

UK Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) Visa Became History with Major Changes to UK Immigration Rules

The Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa route was officially closed by the UK Home Office on 29 March. The submission deadline for applications of this visa scheme was at the midnight on the same day.

Meanwhile, the Star-up visa with no funding requirement and the Innovator visa with an only £50,000 funding requirement made their debut today. Innovator visa holders are qualified for settlement applications after 3 years.

Both new categories will be needing endorsement of applicants by UK trusted bodies. These bodies will **assess applicant's business ideas for their innovation, viability and scalability.**

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) has recently published the list of endorsing bodies that hold the key to these two new visa categories.

Let's take a look with UVIC on the list of authorized endorsing bodies that are currently published.

Innovator endorsing bodies	
• The Bakery	• Seed Camp
• Invest Northern Ireland	• Zinc
• Deep Science Ventures	• Wayra
• Ignite	• Bethnal Green Ventures
• Codebase	• Capital Enterprise
• Cylon	• Tech X
• Seed Haus'	• Med City
• Scottish Edge	• Royal Society Edinburgh
• Tech Nation	• NatWest Entrepreneur Accelerator
• Royal Bank of Scotland Entrepreneur Accelerator	• Ulster Bank Entrepreneur Accelerator
• Set Squared Bristol	• Set Squared Exeter
• Set Squared Southampton	• Set Squared Surrey

Start Up

Business endorsing bodi HEI endorsing bodies

- [The Bakery](#)
- [Seed Camp](#)
- [Invest Northern Ireland](#)
- [Zinc](#)
- [Deep Science Ventures](#)
- [Wayra](#)
- [Ignite](#)
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- [Cylon](#)
- [Tech X](#)
- [Seed Haus'](#)
- [Med City](#)
- [Scottish Edge](#)
- [Royal Society Edinburgh](#)
- [Tech Nation](#)
- [NatWest Entrepreneur Accelerator](#)
- [Royal Bank of Scotland Entrepreneur Accelerator](#)
- [Ulster Bank Entrepreneur Accelerator](#)
- [Set Squared Bristol](#)
- [Set Squared Exeter](#)
- [Set Squared Southampton](#)
- [Set Squared Surrey](#)
- Imperial College London
- Keele University
- King's College London
- Kingston University
- Lancaster University
- Leeds Arts University
- Leeds Beckett University
- Liverpool John Moores University
- London Business School
- London Metropolitan University
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- London South Bank University
- Loughborough University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Middlesex University
- Newcastle University
- Northern School of Contemporary Dance
- Norwich University of the Arts
- Nottingham Trent University
- Oxford Brookes University
- Plymouth College of Art
- Queen Mary University of London
- Queen's University Belfast
- Ravensbourne University London
- Regent's University London
- Roehampton University
- Royal Academy of Music
- Royal Agricultural University
- Royal College of Art
- Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
- Sheffield Hallam University
- SOAS, University of London
- Solent University
- Swansea University
- Teesside University
- The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts
- University of Reading
- University of South Wales
- University of Southampton
- University of St Andrews
- University of Stirling
- University of Strathclyde
- University of Sunderland
- University of Surrey
- University of Sussex
- University of the Arts London
- University of the West of England
- Anglia Ruskin University
- Arts University Bournemouth
- Aston University
- Bangor University
- Bath Spa University
- Birmingham City University
- Bournemouth University
- BPP University Limited
- Brunel University London
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Cardiff University
- City, University of London
- Contemporary Dance Trust
- Coventry University
- Cranfield University
- De Montfort University
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Falmouth University
- Florida State University International Programs Association UK
- Gime American University Canterbury
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Goldsmiths University of London
- Guildhall School of Music & Drama
- Heriot-Watt University
- The Robert Gordon University
- The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
- The University of Buckingham
- The University of Cambridge
- The University of Northampton
- The University of Salford
- The University Of Sheffield
- The University of West London
- University College London
- University for the Creative Arts
- University of Aberdeen
- University of Bath
- University of Birmingham
- University of Bradford
- University of Brighton
- University of Bristol
- University of Central Lancashire
- University of Chester
- University of Dundee
- University of Durham
- University of East Anglia
- University of East London
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Essex
- University of Exeter
- University of Glasgow
- University of Greenwich
- University of Hertfordshire Higher Education Corporation
- University of Huddersfield
- University of Hull
- University of Kent
- University of Leeds
- University of Leicester
- University of Lincoln
- University of Liverpool
- University of Manchester
- University of Northumbria at Newcastle
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- University of Plymouth
- University of Portsmouth
- University of the West of Scotland
- University of Ulster
- University of Wales Trinity Saint David - Carmarthen Campus
- University of Warwick
- University of Westminster
- University of Wolverhampton
- University of York
- York St John University

For the Innovator category, the endorsing bodies must be UK Home Office approved endorsing bodies. For the Start-up category, Higher Education Institutions can also become endorsing bodies. 120 Higher Education Institutions are included in the list, almost covering all UK universities.

However, this list is subject to change over time, which means there might be new endorsing bodies being approved or current ones being removed. A new endorsing body will normally be allocated 25 places. **If the endorsing body requires more than 25 places, it may request more from the Home Office, thus, there is no overall maximum number of places.**

To safeguarding the endorsement letters being issued, each letter will be included with **a unique secure reference number**. The same secure reference number **cannot be re-used and has a validity period**. The endorsement remains valid for 3 months and the individual must use it to make an application for a Start-up or Innovator visa during this time. But if their application is unsuccessful for any reason, they can re-apply using the same endorsement and do not need a re-endorsement, providing the 3 months has not yet expired.

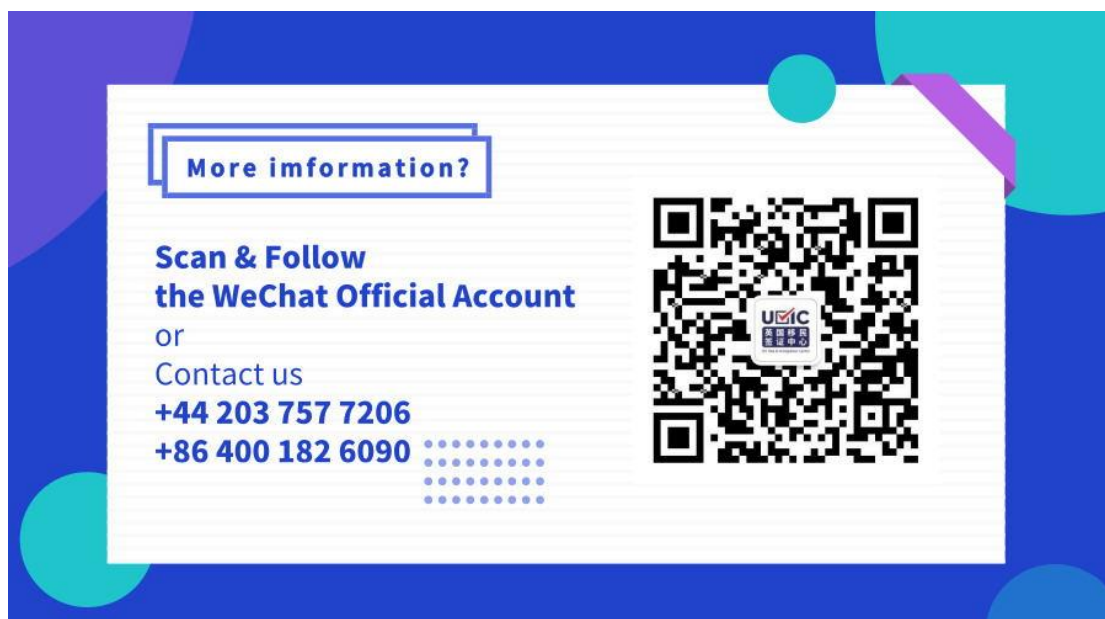
Start-up visa is a one-off visa with a 2-year's leave. At the end of 2 years, applicants can switch into the Innovator category. Innovators are granted leave for 3 years at a time and can apply to settle permanently in the UK after 3 years. The 2 years of holding a Start-up visa will not be counted in the time required to the application for settlement.

Similar to the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) category, Innovator applicants are **qualified for settlement after 3 years** if meeting at least 2 of the following criteria:

1. At least £50,000 has been invested into the business and actively spent furthering the business plan assessed in the applicant's previous endorsement.
2. The number of the business's customers has at least doubled within the most recent 3 years and is currently higher than the mean number of customers for other UK businesses offering comparable main products or services.

3. The business has engaged in significant research and development activity and has applied for intellectual property protection in the UK.
4. The business has generated a minimum annual gross revenue of £1 million in the last full year covered by its accounts.
5. The business is generating a minimum annual gross revenue of £500,000 in the last full year covered by its accounts, with at least £100,000 from exporting overseas.
6. The business has created the equivalent of at least 10 full-time jobs for resident workers.
7. The business has created the equivalent of at least 5 full-time jobs for resident workers, which have an average salary of at least £25,000 a year (gross pay, excluding any expenses).

Even though the list of currently authorized endorsing bodies is published in this guidance, each body reserves the right to make their own decision, has their own measures of what makes a good business idea, and the freedom to apply these criteria as they think best. There is no unified rules of application time and requirements. **With 16 years of experience in UK immigration law consultation and services, UVIC keeps bringing you the latest updates on UK immigration.** For the more news and information, please follow our WeChat official account: **UK Visa and Immigration Q&A (ID: UVICVISA).**



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