

Start-up Visa – Eligibility Criteria

The programme is open to University of Leicester graduates from any degree discipline (within 3 years of date on degree certificate) who are working on a business idea.

To ensure a strong business proposal and for administration purposes, applicants must allow for 3 months prior to their visa expiring in order to apply for a Start-up Visa. If you do not make contact with us three months prior to your visa expiry then we can still consider your application from outside the UK following expiry of your visa (although note that there are slightly different Immigration Requirements for applicants from outside the UK).

You will need to meet the formal eligibility requirements to apply for this type of visa. It is helpful to consider the eligibility requirements as two distinct processes, firstly relating to your **Business Idea**, and secondly to the **Immigration Requirements** and therefore your visa application. These are summarised below:

Business Requirements

Criteria	How this is assessed
<p>A viable, innovative and scalable idea</p> <p><i>You must demonstrate that your idea has commercial viability and potential, that you are genuinely interested in progressing with this idea and have the skills and market awareness to do so, that the idea has potential for high growth and offers a unique value proposition (in the UK).</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of your application documents (Business Outline, Cash Flow Forecast, up to date CV, Cover Letter). 2. Meeting a business coach to discuss your idea. 3. Presenting to a Start-up Business Selection Panel at which your idea will be discussed in more detail.
<p>Serious intent to establish the business in the UK</p> <p><i>You must demonstrate that you intend to dedicate the majority of your time developing your business idea in the UK.</i></p>	<p>This will be discussed when you meet with a business coach and considered through the application process.</p> <p>Although we recognise that you may need to work part time to support yourself, you will need to dedicate the majority of your time to your business.</p> <p>You will be expected to prioritise any training and support events that you are required to attend.</p>
<p>Genuine engagement and commitment to the scheme</p> <p><i>If successful, it is part of the conditions of your ongoing support that you meet or have contact with your business coach at least once a month and that you actively engage with the programme of support.</i></p>	<p>Your business coach will discuss your skills gaps with you and how you feel you will benefit from the training and support that the programme can provide.</p> <p>You will be asked to demonstrate this in your presentation to the business panel.</p>

Immigration Requirements

If your business idea is successful, and you are chosen by University of Leicester to participate in the scheme, you will then need to demonstrate you meet the **Immigration Requirements**.

You should also carefully review information provided by the UK Government on the Start-up Visa scheme [the UK Visas & Immigration website](#) for further information on current **Immigration Requirements**.

Additional Information [please read carefully]

- We are unable to support individuals from outside the University including graduates from other institutions, as the process is highly competitive and we must give priority to students and graduates with whom we have an existing relationship (I.e. having studied at the University of Leicester) and can work closely with to develop their start-up ideas.
- Time spent on a Start-up Visa will not count towards settlement in the UK.
- It is your responsibility to ensure you meet all of the Immigration Rules and that your visa application is submitted correctly. The university can refer you to a legal agency for further advice if required but we are not able to check your application for you, and these services may incur a cost.
- It is a condition of your endorsement and ongoing support that you fully engage with regular business coaching and our programme of support and you must make every effort to attend. Progress will be assessed regularly and the University will inform the Home Office if participants are no longer actively involved in the scheme, which could result in your visa being revoked.
- Although you will be expected to spend most of your time setting up the business, you will be able to work outside of the business in order to support yourself financially.
- The University of Leicester is not an endorsing body for the Innovator Visa, the Visa type which enables Start-up Visa migrants to extend their stay when their Start-up Visa is coming to an end. You should familiarise yourself with the requirements of the Innovator Visa as the University will be assessing your suitability for this stage through the Start-up Visa application process. For more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/innovator-visa>