

Guide for a Tier 1 Visa Investor



The UK remains a popular destination for relocation due to its strong financial sector, good quality private education and robust housing market. A Tier 1 Investor Visa provides a means for high net worth individuals and their families to take up UK residency.

At Bridge Investments we have experience of helping Tier1 investors navigate their way to a life in the UK.

How does it work in terms of residency and how easy is it?

In order to apply for a Tier 1 Visa, you will need to invest at least £2m in the UK economy in return for residency. Once your visa is granted, you are allowed to stay in the UK for an initial period of 3 years and 4 months with the opportunity to extend if you meet certain criteria. After 2 years, you can apply to settle in the UK if you invest £10m; if you invest £5m, you can apply to settle after 3 years.

Although the process appears straightforward, the rules on how this money can be invested are very strict and you will need to provide evidence showing that you have the required investment funds available. You will need to show where their funds are being held; where the money has come from (if you have had it for 3 months or less); and that the money can be transferred to the UK and converted to Sterling; all prior to the visa being granted.

Investments can only be made in UK Government bonds, share capital or loan capital in active and trading UK registered companies. Regular monitoring is required to ensure that investment values do not fall below the relevant threshold; if this happens, it will threaten residency eligibility.

What do I need to know?

A Tier 1 (Investor) is the visa category under the points-based system for high net worth individuals making a substantial financial investment to settle in the UK. In order to apply for the entry visa under the Tier 1 (Investor) category, there are a number of key questions you need to consider:

- ◆ Am I using my own funds to invest in the UK?
- ◆ What documentation will I need to support my application?
- ◆ Once I receive my entry visa, how long can I stay in the UK?
- ◆ Do I intend for my family to join me?

This guide helps you with those questions.

I am using my own funds to invest in the UK

If you are looking to invest your own funds, you must:

- ◆ have a minimum of £2,000,000 or more of your own funds
- ◆ be able to prove that the funds belong to you, your spouse, unmarried or same-sex partner
- ◆ provide information on where the money is being held. Note: If it has not been in a bank account for 3 months prior to your application, you must show where the money has come from
- ◆ provide evidence that the funds are freely available and can be converted to Sterling

Additionally, if you are using funds that belong to your spouse, unmarried or same-sex partner, you will need to provide:

- ◆ a marriage or civil partnership certificate
- ◆ in the case of unmarried or same sex couples, evidence that you are in a long-term (at least 2 years) relationship
- ◆ a declaration from your partner allowing you to control the funds in the UK
- ◆ a letter from a legal advisor stating that the declaration is valid

What documentation will I need for my application?

Detailed evidence will be required to support your application and these will vary depending on whether you are investing your own or loaned funds. Use this link for the UK Government's list of [documents you must provide](#).

If any of your documents are not written in English, you will need to provide translations and these must be certified. More details can be found using this link [certified translations](#).

How long can I stay?

Upon receipt of an entry visa, as a first-time applicant you will be given 3 years and 4 months leave to enter. If you are switching from another immigration category, you will be given 3 years leave to remain.

If you intend to stay in the UK for more than 3 years and 4 months, you will need to make an extension application for permission to stay in the UK. Eligibility depends on how you have used the funds available for investment.

What happens if I want to stay a bit longer?

You should apply to extend your visa before your visa expiry date. You can apply to extend your visa for another 2 years if

- ◆ You have at least £1,000,000 under your control in the UK (if you applied before 6/11/2014), £2,000,000 after 6/11/2014
- ◆ You have invested those funds in UK Government bonds, share capital or loan capital in active UK companies (£750,000 if before 6/11/2014)
- ◆ You invested this sum within 3 months of your 'investor start date'
- ◆ For more information, visit UK Government's site [extending your visa](#)

Will I be able to bring my partner with me?	<p>With a Tier 1 (Investor) Visa, you are able to bring your spouse or partner (unmarried/civil) and any children under 18 years of age with you as dependants. The dependants will be given full rights to work in the UK apart from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ working as a trainee doctor ◆ working as a dentist ◆ working as a professional sportsperson or sports coach.
How long will it take to get a decision?	<p>Once your application and all supporting documentation have been submitted, you should receive a decision on your visa within 3 weeks. However, if you are applying from outside the UK, this can vary depending on your country of residence. You can apply for your visa up to 3 months before your intended date of travel to the UK.</p>
Do I have to have a good command of English to apply?	<p>No, applicants are not required to demonstrate any proficiency in the English language, either on entry into the UK or to extend the time of permitted residence. However, as part of your application for citizenship or settlement you will need to take a Knowledge of Life and Language test.</p>
Are there any restrictions regarding areas of investment or working?	<p>Yes, with a Tier 1 visa you cannot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ invest in companies mainly engaged in property investment, property management or property development ◆ work as a professional sportsperson or sports coach
How Bridge Investments can help	<p>Bridge Investments Partners is able to offer clear advice and information on the Tier 1 Visa investment process. We will regularly monitor your portfolio, ensure that you put your money in investments that match your risk profile, and that the appropriate investment deadlines and performance criteria are met.</p> <p>As independent financial advisors that are not tied to any service providers, we have access to an unlimited range of products and services that will help you reach the financial targets that are intrinsically linked to your lifestyle goals. We don't chase fads, we recommend a diversified mix of investments that have the potential to perform well over the long term, while helping to reduce risk.</p>
Important considerations	<p>Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. You may not get back the full amount of your investment.</p> <p>Information contained here is based on guidance issued by the UK Government and therefore this, and the investment arrangement itself may be subject to change.</p> <p>Bridge Investments Ltd. are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. When clicking on any of the links provided in this document you are leaving the site of a FCA regulated firm. Bridge Investments Partners Ltd. is not responsible for the content of these sites.</p>