



# UK Visas & Immigration

You should read this information guide to help you decide which documents may be useful in supporting the statements that you have made on your visa application form.

Please note that ALL the specified documents must be original and in English or Welsh otherwise you must include a certified English translation that can be independently verified by the UK Border Agency.

You should also read our **Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) policy guidance**

## Information about you

<p>Completed visa application form: In some locations you must only apply online. Please check our <a href="#">list of supported countries</a> to see whether you should make an online application</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your country does not support online applications you must complete and submit application form VAF9 and appendix 4</li> <li>• If you make an online application you must also print it off and submit with your supporting documents</li> </ul>
<p>A current and valid travel document or passport</p>	<p>You will not be issued a visa if you do not have one of these</p>
<p>One passport-sized colour photograph</p>	<p>This must comply with the requirements in our photo guidance</p>
<p>Evidence of your permission to be in the country where you are applying, if you are not a national of that country</p>	<p>This must show your current immigration status. It could be a residence permit, 'green card' or valid visa.</p>
<p>Previous passports</p>	<p>These are to show your previous travel history</p>
<p>Translations – the original translation must contain confirmation of the following from the translator:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That it is an accurate translation of the original document</li> <li>• The date of the translation</li> <li>• The translator's full name and signature</li> <li>• The translator's contact details</li> </ul>
<p>Tuberculosis screening</p>	<p>If you are a person from a country listed in <a href="#">Appendix T</a> Part 1 of the Immigration Rules making an application for entry clearance to come to the UK for more than six months, you must present, at the time of application, a valid medical certificate issued by a medical practitioner listed in Appendix T Part 2 confirming that you have undergone screening for active pulmonary tuberculosis and that this tuberculosis is not present.</p>

An original endorsement letter from a UK Higher Educational Institution (HEI) or UK Trade & Investment (UKTI)

- The endorsement for the relevant endorsing body must show all of the following:
- (i) the endorsement reference number,
  - (ii) the date of issue (including a statement on how long the letter is valid for),
  - (iii) your name,
  - (iv) your date of birth
  - (v) your nationality
  - (vi) your current passport number,
  - (vii) details of any of your dependants who are already in the UK or who you intend to the UK,
  - (viii) the name of your endorsing body,
  - (ix) the name and contact details of the authorising official of your endorsing body,
  - (x) the name, level and date of award of your qualification, unless this is an extension application,
  - (xi) your intended business sector or business intention,
  - (xii) what has led the endorsing body to endorse your application, and
  - (xiii) Additional information required for extension applications: confirmation that endorsing body is satisfied that you have made satisfactory progress.

If you have previously been given permission to stay in the UK under a different category, and as part of that qualification scored points for the same qualification for which you wish to claim points for in your current application, you do not need to send evidence of your qualification again.

If you have an endorsement the UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) which awarded your degree, and it confirms that you have a UK recognised Bachelor degree, Masters degree or PhD before the date of endorsement, no further evidence is required.

If you have a endorsement from UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), or a different HEI to the one that awarded your degree, points will only be awarded if you provide the following specified documents as appropriate:

- i) If you have an original certificate of award of the qualification you must provide this. This document must be the original (not a copy) and must clearly show:
  - your name;
  - the title of the award;
  - the date of the award; and
  - the name of the awarding institution,

If you are waiting for graduation, have successfully completed your degree or if you no longer have the certificate and the institution that issued the certificate is unable to produce a replacement; you may provide an original academic transcript

The original academic reference must be on official headed paper and clearly show:

- Your name
- The title of the award
- The date of the award confirming that it has been or will be awarded, and
- Either the date that the certificate will be issued (if you have not yet graduated) or confirmation that the institution is unable to re-issue the original certificate or award

The academic transcript must be on the official headed paper of the institution and clearly show:

- Your name
- The name of the academic institution;
- The course title;
- Confirmation of the award

Or

- iii) If you cannot provide your original certificate for one of the reasons given above, and your qualification had a significant research bias, such as a doctorate, you can provide an academic reference alone with all the information above in it.

If you cannot find details of your qualification on the online calculator on the UK Border Agency website, you must provide an original letter or certificate from UK NARIC confirming the equivalency of your qualification.

Extensions only: If you wish to switch endorsing body, you must provide a fresh endorsement letter from your new endorsing body. They must be content you have made satisfactory progress in developing your business during your initial leave.

English language ability

<p>Evidence of acceptable English language ability</p>	<p>If you have an endorsement from the same HEI which awarded your degree, you will meet the requirement without the need to supply further evidence.</p> <p>If you are a national of a majority English speaking country (as specified in Appendix B of the Immigration Rules), you can meet the requirement by sending your current original passport or travel document.</p> <p>You can also meet the requirement by providing documentary evidence that you have passed an English language test with an approved provider at or above level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). The test and provider must be on our list of approved English language test providers. This evidence should contain your test results - for example, an original academic certificate of award for IELTS.</p> <p>If you have a degree completed in English or undertaken in a country where English is the main language as listed in Appendix B of the Immigration Rules, you can meet the requirement by providing your original academic certificate of award. If your degree was not taught in a majority English speaking country and is not listed on our points calculator, you must provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an original letter and/or certificate from UK NARIC confirming the equivalent level of your degree course; and</li><li>• a letter from the academic institution that awarded the qualification.</li></ul> <p>You can meet the requirement without the need to provide evidence if you have ever been given permission to stay in the UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• as a Tier 1 (General) migrant, Tier 1 (Post Study) migrant, Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) migrant, Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) migrant; or</li><li>• as a Businessperson (under Paragraphs 200-210 of the Immigration Rules); or</li><li>• as a Highly Skilled Migrant Programme participant under the Immigration Rules which came into force on 5 December 2006; or</li><li>• as a Tier 2 (General) Migrant under the Rules in place on or after 6 April 2011, provided that when you were granted leave you obtained points for having knowledge of English equivalent to B1 of the Council of Europe's Common Framework for Language Learning or above; or</li><li>• as a Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) Migrant providing you scored points for your English language ability in that application; or</li><li>• leave as a Minister of Religion (not as a Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) Migrant) under the Rules in place on or after 19 April 2007; or</li><li>• as a Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) Migrant, provided that when you had that leave you obtained points for English language for being a national of a majority speaking English country, a degree taught in English, or passing an English language test.</li></ul>
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Further guidance on English language requirements can be found at:

**Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) policy guidance**

Maintenance in the UK

<p>Personal Bank Statements and /or a Savings Account pass book(s) and / or a letter from bank confirming level of funds on the bank's original letter headed paper.</p>	<p>You must be able to support yourself throughout your stay in the UK. You will not have access to most state benefits (also known as 'public funds') during your stay. Therefore you must show that you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £1,890 in personal savings if you are applying from outside the UK.</li></ul> <p>These savings must have been in your bank account for 90 consecutive days before your date of application.</p> <p>If any of your savings are in overseas currency, we will calculate their value in pounds sterling using the exchange rate published on the OANDA website on your date of application.</p> <p>Your personal savings must be in the form of cash funds held in an account (including savings accounts and current accounts, even if you need to give notice to withdraw money from those accounts). Other accounts, shares, bonds, pension funds or agreed overdraft facilities are not acceptable.</p> <p>Your personal savings must not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• earnings made from UK employment while you were in breach of the UK's immigration laws (because, for example, you were in an immigration category that did not allow you to work).</li></ul>
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Maintenance in the UK (continued)

<p>Letter from financial institution regulated by either the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) or the home regulator confirming funds.</p>	<p>The letter should state your name; the account number; the date of the letter; the financial institution's name and logo; the funds held in your account; and that the funds have been in the bank for at least 90 days. We will not accept letters which simply show the balance in the account on a particular day as these documents do not show that you hold enough funds for the full period required. The home regulator is the official regulatory body for the country in which the institution operates and the funds are located.</p>
<p>UKTI Funding</p>	<p>If you have an endorsement from the UKTI which confirms that it has awarded you at least sufficient funding to cover the required maintenance funds for you and your dependants, no further evidence of maintenance is required. If the endorsement does not state that you/ and or dependants are awarded funding, you must provide evidence of your own money using the evidence above.</p>

Further guidance on maintenance requirements can be found at:

**Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) policy guidance &**

**[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/appendixc/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/appendixc/)**

Dependants

<p>Visa application form.</p>	<p>Dependants must complete VAF10 or an online form (if applicable).</p>
<p>Information about you.</p>	<p>Dependants must also provide a current and valid travel document or passport, one passport sized colour photograph, evidence of their permission to be in the country where the application is made (if not a national of that country), previous passports &amp; translations of any documents submitted that are not in English or Welsh.</p>
<p>Evidence of relationship to the Tier 1 migrant.</p>	<p>For example marriage certificate, civil partnership registration or birth certificate.</p>
<p>Evidence of the Tier 1 migrant's permission to enter or stay in the UK.</p>	<p>Copy of the pages of sponsor's passport showing their visa if issued or permission to stay if already in the UK. If you are a child, you should provide evidence of the status in the UK of both of your parents to show that they are lawfully present in the UK, or that they are being granted entry clearance or leave to remain at the same time as you – please see paragraph 319H (f) of the immigration rules for details of this requirement</p>
<p>Evidence of maintenance.</p>	<p>If the main applicant under the Graduate Entrepreneur category is outside the United Kingdom or has been in the United Kingdom for less than 12 months, the family member must show that the main applicant or the dependant has at least £1,260 to support the dependant as well as the funds needed to support the main applicant. If the main applicant has been present in the United Kingdom for 12 months or more, the Graduate Entrepreneur must have £945 to support himself/herself plus £630 for each dependant. The statements should cover a 90 day period and be in line with the "Maintenance" requirement above.</p>