

# A Guide to UK Business and Work Visas

## Introduction

This information sheet provides an overview of the UK visa service in China and the different visas available for business and work purposes. This includes business visit visas, long term visit visas, visas for sole representatives of an overseas company and visas under the points-based system for highly skilled workers, intra-company transfers, investors, entrepreneurs and those with exceptional talent.

## Did you know?

- 96% of Chinese visa applicants are successful
- We offer a 3 to 5 day priority visa service for business travellers
- We offer long term multiple entry visas for 1, 2, 5 or 10 years to regular business travellers
- We have 12 visa application centres across China
- Members of our Select Business Scheme get a range of benefits including minimal documentation requirements.

## UK Visas & Immigration in China

UK Visas & Immigration in China aims to provide a first class visa service for our business customers. 96% of visa applications in China are successful and on average visas are processed within seven working days - although you can apply up to three months in advance of travel.

## Are you visiting the UK for a conference, site visit, trade visit or other meeting?

If you are a Chinese national and you are planning a business trip to the UK, you will need a visa. Business Visit Visas are specifically for business people planning on visiting the UK for a short period of time. Typically the types of activities permissible under a business visit visa are: fact-finding missions or checking details of goods, site visits and promotional activities

## Long Term Business Visit Visas

If you are a regular business traveller to the UK, why not consider a long term multiple entry business visit visa? A long term visit visa allows you to regularly come and go to the UK for as long as the visa is valid without having to make a fresh visa application each time. 1, 2, 5 or 10 year visit visas are available. A visitor cannot, however, reside in the UK on a visit visa and should not spend more than six out of any 12 months in the UK. To apply for a long term business visit visa you simply need to indicate on the front page of the visa application form what duration of visa you require and pay the relevant fee.

## Are you setting up a company in the UK whose HQ is in China?

**The Sole Representative of an Overseas Company** visa category is for a senior employee of a company, outside the UK, who intends to establish a commercial presence for the company in the UK. Anyone who wishes to enter the UK in this capacity requires a visa prior to travel. To qualify for a sole representative visa you must meet the criteria as set out in the guidance on our website.

## Are you planning on working in the UK?

**Tier 2 of the points based system** is for skilled workers coming to the UK for employment purposes. The Tier 2 (General) visa is for workers coming to the UK to fill a vacancy that cannot be filled by a UK resident worker. UK employers have to apply for a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) from UK Visas & Immigration for a specific job if they wish to bring someone to the UK. You should visit our website for specific requirements.

**Tier 2 Intra-company transfer (ICT) – Long-term staff and short-term staff.** These visas are for existing company employees, who have worked at least 12 months continuously for the company prior to the visa application transferring to the UK. The company wishing to transfer employees must have a UK presence and a UK Visas and Immigration sponsor license which allows them to issue Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) to employees. There is no restriction on the number

of CoS a company can issue for ICTs. Your salary level will also determine how long you are allowed to stay in the UK. You should visit our website for specific requirements.

**Intra Company Transfer - Graduate trainee** - the Graduate trainee sub-category allows multinational organisations to transfer recent graduate recruits to a UK branch of their organisation for the purpose of training. (This route must not be used to fill long-term posts.) Migrants in this sub-category must be coming to the UK as part of a structured graduate training programme, with clearly defined progression towards a managerial or specialist role within the organisation. This sub-category is open only to those who work in graduate occupations and who have been employed outside the UK by the sponsoring organisation for at least 3 months directly before they come to the UK. Time spent in the UK in the Skills transfer sub-category **does not** count towards the 3-month qualifying period. As this scheme is specifically targeted at the very best graduate recruits, sponsors can transfer no more than five migrants per financial year in this sub-category.

**Intra Company Transfer - Skills transfer** - the Skills transfer sub-category allows those employed overseas to transfer to a UK branch of a multinational organisation in order to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to perform in their role overseas, or to impart their specialist skills to the UK workforce. Migrants are not required to have been employed for a minimum period to qualify for this sub-category, which is open only to migrants who work in graduate occupations.

### Are you planning on Investing in or setting up a business in the UK?

**Tier 1 of the points-based system** is for high-value migrants who wish to come to the UK as an Entrepreneur or an Investor.

**Tier 1 Entrepreneurs** This route is for those investing in the UK by setting up or taking over a business, and being actively involved in its running. Entrepreneurs need to show they can speak English and that they have access to £200,000 (or £50,000 in some circumstances) held in a regulated financial institution, that is free to move to and spend in the UK. Full requirements are on our website.

**Prospective Entrepreneurs** A six month visit visa is also available for prospective entrepreneurs to come to the UK in order to secure funding to join, set up and be actively involved in the running of a business in the UK. This visit visa will allow prospective entrepreneurs to switch into the entrepreneur category, if they are granted funding, without having to return home.

**Tier 1 Investors** This visa category is for high net worth individuals making a substantial financial investment in the UK. Investors need to show that they have £1,000,000 or more of their own money under their own control held in a regulated financial institution for investment in the UK; or £2,000,000 or more in personal assets, and a loan of £1,000,000 or more from a UK-regulated financial institution, for investment in the UK. Full details are on our website.

### Our additional services

#### Select Business Scheme

The 'Select' Business Scheme gives selected businesses the opportunity to benefit from priority services and streamlined Business Visit Visa application processes. To find out more about the Select scheme and how you or your company might benefit, visit our website: [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/china](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/china)

#### Priority Visa Service

If you need your visa in a hurry you should check if you qualify for our priority visa service. If you are eligible you can have your application processed as a priority and returned within 3-5 working days.

#### Pasport passback

This service allows applicants to keep their passport while their UK application is processed, meaning that customers can travel, or apply for another visa at the same time.

#### VIP Mobile Biometrics

Our mobile service allows eligible customers to enroll biometrics in a location convenient to them, for example their place of work.

More detail on each visa category and details of the most up to date guidance can be found on our website:  
[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/china](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/china)

## 英国商务及工作签证指南

该说明概述英国在中国的签证服务并且介绍赴英从事商务活动和工作所适用的不同签证种类，包括商务访问签证，长期访问签证，海外公司首席代表签证以及计点积分体系下适用于高技技术工人、公司内部调动、投资者、企业家和杰出才能人才的签证。

### 你知道吗 ...

- **96%**申请英国签证的中国公民成功获签？
- 我们为商务旅客提供**3到5天**快速签证服务？
- 我们为频繁出行的商务旅客提供有效期为**1年、2年、5年和10年**的多次入境长期签证？
- 我们在中国设有**12家**签证申请中心

特殊商务签证方案的成员享受一系列便捷，包括精简的材料要求。

### 英国签证及移民局在中国

英国签证及移民局在中国以向商务客户提供一流的签证服务为目标。在中国，**96%**的签证申请成功获签。尽管最多可在出行前**3个月**递交签证申请，平均签证审理时间为**7个工作日**以内。

您赴英目的是否为出席大型会议，考察、贸易考察或参加其他会议？

如果您是中国公民并且计划赴英出差，您需要申请签证。商务访问签证专门适用于计划短期赴英的商务人士。商务访问签证允许持有人在英国从事以下活动：

开会或出席大型会议

安排交易，协商或签署协议或合同

进行实况调查或检查细节或货品

从事现场考察及宣传活动

### 长期商务访问签证

如果您是频繁赴英的商务旅客，何不考虑申请长期多次入境商务访问签证？您在长期签证有效期内可以多次往返英国而无需每次都递交签证申请。有**1年、2年、5年和10年**的签证可供选择。

但是，持访问签证的访客不可以在英国长期居住或者在任意**12个月**内在英国停留时间超过**6个月**。申请长期签证您仅需在签证申请表首页标明您所需的签证有效期并支付相应费用。

您是否赴英成立一家总部位于中国的公司？

海外公司首席代表签证类型适用于位于英国以外的公司高层员工赴英为该公司在英国建立商业存在。任何希望以此身份赴英的个人需在出发前获得签证。

您必需符合我们网站上指南中所列标准，才有资格申请海外公司首席代表签证。

您是否计划在英国工作？

计点积分制中第二层级（**Tier 2**）适用于赴英就业的技术工人。

第二层级（普通）签证适用于赴英从事英国本土工人无法担任的空缺职位的工人。希望从海外雇用员工的英方雇主需要就该工作向英国签证及移民局申请担保证书（**CoS**）。请访问我们的网站了解相关要求。

第二层级（公司内部调动）- 长期和短期员工

此类签证针对为调动至英国申请签证之前已经为公司连续工作超过12个月的现有员工。希望调遣员工的公司必需在英国已设立机构且持有可以为员工出具担保证书（CoS）的英国签证及移民局担保人执照。公司可以为内部调动出具的CoS数量不设上限。

您的薪资水平也会影响您可以在英国停留的时间。请访问我们的网站了解相关要求。

#### 公司内部调动 - 毕业实习生

毕业实习生子类签证适用于跨国机构以培训为目的将新聘用的毕业生送至位于英国的分部。（该类型不可用于长期派任。）持该类签证的人员必需以参加系统的应届生培训项目为目的赴英，且完成该培训后担任机构内部的管理或专员职位。

该子类签证仅适用于就职于仅面向应届毕业生的岗位且赴英前受雇于位于英国以外的担保机构不少于3个月者。持技术调动子类签证在英国工作的时间不能计算入上述3个月的时间要求中。

该签证针对最优秀的新聘用的毕业生。担保公司每个财政年度最多只能派送5名持该签证的人员。

#### 公司内部调动 - 技术调动

技术调动子类签证适用于受雇于海外的跨国机构员工以获得在海外工作所需的技术和知识，或向英国员工传授专业技能或知识为目的派赴英国分部。该类签证对于员工受雇时间长度不设最低要求，但是仅针对就职于仅面向应届毕业生的岗位的人员。

#### 您是否计划赴英投资或创办企业？

计点积分制中第一层级（**Tier 1**）适用于以企业家或投资者身份赴英的高价值移民。

##### 第一层级企业家

该签证适用于以成立或接管企业的方式赴英投资并且积极参与企业运营的企业家。企业家需要证明他们会说英语且在正规金融机构中存有20万英镑（部分情况5万英镑）可转入英国或在英国花费。完整的要求请见我们的网站。

企业家可以合伙赴英，但需要对资金有同等支配权。

在3年内创造了10个就业机会或营业额超过500万英镑的企业家可以获得加快移民流程以兹奖励。

每12个月内企业家在英国以外地区最长可停留180天。

##### 准企业家

准企业家可申请有效期6个月的访问签证赴英落实资金，成立并积极运营企业。持有该签证的企业家如果成功获取资金，无需回国便可以转换为企业家类型签证。

##### 第一层级投资者

该签证类别适用于赴英进行大额金融投资的高净资产个人。投资者需证明他们在正规金融机构中存有可供本人支配用于投资的不少于100万英镑；或者是可用于投资的价值不少于200万英镑的个人资产以及由英国正规金融机构发放的金额不少于100万英镑的贷款。请访问我们的网站获取相关完整信息。

对投资者不设英语语言要求和生活费要求；

投资额更高的个人可加快移民流程；

每12个月内企业家在英国以外地区最长可停留180天；

已在英国并已进行高额累计投资的第一层级投资者在一些情况下也有资格加快移民流程。

在中国如何申请英国签证

请访问我们的网站 [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/china](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/china) 获取更多各类签证相关详细信息以及最新的指南。