



UNITED KINGDOM

Business Expansion and Sponsorship

Expand an overseas business or build a UK company through approved sponsorship routes.

XIPHIAS Immigration | Residency - Citizenship & Corporate Services



About United Kingdom Corporate Immigration

UK corporate immigration enables overseas businesses to establish a British branch and licensed UK companies to recruit eligible skilled workers through approved sponsorship routes under Home Office rules.

The UK Expansion Worker route applies before an overseas business starts trading, while Skilled Worker sponsorship applies through a genuine UK employer offering an eligible role in Britain.

Eligibility

- Overseas business not yet trading in UK
- Valid sponsor licence and Certificate of Sponsorship
- Overseas employment, normally for twelve months
- Eligible occupation at required skill level
- Salary meeting threshold and applicable going rate
- Passport, maintenance funds and immigration compliance

Program Overview

	Program Type Expansion / Skilled Worker		Minimum investment No Fixed Immigration Minimum
	Processing Time Visa: Usually Three Weeks		Physical Presence Required Required to Perform UK Role

No fixed investment applies; route eligibility depends on sponsorship, business evidence, eligible employment, salary and applicable immigration requirements.

Key Benefits

- Establish a new UK branch or subsidiary
- Transfer up to ten qualifying expansion workers
- Initial visa for up to twelve months
- Extension available within two-year maximum stay
- Eligible dependants may accompany the worker
- Skilled Worker route can support settlement



UK Expansion and Skilled Worker Routes

The United Kingdom offers separate routes for overseas business expansion and ongoing skilled recruitment. Correct pathway selection depends on whether the British entity has already begun active trading.

- **UK Expansion Worker:** For senior managers or specialists assigned to establish a UK branch or subsidiary before trading begins.
- **Overseas employment:** Normally twelve months; exceptions apply to high earners and specified Japanese and Australian workers.
- **Salary and role:** At least £52,500 or the occupation's going rate, whichever is higher, for an eligible role.
- **Duration:** Initial permission up to twelve months, extendable to two years maximum. This route does not lead directly to settlement.
- **Skilled Worker sponsorship:** A genuine trading UK company may sponsor an employee in an eligible role meeting salary, English and sponsorship rules.
- **Company and licence:** Register the business, establish UK operations, appoint key personnel, obtain a sponsor licence and assign a Certificate of Sponsorship.

Process

- 1 Route Assessment**
Confirm whether the business is pre-trading or the UK company already operates.
- 2 UK Footprint**
Register the company or branch, secure premises, banking and corporate records.
- 3 Sponsor Licence**
Appoint key personnel and submit the correct licence application with evidence.
- 4 Role and Salary**
Select an occupation and confirm duties, level, salary and going rate.
- 5 Certificate of Sponsorship**
Assign the electronic certificate after licence approval and payment of required fees.
- 6 Visa Application**
Submit identity, employment, financial and dependant evidence and complete biometrics when directed.
- 7 Launch and Compliance**
Begin approved work, establish trading operations and maintain reporting and record-keeping duties.

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