

Start-up endorsing bodies

This page provides a list of authorised endorsing bodies that can issue endorsements for Start-up visas, as well as information provided by the endorsing bodies. An organisation can only issue an endorsement if it is on the list. If you have been offered an endorsement by an organisation that is not on the list, you can report it at <https://www.gov.uk/report-immigration-crime>.

Before contacting an endorsing body

Before you contact an endorsing body, you should consider the content of the information provided below and visit their website. You should only contact an endorsing body if you are applying for an endorsement from them.

For more general queries regarding the Start-up route, applicants and immigration advisors should refer to the information on gov.uk and, if you need further information, please contact the Home Office business helpdesk at: BusinessHelpdesk@homeoffice.gov.uk.

Please note that neither the endorsing bodies nor the business helpdesk will answer hypothetical or speculative enquiries.

Start-up

Business endorsing bodies

- [The Bakery](#)
The Bakery endorses bona-fide entrepreneurs who qualify for our corporate innovation programmes. Find out more on our website: <https://thebakery.com/start-ups-and-entrepreneurs/>
- [Bethnal Green Ventures](#)
BGV is an early stage investor in tech for good companies who only endorse start-up entrepreneurs accepted onto their support programme - visit their [site](#) for more information.
- [Capital enterprise](#)
Capital Enterprise will only be endorsing founders within our community. You can read more [here](#). Check back as this may change with time.
- [CodeBase](#)
- [CyLon](#)

CyLon is interested in hearing from emerging cyber security companies or entrepreneurs planning on setting up an innovative cyber start-up.

- [Deep Science Ventures](#)
Apply if you are a scientist or engineer determined to start a deep science company. Please apply through our ["current opportunities"](#) page!
- [Ignite](#)
We only endorse applicants who are successful in applying for one of our accelerator programmes. See website for programme details.
- [Invest Northern Ireland](#)
Invest NI endorses entities for Start-up/Innovator Visas via participation on its Accelerator Program or requests from Client companies only.
- [Level39](#)
Level39 only endorses those involved in FinTech, cyber security, smart cities, retail tech and other globally ambitious tech business.
- [MDR LAB](#)
MDR LAB is an accelerator for tech start-ups in the legal space. We only endorse migrants accepted onto our 10-week May-July programme.
- [MedCity](#)
MedCity supports collaboration, investment, entrepreneurship and industry within the life sciences across Greater South-East of England.
- [NatWest Entrepreneur Accelerator](#)
- [Royal Bank of Scotland Entrepreneur Accelerator](#)
- [Scottish EDGE](#)
Scottish EDGE can endorse winners of its bi-annual funding competition for innovative, high-growth potential Scottish businesses. Approx. 6% of applicants win.
- [Seedcamp](#)
We invest early in world-class founders attacking large, global markets and solving real problems using technology. More information in our [FAQs](#).
- [SeedHaus](#)
Note – We do not accept unsolicited applications for endorsements.

- [SETsquared Bristol](#)
SETsquared Bristol incubator will only endorse technology start-ups meeting entry criteria to our incubator (please see our website <https://setsquared-bristol.co.uk/>) and looking to establish an office in Bristol.
- [Tech Nation](#)
Tech Nation focuses on entrepreneurs of product-led digital technology businesses and commences work as an endorsing body in September 2019.
- [Techstars](#)
Techstars is the worldwide network that helps entrepreneurs succeed. Techstars runs two accelerator programs in London: Techstars London and Barclays Accelerator, powered by Techstars.
- [Tech X](#)
Unique tech accelerator & incubator for global start-ups looking to transform the Energy Sector – offers unparalleled funding and support.
- [The Royal Society of Edinburgh](#)
We only provide endorsement to our awardees who have received an [RSE Enterprise Fellowship](#). Unfortunately we cannot support any individual who does not fall under this category.
- [Ulster Bank Entrepreneur Accelerator](#)
- [Wayra](#)
- [Zinc](#)

HEI endorsing bodies

- Anglia Ruskin University
Applications are welcome from ARU students. We regret non-ARU students cannot be considered.
- [Arts University Bournemouth](#)
Endorsing business in the creative arts industries.
- Aston University

For those who have completed a course of study at Aston University in the last 5 years and have had a business idea accepted by BSEEN.

- Bangor University
Bangor University only endorses Bangor Graduates on this visa and they must have graduated within 12 months preceding the application.
- Bath Spa University
- Birmingham City University
- Bournemouth University
Supporting BU international alumni start-ups and innovators across the UK, and exceptional UK HEI international graduates looking to start businesses in Wessex.
- BPP University Limited
- Brunel University London
Brunel University will only endorse its graduates in the Start-up route. We will not endorse external candidates or in the Innovator route.
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
Our International Entrepreneurs Programme runs intensively for 6 months from the Centre for Entrepreneurship incubator and includes workshops, mentoring, office space and general support. Cardiff Metropolitan University is currently endorsing its own students and graduates only.
- Cardiff University
- City, University of London
- Contemporary Dance Trust
- Coventry University
Open to Coventry University graduates only.
- Cranfield University
Supporting entrepreneurs every step of their journey. We accept applications from students and alumni of Cranfield.
- De Montfort University

- Durham University
Providing opportunities for Start-up Visa endorsement to eligible graduating students and graduates of Durham University.
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Falmouth University School of Entrepreneurship
Creating a unique environment to build sustainable businesses with high-growth potential in one of the UK's leading creative tech hubs.
- Florida State University International Programs Association UK
- Girne American University Canterbury
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Goldsmiths University of London
- Guildhall School of Music & Drama
Guildhall Creative Entrepreneurs is an incubator to help people in the performing arts launch and advance their own enterprises.
- Heriot-Watt University
- Imperial College London
- Keele University
- King's College London
The Entrepreneurship Institute at King's College London will support Start-up visas that meet UKVI criteria from current and former King's students.
- Kingston University
- Lancaster University
- Leeds Arts University
- Leeds Beckett University
- Liverpool John Moores University
- London Business School

We accept applications from students and alumni, as well as co-founders working with LBS students or alumni.

- London Metropolitan University
- London School of Economics and Political Sciences
For LSE students - with the exception of non-LSE applicants who are key members of an LSE team only.
- London South Bank University
LSBU can only endorse applicants who have graduated from LSBU within the last 2 years and have not started a business in the UK before.
- [Loughborough University](#)
Endorsing body for Loughborough University graduates. Contact the [Loughborough Enterprise Network](#) for further information.
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Middlesex University
- Newcastle University
Newcastle University will only endorse graduates from Newcastle University. We will consider applications from graduating students and recent graduates (up to 3 years).
- Northern School of Contemporary Dance
- Norwich University of the Arts
- Nottingham Trent University
Only open to students and recent graduates (within the immediate 2 years preceding date of application) of Nottingham Trent University.
- Oxford Brookes University
- Plymouth College of Art
- Queen Mary University of London
- Queen's University Belfast
- Ravensbourne University London

- Regent's University London
- Roehampton University
- Royal Academy of Music
- Royal Agricultural University
- Royal College of Art
- Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
- Sheffield Hallam University
- SOAS, University of London
- Solent University
- Swansea University
- Teesside University
- The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts
- The Robert Gordon University
- The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
Central will only accept endorsement applications from our current students and our alumni (within two years of completing studies).
- The University of Buckingham
- The University of Edinburgh
The University of Edinburgh endorses Start-up applicants who have a close demonstrable relationship with our institution (students and alumni).
- The University of Northampton
- The University of Salford
- The University of West London

- University College London
- University for the Creative Arts
- University of Aberdeen
- University of Bath
- University of Birmingham
- University of Bradford
- University of Brighton
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- University of Central Lancashire
- University of Chester
- University of Dundee
- University of East Anglia
- University of East London
- University of Essex
- University of Exeter
- [University of Glasgow](#)
- University of Greenwich
Endorsements allocated via the annual Enterprise Challenge, run by the university's i3 Centre. Open to graduates of the university only.
- University of Hertfordshire Higher Education Corporation
- University of Huddersfield
- University of Hull

- University of Kent
- University of Leeds
- University of Leicester
- University of Lincoln
- University of Liverpool
The University of Liverpool will only endorse students who graduate from the University of Liverpool within the same academic year.
- University of Manchester
- University of Northumbria at Newcastle
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- University of Plymouth
- University of Portsmouth
To apply for endorsement applicants must be students or graduates (up to 5 years) from the University of Portsmouth.
- University of Reading
- University of Sheffield
Endorsement only available to those who have or will have graduated from the University of Sheffield.
- University of South Wales
- University of Southampton
- University of St Andrews
- University of Stirling
- University of Strathclyde

- University of Sunderland
The University of Sunderland's Enterprise Place offers Start Up support, 1-1 business advice, structured workshops and networking opportunities.
- [University of Surrey](#)
External start-ups must meet SETsquared Surrey incubator criteria and adhere to the incubator membership for the endorsement duration.
- University of Sussex
- [University of the Arts London](#)
UAL offers endorsement exclusively to UAL graduates within 2 years of graduating. The scheme is delivered by Careers & Employability.
- University of the West of England
Launch Space provides physical incubator space and enterprise support for graduate start-up businesses at UWE.
- University of the West of Scotland
- University of Ulster
- University of Wales Trinity Saint David – Carmarthen Campus
- University of Warwick
- University of Westminster
- University of Wolverhampton
- University of York
- York St John University