



Sponsorpreneur™ - an immigration option for setting up in business in the UK

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 the date of writing, 3 July 2024.

How to expand to the UK amidst changing immigration requirements

With the Immigration Rules changing again, and the closure of both the Investor and the Representative of Overseas Business visa routes, it can be difficult to identify a UK visa route that can be used to expand a business to the UK.

Sponsorpreneur is a reliable solution. Changes Immigration can support your business every step of the way, advising on immigration requirements and introducing you to contacts to assist with corporate and employment advice.

The Sponsorpreneur™ process

There are three main stages to the process:

1. Establish a UK company;
2. The UK company applies for a sponsor licence; and
3. Once the sponsor licence is granted, the UK company can sponsor the UK company owner as a Skilled Worker.

This process is the most stable visa route amongst the options. It is a reliable path to settlement in the UK, relative to other UK business and work visa options. An applicant may be eligible for settlement after 5 years in the UK under the Skilled Worker visa route.

Please note that to be eligible to apply for a sponsor licence, the UK entity would need a director, employee or officer who is based in the UK to be responsible for sponsorship activities in the UK. We would be pleased to introduce you to a contact in our network whom you might engage as a director.

A corporate bank account with an FCA-approved bank would also be required.

Setting up the UK company

We would be pleased to introduce you to contacts in our network who can assist with setting up the UK company.

Sponsor licence

Immigration and Global Mobility Partner Samar Shams is pleased to assist with the application form and document submission stages of the sponsor licence application process. We also advise on the HR systems required to support sponsor duties. Our fees to assist with a sponsor licence application are £3250 plus VAT.

We are happy to review your HR systems for compliance with sponsor duties for an additional £3000 plus VAT.



Small companies will pay a sponsor licence application fee of £536 directly to the Home Office. An optional priority service for processing of the sponsor licence application in 10 working days is available for £500.

Employment and HR systems documents

If your UK company would like support with HR and employment advice and documents, we would be pleased to introduce you to contacts in our network who can assist.

Sponsoring a Skilled Worker

Once the above steps have been taken, the UK entity will be ready to sponsor non-UK nationals to work in the UK. Our immigration team are experts in sponsorship matters. We will assist with all stages, including:

- Assigning the Certificate of Sponsorship;
- Completing the application form for immigration permission;
- Submitting supporting documents; and
- Verifying the applicant's identity whether through an app or a biometrics appointment.

Our fees to assist with Skilled Worker entry clearance applications are £2250 plus VAT. For applications made from within the UK, our fee is £2000 plus VAT.

Disbursements relating to sponsoring a worker include:

- £239 certificate of sponsorship fee;
- £364 Immigration Skills Charge per year of immigration permission duration;
- Entry clearance application fee of £719 for a 3-year permission or £1420 for a 5-year permission **OR** permission to remain application fee of £827 for a 3-year permission or £1636 for a 5-year permission;
- Immigration Health Surcharge of £1035 per year of permission;
- Priority processing within 5 working days may be available for £500;
- Transaction and exchange rate fees of about 9% apply to the government fees relating to the entry clearance application process.

Timeline

The estimated timescale for the Sponsorpreneur process is between 3 and 5 months, depending on the priority services used.

Get in touch

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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