



TIER 1 (INVESTOR) FACTSHEET

The Tier 1 (Investor) visa is a route for high net worth individuals with access to at least £2,000,000 to invest in the UK. Only for applicants from outside the European Economic Area and Switzerland.

INVESTMENT OPTIONS

£2m / £5m / £10m

VISA DURATION

3 years and 4 months (or 3 years if processed in the UK)

EXTENSION OF STAY

further 2 years

PERMANENT RESIDENCE

in 3–5 years

CITIZENSHIP

in 5–6 years



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Tier 1 (Investor)

The initial visa is granted for 3 years and 4 months (3 years if processed in the UK). After this time, applicants can apply for a 2 year extension provided they meet the eligibility criteria. If an applicant has spent a continuous period of 5 years in the UK, they can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR). Accelerated routes to settlement can be sought after 3 years if investments total £5 million or 2 years if investments total £10 million. Knowledge of the English language is not a requirement for the initial visa but is required for subsequent ILR applications.

TIER 1 (INVESTOR) ROUTES TO SETTLEMENT DEPENDENT ON INVESTMENTS MADE

£2,000,000	£5,000,000	£10,000,000
ILR after 5 years	ILR after 3 years	ILR after 2 years
Citizenship after 6 years	Citizenship after 5 years	Citizenship after 5 years

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INITIAL APPLICATIONS

- Applicant must provide evidence of holding at least £2,000,000 investable funds
- Applicant must have opened a UK investment account at FCA regulated institution (Astons will introduce you to the relevant banks and institutions if needed)
- There are no English language requirements or language tests in the initial application.
- There is no individual maintenance requirement.
- Applicant are required to meet good character requirements and have a clean criminal records statement
- Certain investments are not eligible for use under this category.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR VISA EXTENSION APPLICATIONS

- Evidence must be submitted to prove that the applicant’s first entry to the country was within 30 days of the date the clearance was granted.
- Evidence must be provided that all associated adults (for example spouses etc.) were registered with the Overseas Visitors Records Office within 7 days of arrival in the UK.
- Applicants must provide proof that they have not acquired public funds of any kind.
- Applicants must include any dependents on their current visa in the extension application, including children who turned 18 during the initial visa period.
- The minimum threshold for investment funds is £2,000,000 which must be under the Applicant’s control in the UK.
- There have been changes announced for those who entered the category before November 2014.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INDEFINITE LEAVE TO REMAIN APPLICATIONS

Tier 1 (Investor) visa holders can apply for ILR in the UK if the above and following conditions are met:

- Applicants must not have spent more than 180 days outside of the UK in any 12-month period.
- Applicants must have passed the Life in the UK Test.
- Applicants must meet the English Language requirement, which can be done by passing a language test in conformance with B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (This will be updated after Brexit). There are certain set emptions to meeting the English Language requirement.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS AND TIME SPENT OUTSIDE THE UK

- If applicants do not intend to settle in the UK then no residency requirements are set and they may extend their visa for 2 years after the initial clearance has expired.
- Those wishing to apply for permanent residency (ILR) are not permitted to spend more than 180 days outside the UK in any rolling 12-month period.
- For UK citizenship, applicants must not have spent more than 450 days outside of the UK in the 5-year period, and no more than 90 days during the 12 months prior to application.

PROCESSING TIME

- The earliest that applicants can submit visa requests is 3 months prior to travel to the UK.
- Applicants can pay for a Priority Service to receive a decision within 5 working days.
- Non-priority processing times for entry clearance applications are approximately 3 weeks if submitted from country of residence, or approximately 8-12 weeks for those switching their visa and currently residing in the UK.

LEGAL FEES

The fees for individual Tier 1 (Investor) visa entry, visa extension, ILR and citizenship depend on specific issues, contingent urgencies and case complexities. We will provide a bespoke quote based on an in-depth assessment of your case.