guarantee the success in obtaining an Investor Visa, a foreign investor is required to fulfil the investment criteria in the following manner:

- Make an investment of a minimum of £2 million in UK government bonds; OR
- Share or loan capital in active and trading UK-registered companies.

The applicant must also:

- Maintain the level of investment for five years; AND
- Reside in the UK for a minimum of six months each year.

## • Investment Criteria

The funds to be used for the investment:

- Must not be invested through an offshore company or trust;
- Must not be held in offshore custody;
- Must not have a loan secured against them whereby another party would have a claim against the funds if loan repayments were not met;
- Must be held in a regulated financial institution;
- Must be disposable in the United Kingdom;
- Must be converted to Pounds Sterling and held in the United Kingdom at the time of the application, and not consist of non-cash assets;
- Must have been made within the previous 12 months, if already invested in the United Kingdom before the application was made;
- May be used in joint funds, or funds held solely by an applicant's partner.

## Restrictions on investment

With a Tier 1 visa you cannot:

- Invest in companies mainly engaged in property investment, property management or property development;
- Work as a professional athlete or sports coach.



# Procedure and schedule of costs

To qualify for a Tier 1 Investor Visa in the UK an investor must prove, in addition to the other requirements, access to GBP 2,000,000, which they are capable of transferring to the UK. For the purposes of the application it is also acceptable if this money has been invested in the last twelve months. On evidence of the investment being made, the visa application is often approved using a priority service.

The process of applying for a visa to the United Kingdom is rigorous and requires diligent preparation. Application timelines can vary and are difficult to predict, although they usually depend on the complexity of the application and how easily an applicant can access the required documentation.

The process may be simplified into the following steps:

## **Step 1**

Discussion of the programme with a Global Citizen Solutions advisor, who will assist you in selecting the best investment option available.

## **Step 2**

Become a client of Global Citizen Solutions, and begin collecting documents for your application.

## **Step 3**

Place at least £2 million in a recognised financial institution.

## **Step 4**

Submit the application from your country of origin.

## **Step 5**

Approval from the Government of the United Kingdom.

## **Step 6**

Travel to the United Kingdom and make the required investment within 3 months of obtaining your visa.

## **Step 7**

Apply for Permanent Residence 5 years after obtaining your visa.

# How we can help

At Global Citizen Solutions, we understand that applying for an alternative citizenship can be a complex and daunting process. We aim to make the application process as easy for our clients as possible.





## Life in the UK Taxation

The investor and qualifying family members, can live, work and study anywhere within the United Kingdom and travel to over 174 countries without needing a visa. The applicant will be able to enjoy life in one of the most stable countries in Europe, a country with a high standard of living, and the world's most influential financial centre. The UK is extremely multicultural, allowing new citizens to feel like they really belong.

The main personal taxes in the UK are income tax, capital gains tax and inheritance tax.

There is no wealth tax. Income tax is chargeable at progressive rates, with a current maximum rate of 45% upon taxable income above GBP 150,000 annually.

Capital gains tax is charged at a maximum rate of 28%, but with an effective 10% rate upon the disposal of certain business assets, mainly related to unincorporated businesses and unquoted companies which are carrying on a trade or profession.

Inheritance tax is charged upon death at a flat rate of 40% on the full value of the estate with an exemption of the first GBP 325,000 of the estate from this tax.

There are significant exemptions from inheritance tax, notably most disposals that take place between spouses and civil partners.

The UK has an extensive network of double tax agreements.

# Our Services

Clients who decide to invest with us will gain thorough support for their needs through a bespoke and comprehensive service delivery.

From visiting the country, choosing the property, opening a bank account, dealing with the legal aspects, immigration visits and throughout the residency application, Global Citizen Solutions works with you every step of the way.

GCS can introduce clients to independent wealth management groups that can provide clear guidance to the Tier 1 Visa investment process, ensuring that your investments match your risk profile, and that the appropriate investment deadlines and performance criteria are met.

GCS will:

- Identify an appropriate and compliant investment portfolio;
- Identify potential alternative investments;
- Monitor your portfolio and minimum thresholds;
- Manage foreign exchange risks;
- Mitigate potential inheritance tax risks;
- Monitor your application process with your chosen immigration lawyer.



# Why are investors investing in the United Kingdom?

- No business experience required.
- No English language skills required.
- No interviews required.
- Investors may seek employment or undertake a course of study in the UK.
- Spouse, and dependants under 18 years of age allowed.
- Permanent residency after 5 years.
- Earlier settlement through accelerated route.
- Citizenship for life after 6 years.
- Visa-free travel to 174 countries.