

## GUIDE

# Investor visa overview

Latest Home Office statistics show that the UK's Investor visa gradually increased throughout 2021. In Q1, 45 entry clearance applications were issued, followed by 66 in Q2 and a rather impressive 100 in Q3. Chinese nationals continue to take up the majority of those applications, followed by Russia, the US and Hong Kong (South Africa, Turkey and India were also included albeit small numbers).

The Covid-19 pandemic has certainly nudged HNW and UHNW individuals to consider alternative visa options which ultimately lead to a second citizenship and the UK continues to be a desirable location for many.

The purpose of this document is to give a high-level overview of the key requirements and considerations for those enquiring about the UK's Investor visa.

### Key requirements for the Investor visa:

Individuals must be aged 18 and over and ultimately make an investment in the UK of at least £2 million.

The Investor visa is a route which leads to settlement (known as Indefinite Leave to Remain – "ILR") and how quickly one obtains ILR will depend on how much they invest in the UK – see below.

- £10 million – settlement in the UK after 2 years
- £5 million – settlement in the UK after 3 years
- £2 million – settlement in the UK after 5 years (initial visa granted for 3 years followed by a 2 year visa at extension stage).

As part of the wider anti-money-laundering reforms, the UK government has introduced strict requirements for investors. Those who have not held the investment funds for 2 years consecutively prior to the date of

application must provide comprehensive and detailed documentation to demonstrate the source of investment funds held in a regulated financial institution.

### The investment funds must:

- be held in the name of the investor, their partner or jointly held; and
- be freely transferable to an approved UK bank account; and
- convertible to pound sterling.

### Restrictions on the investment funds:

The funds must be invested within 3 months of entering the UK. Failure to do so may jeopardise the extension or settlement application.

There are various restrictions for permitted investments in which our team will be able to provide guidance on. One notable restriction is that investment funds must not be used towards any UK properties or companies mainly engaging with property management/development/investment.

We work closely with a number high quality FCA regulated institutions who can assist with the maintenance of the investment funds in the UK. We understand SJP has an internal department that deals with the specific investment of the qualifying amount and we would therefore welcome further collaboration when assisting Investor clients.





### Key benefits of the Tier 1 Investor route:

- No requirement to demonstrate evidence of English language
- No requirement to demonstrate maintenance
- There are however residency requirements for Indefinite Leave to Remain and Citizenship which must be adhered to in order to settle in the UK
- Family members such as spouse/civil partners and children are eligible to apply as dependants of the investor visa.

Our team of experienced immigration advisers can guide your clients through the complex legal requirements with regard to the source of funds and other mandatory requirements for the Investor route. We will also provide advice on how to maintain your visa requirements in anticipation for an extension or Indefinite Leave to Remain/Citizenship application.

## Our Team

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