

## The UK Innovator Founder visa

We are pleased to set out here information on the fees, process and timescale for an Innovator Founder visa.

Please note that the information provided below should not be taken as legal advice. Please contact Samar Shams, Managing Partner on the details at the end of this document if you have questions. The information is up to date as of August 2024.

The Innovator Founder visa route is available to entrepreneurs wishing to establish and run a business in the UK.

### Fees

Our fees for assistance with an Innovator Founder visa are £4000 plus VAT and disbursements. Disbursements will include the following government fees:

- A £1191 visa application fee if applying from overseas
- An Immigration Health Surcharge of £3105
- An optional priority processing fee £500 as available
- An estimated 9% transaction and exchange fees applies to the above government fees

Please also see below regarding fees charged by the endorsing body, which you would pay directly to the endorsing body.

### Process

The Innovator Founder visa application consists of two stages:

- First you secure endorsement for your business plan from one of 3 Home Office-approved endorsing body: Geminus Innovation, Investors or UK Endorsement Services. Changes Immigration will provide guidance on what to include in a business plan for the purposes securing endorsement as an Innovator Founder. We will review your business plan before submission to an endorsing body. Any engagement of an endorsing body's services would be separate from Changes Immigration's services. Endorsing bodies charge a non-refundable fee of £1000 excluding VAT for an endorsement application. If your endorsement application is successful, the endorsing body will charge a further £1000 excluding VAT for monitoring your business's progress as required.
- Then you use that endorsement to support your application for entry clearance (a visa). The visa application stage involves completion of an online form and electronic submission of supporting documents, as well as attending an appointment to submit biometric data (a digital photograph and fingerscans). Changes Immigration would provide guidance on the documentation required to support your application. We would start off an application form for you. We would review the application form and supporting documents before submission. We would submit the application form and documents on your behalf. We would book a biometrics appointment for you as necessary. You might also be asked for an interview. Additional legal fees will apply for support with the interview process, should you be asked for an interview.



Innovator Founder visas are granted for 3 years and can be extended indefinitely. Criteria apply including having made progress against the business plan.

Innovator Founder migrants might be eligible for settlement after 3 years. Fulfillment of at least two business progress criteria is required; these include investment of at least £50,000, doubling the number of customers in three years, IP protection applications, gross revenue and export thresholds and job creation thresholds.

### Funding

There is no strict level of investment funds required. The business plan submitted to the endorsing body should reflect that sufficient investment funds are available for the anticipated costs and specify the source(s) of those investment funds.

### Endorsement

The endorsing body must confirm that your proposed business is innovative, viable and scalable. The endorsing body will monitor the business and withdraw endorsement if the business venture does not progress. An Innovator Founder visa can be terminated if an endorsing body withdraws its endorsement.

### Home Office assessment

The Home Office will assess whether you intend to and are capable of undertaking the proposed business activity. The Home Office also assesses whether an applicant intends to work in breach of conditions.

The Home Office takes into account the applicant's education, work and immigration history, and data shared by other government departments.

Applicants must demonstrate English language ability and the ability to maintain and accommodate themselves and their family members.

### Timescale

We estimate an overall timescale of 4-5 months for an Innovator Founder visa application.

### Contact

If you have any questions, or would like to proceed with an application on the basis of the above terms, please contact:



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