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UK Innovator Founder visa

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In short: The Innovator Founder visa lets you set up and run a business in the UK if an approved endorsing body confirms that the idea is innovative, viable and scalable. It is granted for three years, can be extended, and can lead to settlement after three years. The visa fee is £1,274 from outside the UK or £1,590 inside, plus an endorsement fee and the immigration health surcharge.

See the UK company formation guide for setting up the company itself.

Eligibility

You must have an endorsement from an approved endorsing body, meet the English language requirement, be at least 18, and show enough personal savings to support yourself. The endorsing body also confirms it has no reason to believe the applicant or business benefits from unexplained wealth.

Endorsement

Endorsement is a separate commercial assessment before the visa application. The endorsing body checks the business plan and keeps monitoring progress; if endorsement is withdrawn, the visa can be cut short. Extensions and settlement need a fresh endorsement.

What you can do

You can work for your own business (and in some cases elsewhere), bring dependants, and apply for indefinite leave to remain after three years if you meet the requirements. You cannot claim most public funds.

See also

- Residence and visas for company founders
- Business banking in the United Kingdom
- Company formation in the United Kingdom

References

1. Innovator Founder visa . GOV.UK. Accessed November 2026.
2. Immigration Rules Appendix Innovator Founder . GOV.UK. Accessed November 2026.

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