

GHERSON<sub>LLP</sub>

PERSONAL IMMIGRATION

# INNOVATOR FOUNDER VISA

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## ABOUT US

UK personal immigration law is constantly changing. Responses to global change frequently lead to new immigration routes being introduced to visit, work, live, study or join family in the UK.

We offer our services to a wide range of clients, including high-net-worth individuals, their families and businesses. Our team provide a tailored, efficient and pragmatic approach to find the best strategy for each client's individual circumstances and requirements, we often advise clients with complex circumstances and have a wealth of experience advising on discretionary applications.



We recognise the importance of effective and efficient communication with our clients who come from all over the world. As such, the firm has a range of employees who speak multiple languages and dialects to fluency and currently has coverage in the following languages:

- Chinese – Mandarin
- Chichewa
- Czech
- French
- Hindi
- Igbo
- Malay
- Romanian
- Russia
- Shona
- Slovak
- Swedish
  - Afrikaans
  - Spanish
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Tonga
- Ukrainian
- Uzbek

# INNOVATOR FOUNDER VISA

## PURPOSE

The Innovator Founder visa is designed for experienced business owners and executives who have a concept of a new or existing business they wish to set up in England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland.

Choosing the UK for starting up a company may have the following advantages:

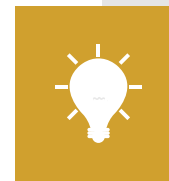
- ✔ Making the most of the present opportunity
- ✔ Launching a new business in a booming industry
- ✔ Bringing a creative idea to life
- ✔ Building a better future for staff and family
- ✔ Creating a lasting legacy and positively influencing the relevant industry



## WHO CAN APPLY

The applicant must fulfil the following eligibility requirements:

- ✓ English language requirement (CEFR Level B2).
- ✓ Applicant must be at least 18 years of age on the date of application.
- ✓ Applicant must not be in breach of any general grounds for a visa refusal, such as having committed specific offences.
- ✓ Maintenance requirement: if the applicant has resided the UK for under a year, they have to demonstrate the ability to maintain sufficient personal savings in their bank account for a period of 28 days
  - £1,270 for the main applicant
  - £285 for a dependent partner
  - £315 for the first child
  - £200 for each additional child



Furthermore, the applicant's business idea must satisfy Home Office's regulations. A letter of endorsement from an endorsing body must have been issued no earlier than three months prior to the date of application. The Home Office has authorised many endorsing bodies to fulfil this function.



The endorsing body must determine that the applicant will be involved in day-to-day business operations and has contributed significantly to the business plan. Once granted leave to remain in the UK, the applicant must additionally attend at least two contact point meetings with the endorsing body.

## BUSINESS PLAN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The endorsing body will review the applicant's business plan in order to determine whether it is new, creative, viable, and scalable.



THE HOME OFFICE GUIDELINES IN REGARD TO ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ARE ELABORATED BELOW:

### NEW

The applicant cannot work for an organisation that is currently in operation.

### INNOVATIVE

the applicant's business concept has to be genuine and unique.

### VIABLE

The applicant must possess the abilities, know-how, and experience required to manage the business, and the business plan must be reasonable and attainable.

### SCALABLE

The applicant must demonstrate plans for creating jobs as well as for national and international expansion.



## PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Focusing on the business as a lone proprietor or a member of an entrepreneurial team.
- ✓ Obtaining Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) after three years. ILR holders may live and work in the UK indefinitely, without having to extend their visa.
- ✓ Working on building other enterprises in addition to the primary business idea.
- ✓ Taking on another employment in addition to working for their own business.
- ✓ Travelling without immigration restrictions upon return to the UK.
- ✓ Bringing eligible dependent family members to the UK.

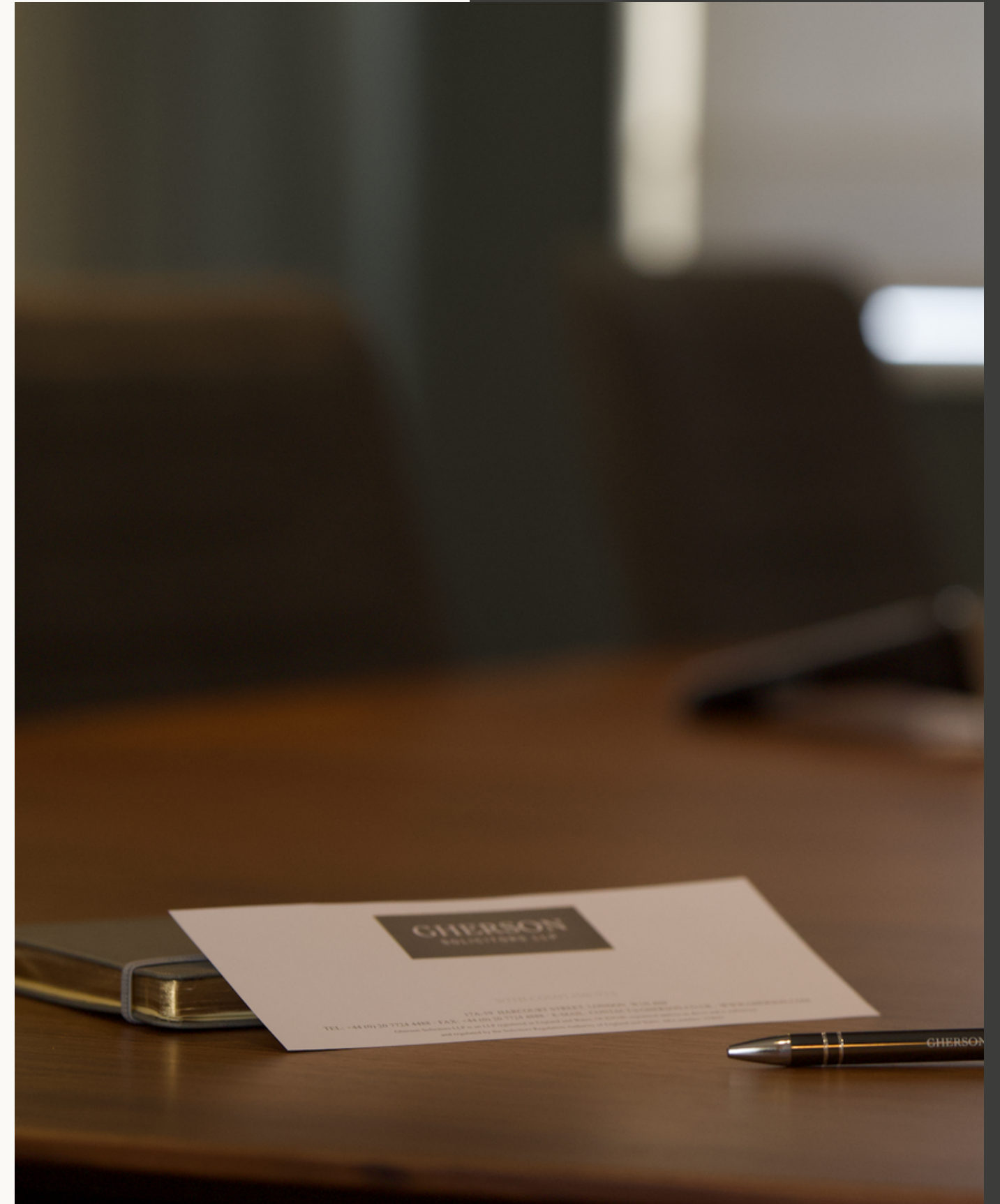
## PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Engaging in professional sports, such as coaching sports.
- ✓ Applying for the state pension or the majority of benefits (public funds).

## HOW GHERSON CAN ASSIST

Gherson's immigration team offers advice and assistance with regard to Innovator Founder endorsement and visa applications.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for advice, send us an e-mail, or, alternatively, follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn to stay-up-to-date.



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## CONTACT US



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