

Academic excellence for  
business and the professions



# Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur)

## Applying for a Tier 1 (GE) visa

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# 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
- Dependants 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
- (TB). <https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa>

# 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 its 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](mailto:visaadvice@city.ac.uk)

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