

## Tier 1 Start up / Innovator Visa



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## Why us?

Shakespeare Martineau is a leading law firm, ranked 52 in the top 100 that combines creativity, commerciality and clarity. We work with blue-chip companies, leading organisations, high street brands and individuals across the country.

Our approach goes beyond just legal solutions: clients trust us to advise on what's possible, what's prudent and what's coming around the corner.

Tackling any immigration system is a complex process, particularly with the ever-changing legislative reform to the UK immigration system and commitment to remain a world leading destination for investment and innovation. We understand this and have an experienced team of specialists with the right skills to help you plan your future in the UK with confidence.

## What is the Start-up and the Innovator Visa?

The Start-up and Innovator visa replaces the previous Tier 1 Entrepreneur visa from Spring 2019 as the new routes available to aspiring business persons or experienced entrepreneurs who want to set up or run an existing business in the UK. The main difference to the previous regime is that both routes require a pre-application endorsement process where business plans must be analysed before they can be recommended by a Home Office approved 'Endorsing Body'.

We can make recommendations to the appropriate Endorsing Bodies, best suited to fully support your business. These Endorsing bodies are best placed to assess and identify innovative business ideas and recognise talent. Their role is to issue endorsements based on Home Office criteria and stay in contact with the business at various checkpoints while meeting reporting obligations to the Home Office.

## Comparison of the two routes:

### Start-up

- Seeking to establish a business in the UK for the first time.
- Innovative, viable, scalable business idea, supported by an Endorsing Body (EB).
- No funding required.
- Two year visa that cannot be extended (but may progress to innovator).

### Innovator

- More experienced business people seeking to establish a business in the UK.
- Innovative, viable, scalable business idea, supported by an Endorsing Body.
- £50,000 funding required.
- Settlement possible after three to five years.



**Do you have what it takes?  
Contact us today**

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## Eligibility Requirements

- Aged 18 year and above.
- English language level to at least CEFR level B2 in reading, writing speaking and listening.
- Personal savings to support living costs in the UK.
- Spend the majority of (Start-up) or entire (Innovator) of working time in UK on developing the business venture.
- Start-up must not have previously established a business in UK which has commenced trading.
- Innovator only: no employment other than working for the business(es).
- Can meet the endorsement criteria below.

## Endorsement Criteria

### Start-up



Genuine, original business plan that meets new or existing market needs and/or creates a competitive advantage.



Has or is actively developing, necessary skills, knowledge, experience and market awareness to successfully run the business.



Evidence of structured planning and of potential for job creation and growth into national markets.

### Innovator: New Business

Genuine, original business plan that meets new or existing market needs and/or creates a competitive advantage.

Has necessary skills, knowledge, experience and market awareness to successfully run the business.

Evidence of structured planning and of potential for job creation and growth into national markets and international markets.

### Innovator: Same Business

Show significant achievements, judged against the business plan assessed in previous endorsement.

Registered business with Companies House and is listed as a director or member.

The business is active and trading.

The business appears to be sustainable for at least the following 12 months, based on assets and expected income, weighed against current and planned expenses.

Can demonstrate an active key role in the day-to-day management and development of the business.





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