Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur)

Applying for a Tier 1 (GE) visa

Alan Gelfer
International Student Adviser
visaadvice@city.ac.uk
What you need to apply

• An endorsement letter from City University
• A valid national passport
• Formal financial evidence that you meet the Tier 1 (GE) maintenance requirements *(more later)*
• 2 recent passport photographs
Who can’t apply?

Applicants must **not** have previously been granted entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain as a:

- Tier 1 (Post study Work) migrant, or
- participant in the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme, or
- participant in the International Graduates Scheme, or the Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme.
The endorsement letter

- Will only be produced once you have been awarded your City qualification + valid for 3 months from date of issue
- If studying a Diploma at City will need to have been awarded this and can rely on previous UK Degree qualification
- Contains your ‘secure reference number’ for your application
- Issued by the Authorised Official of the University for this purpose (our Visa Compliance Manager)
- You will need to confirm by email your ‘consent’ to the Home Office providing City with information about your immigration history as part of the endorsement process
The endorsement letter

- Issued by the Authorised Official of the University for this purpose (our Visa Compliance Manager)
- You will need to:
  - confirm by email your ‘consent’ to the Home Office providing City with information about your immigration history as part of the endorsement process
- Sign agreement with the university
- Provide up-to-date contact details
- a short summary of business idea
The Maintenance Requirement

- Need to demonstrate you have held funds in a bank account for this application:
  - £945 if applying in the UK
  - £1890 if applying outside the UK
- Dependents need to show
  - -- £630 if applicant been in UK for more than 12 months
  - -- £1260 if you’re applying from outside the UK or have been in the UK for less than 12 months
- Money must be in your name (cannot show funds held in a parents bank account)
The Maintenance Requirement

- Documents must be original + show full amount held for a consecutive 90 day period
- Must show closing balance dated within 1 month of the date you apply
- Main reason for visa refusals – essential you get it right
- Immigration Officer will look at closing balance date and amount and work backwards from that date
- Must be explicit that the balance of your account hasn’t dropped below the required amount for consecutive 90 day period
Applying in the UK

- Can apply as soon as endorsement letter is issued
- By post to the UKVI = £474 [4 - 6 weeks]
- Additional £474 for each dependant application
- Can apply with help from the Visa Advice Service at the University who will check your application and can submit the documents to the Home Office on your behalf
Applying outside the UK

- Can apply as soon as endorsement letter is issued
- Costs £349
- Additional £349 for each dependant application
- TB testing In some countries, you must also show that you have been screened for tuberculosis
- UNLESS lived for 6 months in country where screening is not required by the UK
Applying outside the UK

- Issued a 30 day vignette/visa
- Enter the UK within 30 days
- Collect your BRP visa card from a UK Post Office
Biometric Residence Permits

- Your new Tier 1 GE visa will be issued on a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) visa card
  - Personal data (name, DOB and nationality)
  - Tier 1 Visa (number, type, dates)
  - Working conditions
  - Sponsor licence number

- You need to carry both your passport and BRP card if you travel outside the UK
Health Surcharge

- The health surcharge payment is not a visa fee. The payment will be collected by the Home Office and will go directly to the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK.

- Applicable to any application made on or after 6 April 2015

- Is a mandatory fee – you have to pay it

- Surcharge is paid as part of the visa application process. Will not get a visa if you don’t pay it!

- £200 for 12 months immigration permission
What’s next?

▪ Once you have submitted your visa application, you will be contacted by the Enterprise Team who will arrange an initial meeting with you about your business plan
▪ You are required to hold at least 3 meetings throughout the year of endorsement
▪ If you don’t attend meetings, or don’t want to carry on with your business idea, the University will withdraw it’s endorsement and your visa will be cancelled
▪ After one year, if your business is progressing as expected you can apply to extend your visa for another year
Further information and support...

For any specific queries or questions about your visa application, contact:

International Student Advice Team
Specialist Immigration Advisers

visaadvice@city.ac.uk
00 44 20 7040 7040
Student Centre, 2nd floor Northampton Sq

www.city.ac.uk/visaadvice