

IMMIGRATION

OUR APPROACH TO PRICING

What immigration services do we offer to individuals?

With an ever-evolving immigration system and a multitude of visas to choose from, moving to the UK and remaining here long-term can be a daunting and stressful process. Our specialist immigration team are acutely aware of the challenges that such a move presents, we therefore take time to get to know you, your needs and ambitions. We use this information to determine the best UK visa route for you (and your family), whether that be to set up a business, as a skilled worker or as an expert in your chosen field of work. We provide a tailored end-to-end immigration service, advising and assisting you with visa applications, visa extensions, switching from one visa to another within the UK, indefinite leave to remain and British citizenship.

As a full-service law firm, we also work closely with our private wealth, family and real estate teams to provide you with comprehensive advice and assistance on the other important aspects of moving to a different country, such as buying property, structuring your finances and investments, tax planning and setting up a business. We are always on hand to provide you with the very best advice and support, ensuring that we do the hard work so that you can relax and focus on the more important things in life, such as your family and business.

Who would do the work and how is it supervised?

Our immigration team is led by Partner, Philip Barth. Philip has over 30 years of experience dealing with complex immigration and citizenship applications. He is ranked as a leading individual in immigration in the main legal directories: Chambers & Partners, the Legal 500 and [Spears 500](#). Working with Philip, we have a dedicated team of skilled and experienced immigration lawyers who will ensure that you receive clear, detailed, and expedient advice and support.

Each matter will be supervised by a Partner in the Firm. The Partner is responsible for the proper supervision of the lawyers and other staff involved in the matter. Our Partners are hands-on and involved in day-to-day work and supervision, as well as being key account managers. The other members of the immigration team will assist the Partner, where appropriate.

Further details of the lawyers within the immigration team and their experience can be found [HERE](#).

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How much will it cost?

No immigration matter is exactly the same, so we always provide a personal service, tailored to reflect your particular requirements and circumstances. Once we have an understanding of what is involved, we will provide you with a tailored fee quote.

Our costs are generally incurred by reference to the time spent by the solicitor or legal advisor dealing with your application. As at March 2023, Michelmores' standard hourly rates range from £180 to £580 + VAT (if applicable) with different types and complexities of work being dealt with at different rates and levels of seniority.

What are our typical fees?

We will always give you an individual cost estimate at the start of the transaction, taking into account the specific features of your instruction or 'matter'. However, example fees for advising you and representing you on some of the most common UK immigration applications are as follows:

APPLICATION	COST (EXCLUDING VAT)
Tier 1 Investor Extension	£10,000 - £25,000
Start Up	£3,000 - £4,500
Innovator	£6,000 - £15,000
Global Talent	£3,750 - £10,500
Graduate	£3,750 - £5,000
Skilled Worker	£3,750 - £7,000
Global Business Mobility	£3,750 - £7,500
Temporary workers – all categories	£2,500 - £5,500
EU applications including permanent residency	£1,500 - £6,500
Partner of person present and settled in the UK (including Spouse visa)	£4,500 - £12,000
Dependant relative	£5,500 - £11,000
Visitor (including business)	£2,000 - £8,000

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APPLICATION	COST (EXCLUDING VAT)
Domestic Worker	£3,000 - £8,000
UK Ancestry	£2,500 - £5,000
Settlement in the UK (non-Points Based System)	£3,500 - £10,000
Indefinite Leave to Remain (Points Based System)	£2,500 - £15,000
Applications for British citizenship	£2,500 - £10,000
UK passport application	£2,500 - £7,500
Dependants applying at same time as main applicant (and included in same application form)	£1,500 - £2,250 (per dependant)

The fees quoted above are based on the following assumptions:

- It is an application for an initial grant (other than Tier 1 Investor Extension). We will provide separate fee estimates for extension applications;
- You are applying as an individual with no dependants;
- The supporting evidence requested is provided in a timely manner;
- You meet the requirements of the visa category;
- You do not have an adverse immigration history or any civil or criminal convictions, or pending convictions;
- There is no time urgency or discretionary elements to your application;
- The application is not fast-tracked as a priority or super priority service; and
- There are no appeals to follow.

What is the basis of our charges?

We shall provide you with specific details of the costs that will be incurred, the individuals that will work on your matter and the scope of the work that we will undertake, if you decide to instruct us. However, the typical scope of our work will include:

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- Obtaining information in relation to your particular circumstances and advising on the UK immigration options available to you;
- Providing you with detailed advice about the requirements of the relevant category and whether you meet the criteria;
- If you do not fulfil certain requirements, whether this can be overcome by providing alternative supporting evidence;
- Providing detailed advice on the procedure for submitting the relevant application;
- Providing advice on the timelines and likely outcome;
- Preparing your application and submitting it on your behalf;
- Liaising with Home Office officials on your behalf where necessary; and
- Providing post decision advice in the form of a completion letter. Please note that this does not include assisting with challenging a refusal decision if the application is not approved.

What will affect the cost of our work?

Every application will be different and the exact amount of work involved in each will vary depending on the complexity of the case. For complex cases we may charge at the higher end of the example fees listed above or even exceed these fees. We would always advise you in advance if the circumstances of your matter require us to exceed the fee quoted above. Factors, which can make an application more complex include:

- The time taken to assist with the matter;
- The urgency of the matter;
- The level of correspondence involved;
- If the applicant does not meet the eligibility or suitability criteria for the visa;
- If the applicant's (or any dependant's) circumstances change during the application process;
- If the applicant (or any dependant) has an adverse immigration history or criminal record;
- The addition of dependants to any application;

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- The amount and quality of supporting documentation;
- If that supporting evidence is not provided in a timely manner or all at the same time;
- The likely level of engagement with the Home Office; and
- The need to engage and liaise with third parties.

For additional work outside of any agreed fees, we would provide a quote based on our standard hourly rates. The costs quoted here are based on our standard hourly rates for those individuals who work on these types of matters.

In addition to our fees for our time spent dealing with the matter, there may be additional costs that you have to pay, these are called disbursements. Disbursements are sums of money, which we would pay out to third parties on your behalf in connection with your instruction.

VAT, if applicable, will also be charged on our fees and usually on disbursements (other than official fees).

Examples of disbursements include:

- Translation costs;
- Independent expert reports; and
- ECCTIS reports.

If we are required to travel to meetings outside of our offices, we may charge you for the time it takes us to travel to these meetings, and the cost of any other expenses we incur as part of this, for example mileage charges (at £0.45 per mile, £0.54 per mile including VAT), or train or aeroplane tickets.

You will be responsible for these items, and we will notify you should these costs be incurred.

We charge an administration fee for undertaking identity checks on our clients. This fee is £12 (plus VAT) for each individual client, £30 (plus VAT) for each UK corporate client and £100 (plus VAT) for each overseas corporate client.

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What other costs may be incurred?

Our fees do not include any official fees and charges that are payable as part of the visa application process (eg Home Office fees and healthcare surcharges):

You can view the complete range of official fees [HERE](#).

To view our Interest Policy, please click [HERE](#).

Is VAT applicable?

VAT, if applicable, is charged at the prevailing rate (which is currently 20%) on all our fees, and on many of the disbursements (other than official fees), which we may incur on your behalf.

How long will it take to prepare?

In our experience, applications take approximately 4-10 weeks to prepare. However, where all of the necessary documents are provided and you meet the visa requirements, applications can be prepared in a matter of days.

The Home Office processing times for applications varies depending on the type of application, the complexity of the application and where the application is submitted. The average processing times for applications made outside of the UK can be found on the Home Office website [HERE](#). Details of the processing times for applications made in the UK can be found on the Home Office website [HERE](#).

What happens if you are not happy about our work or about your bill?

We are committed to providing a high-quality legal service to all our clients. When something goes wrong, we need you to tell us about it. This will help us to improve our standards. However, if you have any complaint or concerns about our work or about the bill, see our complaints procedure [HERE](#).

Visa applications in light of the coronavirus pandemic

Following the coronavirus pandemic, the UK immigration service is operating on the same basis as it was pre-pandemic and there are currently no red list countries.

However, there are currently delays to visa processing times and temporary suspensions in place in relation to fast tracking options for entry clearance applications, in response to the current situation in Ukraine. It is further important to note that, whilst there is no restriction on Russian nationals/or individuals who are resident in Russia from entering the UK, depending on the visa type required, there are delays to a number of associated services, including Visa Application Centre appointments.