

IM IMPACT

GUIDE TO PARTNER
APPLICATIONS

WHAT IS A PARTNER VISA?

The UK immigration rules include specific options for people who want to stay in the UK based on their family or private life, under what's known as Article 8 — the right to family and private life. These applications fall under two sets of rules: Appendix FM (family life) and Appendix Private Life.

Under Appendix FM, the partner of the applicant, would need to be British, or hold settled, humanitarian, protection or stateless status.

Appendix FM offers two main routes to settle in the UK as a partner or parent:

THE 5 YEAR ROUTE is for people who fully meet all the rules at every stage.

THE 10 YEAR ROUTE is for those who meet some, but not all, requirements — often used in special family situations or where there are exceptional circumstances.

These rules aim to balance individual rights with the UK's need to manage immigration, protect the public, and look after children's wellbeing.

At Migrate UK, we understand that moving or staying in the UK as a family is often about securing a better future.

But navigating the immigration system can be complex and stressful. Our team of **qualified legal professionals** is here to guide you through each step, ensuring you meet the strict requirements while making the process as smooth and straightforward as possible.

Whether you're applying for the first time or extending a current **Partner/Spouse Visa**, we offer tailored support based on your unique circumstances. Our goal is to help you, and your partner **build a life together in the UK**.

PARTNERS REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

GOOD CHARACTER

Applicants must meet basic character and conduct standards, including having a clear immigration history and not posing any concerns to public interest or safety.

RELATIONSHIP WITH A FIANCÉ/SPOUSE/PARTNER

You may be eligible to apply as a partner if you are in a genuine, ongoing relationship with a qualifying UK sponsor.

This includes married, civil partners or durable partners (who have been in a relationship akin to marriage for at least 2 years).

Basic requirements include age, relationship history, and your sponsor's UK immigration status.

FINANCIALS

Most applicants must meet a minimum income, usually £29,000/year, though savings or exemptions may apply depending on individual circumstances.

ADEQUATE ACCOMMODATION

Demonstrate that there is adequate accommodation for you, your sponsor and any children in the UK that is not overcrowded and does not breach public health regulations.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Applicants aged 18 to 64 must demonstrate English language skills at A1 level or higher, under the CEFR frameworks.

TIPS TO PREPARE FOR YOUR FIANCE/SPOUSE/PARTNER APPLICATION

GATHER KEY DOCUMENTATION

Proof of ID & lawful status:

- A valid passport or travel document
- If you have an eVisa, provide a copy of your previous BRP or visa vignette to evidence your lawful status

Evidence of relationship & residency

- Evidence of your sponsor's status
- Evidence that you plan to marry/become civil partners within 6 months of arriving in the UK (for fiancé visa only)
- Proof of your relationship
- Proof of previous relationships where applicable
- Proof of cohabitation where applicable: utility bills, Local health authority documents, tenancy/mortgage agreements

Proof of Employment/Income:

- Bank statements as proof of savings or other income
- Pay slips & employer confirmation letter

MEET MANDATORY TEST REQUIREMENTS

English Language Proficiency:

Applicants aged 18 or over must meet specific English language levels depending on the visa stage:

- A1 level for entry clearance
- A2 level for visa extensions (unless previously provided)
- B1 level for settlement (ILR), unless already evidenced in a prior application

Applicants may be exempt if they are:

- Nationals of majority English-speaking countries
- Under 18, 65 or over, or hold certain academic qualifications
- Granted humanitarian protection or similar exemptions

Tuberculosis (TB) Testing:

Applicants from countries listed in Appendix T of the Immigration Rules must provide a TB clearance certificate from an approved centre before submitting their visa application to enter the UK.

PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS BASED ON YOUR VISA TYPE/CIRCUMSTANCES

Unmarried Partners who haven't lived together for at least 2 years:

- Evidence of why you could not live together.
- Evidence of how your relationship remained akin to marriage.

If you cannot meet the financial requirement, you may still be able to apply for a visa or extend your stay if:

- Your sponsor receives disability or carer's benefits and you and your family have enough money to house and support yourselves without relying on additional public funds.
- You have a child in the UK who is a British or Irish citizen or has lived in the UK for 7 years and it would be unreasonable for them to leave the UK
- It would breach your human rights to stop you coming to the UK or make you leave.

FAQ's

Q: What if I am planning to get married soon?

A: If you're planning to get married in the UK, you should consider applying for a Fiancé(e) visa. This visa is valid for 6 months and does not allow you to work during that time. You must get married before the visa expires and apply to switch to a Spouse visa from within the UK.

If you are planning to get married overseas there is no minimum period for how long you need to be married before you can apply for a Spouse Visa. Your application can be submitted as soon as your marriage certificate is available.

Q: Do I need to meet the financial requirement for a fiancé visa?

A: Yes. Similar to the spouse visa, you will need to earn at least £29,000 or show you have significant savings.

Q: Is it different if I just wish to travel to the UK to get married?

A: If you only wish to travel to the UK for the purposes of getting married you can apply for a marriage visitor visa.

The Marriage Visitor visa is for those coming to the UK to marry or register a civil partnership and then leave. It does not lead to settlement, does not allow switching to another visa from within the UK, and does not permit work.

In contrast, the Fiancé(e)/Proposed Civil Partner visa under Appendix FM is for those intending to marry and settle in the UK. It allows you to apply for a spouse visa after marriage, leading to settlement, and permits switching from within the UK. It also requires meeting the financial requirement (currently £29,000 unless transitional rules apply).

Q: When do I not need to show £29,000 income?

A: If you first applied as a partner before 11 April 2024 and are now extending that visa, you only need to show a combined income of £18,600 per year—not £29,000. If your partner receives disability or care's benefits, there is no minimum income requirement.

Q: Can both the settled person and the visa applicant show their joint earnings or savings?

A: In most cases, **only the settled person (or the person with refugee/humanitarian protection status)** can rely on their income to meet the financial requirement under Appendix FM. The visa applicant's income earned while outside the UK **cannot usually be counted** unless they are already in the UK with permission to work and applying to extend their stay.

However, **joint savings held by both the sponsor and the applicant** can be used to meet the financial requirement, provided they meet the rules on source, amount and that the funds have been held for at least **6 months** prior to the application.

Each case may vary depending on the specific route and circumstances, so it's important to check the detailed guidance or seek professional advice.

Q: What happens if I am self-employed?

A: If you are **self-employed**, you can still meet the financial requirement, but you will need to provide more detailed documentation to prove your income.

The required evidence depends on the structure of your self-employment and whether you're applying in the UK or from abroad.

If you're a **sole trader, company director, or in a partnership**, different documentation rules apply, so it's important to follow the Home Office guidance specific to your self-employment type.

Keep in mind that income from self-employment must be stable, genuine, and ongoing. It's strongly recommended to seek professional advice when applying as a self-employed person, as errors or missing documents can lead to refusal.

FAQ's, continued

Q: Can I use earnings and savings together?

A: Yes, you can **combine employment income and savings** to meet the financial requirement under **Appendix FM**, but only if your income **does not fully meet** the minimum threshold on its own.

In such cases, you can use savings to **make up the shortfall**. However, for entry clearance and leave to remain applications only savings **above £16,000** can be counted.

It's important to calculate carefully and ensure you provide all required evidence. If you're unsure, get in touch with our Migrate UK team.

Q: When should I submit my spouse visa extension?

A: How soon your application can be submitted depends on if your visa was granted for 30 or 33 months and the date you first entered the UK. Generally, the application should not be submitted earlier than 28 days prior to the 30-month period.

Q: What happens if our relationship breaks down during the spouse/partner visa?

A: In most cases, you'll need to show that you're in a genuine and continuing relationship when applying for a visa extension or settlement. However, if your relationship is breaking down, there may still be alternative options available. Our experienced lawyers specialise in handling these sensitive situations with care and can guide you through the next steps.

Q: Can I bring my children?

A: Yes, you can bring your children as dependants provided, they meet the eligibility criteria, including being under 18, not living independently, and being adequately supported without access to public funds.

As of 11 April 2024, the financial requirement is a fixed minimum income of £29,000 per year, regardless of how many children you are including. This means you do not need to earn more even if you're applying with one or more children—the requirement remains capped at £29,000.

Q: Can I still apply if I can't meet the financial and English language requirements?

A: If you're unable to meet one or more of the standard visa requirements, don't worry—we may still be able to help by making an application based on **your Human Rights**. Your case can be even stronger if you have children with your partner, as this may provide additional grounds to remain in the UK.

By following these tips and ensuring your documentation is complete, you can give yourself the best chance for a successful family visa application.

If you have specific concerns or wish to speak to an experienced consultant to discuss your case further, please see how we can help in our services below.

Q: When can I qualify for settlement / ILR?

A: You can qualify for ILR after 5 years of continuous residence if you have met all eligibility requirements throughout, including the financial, English language, and relationship requirements.

Individuals are placed on the **10-year route to ILR** if they don't meet all the requirements for the 5-year route—such as the **financial, English language, or immigration status** criteria—but are granted leave based on their **family or private life** (e.g. under Article 8).

They may later **switch to the 5-year route** if they meet the full requirements, but the **settlement clock resets**, and they must complete **5 years** on that route before applying for ILR.

It is important to note that you cannot combine time spent on the 5-year route and 10-year routes to qualify for ILR under the 5-year route.

If you're unsure which route you're on or how your time in the UK affects your eligibility for settlement, contact Migrate UK today. Our expert advisers can assess your immigration history and guide you on whether you qualify under the 5-year route, 10-year route, or Long Residence under Appendix Long Residence.

PARTNER VISA APPLICATION PROCESS



Preparing the application form

Complete the visa application form carefully, ensuring all information is accurate and up to date. Additionally, gather all necessary supporting documents for the application, including financial documents related to the financial requirement.



Signing and declaring application form

Once it is ready to be filed this will then lead to paying the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) fee of £2,587.50 in country/£3,105 from overseas and the application fee of £1,321 for in country /£1,938 from overseas.



Book an appointment

to enrol your biometric data, where you will have your fingerprints and photo taken.



Upload supporting documents

Such as passports, cohabitation, relationship evidence, and test certificates to the application center's portal before the scheduled appointment

2

3

4

PROCESS TIMES

POST BIOMETRIC APPOINTMENT, IT WILL TYPICALLY TAKE THE FOLLOWING TIME TO RECEIVE A DECISION ON YOUR APPLICATION:

STANDARD SERVICE

= 12 Weeks from Overseas
= 8 Weeks within the UK

PRIORITY SERVICE (if available)

= 15-30 Working Days from Overseas
= 5 Working Days within the UK

£500 Additional Charge

SUPER PRIORITY SERVICE (if available)

= 1-2 Working Days within the UK

£1000 Additional Charge

ONCE YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If you applied from overseas after 30th October 2025, your decision email or letter will tell you how to access your eVisa to see the permission you have been granted before you travel to the UK and whether you will get a vignette (visa sticker in your passport).

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER GAINING A PARTNER VISA

YOU CAN:

- Work full time (except on a fiancé visa)
- Study (except on a fiancé visa)
- Children are entitled to free UK education

YOU CANNOT:

- Usually get benefits or other public funds for you or your dependants
- Apply to settle in the UK until you are eligible



HOW CAN MIGRATE UK HELP?

At Migrate UK, we understand that the citizenship process can be confusing and overwhelming. Our team of experienced immigration lawyers are on hand to provide tailored guidance and support throughout your partner application journey.

Depending on the level of service you require, we offer the following services.



CONSULTATION

- ✓ Phone / video call where we discuss your suitability and eligibility for a partner visa
- ✓ Outline of the application process
- ✓ Written summary post call

CHECK & ADVISE

- ✓ Check your supporting documents and offer recommendations, if applicable
- ✓ Check your completed application form and offer revisions, where needed
- ✓ Instructions for submission of application

FULL REPRESENTATION

- ✓ Preparation of application form and supporting letter templates on your behalf
- ✓ Submission, booking biometric appointment and uploading all documents to UKVI on your behalf
- ✓ Upon approval, we will provide instructions for your entry/stay in the UK

For a full description for each service, please refer to our guide attached.



CONSULTATION £300 +VAT

- ✓ Phone / video call where we discuss your suitability and eligibility for a global talent visa
- ✓ Outline of the application process
- ✓ Written summary post call

CHECK & ADVISE £750 +VAT

Consultation package plus:

- ✓ Phone/Video call where we discuss your suitability and eligibility for a partner visa
- ✓ Check your supporting documents and offer recommendations if applicable
- ✓ Check your completed application form and offer revisions if needed
- ✓ Instructions for submission of application

FULL REPRESENTATION

CONTACT info@migrate-uk.com to get a quote

- ✓ Phone/Video call where we discuss your suitability and eligibility for a partner visa
- ✓ Preparation of application form and supporting letter templates on your behalf
- ✓ Discuss options available for expediting decision making and associated UKVI costs. Submission of application either by client or by legal representative using client's payment and provide copy of application form as evidence of submission
- ✓ Book biometric data enrolment appointment. Advice on location and premium services.
- ✓ Upload all supporting documents to relevant section within the online portal within the timelines stipulated.

IM IMPACT

By entrusting your visa application to our legal partner Migrate UK, you can ensure that your case is handled professionally, reducing the risk of delays or refusals

THANK YOU

Contact us for an assessment or a quote on info@migrate-uk.com or 01235 645800.



migrate
IMMIGRATION LAW