

A blurred background image showing two people working at a desk. One person is a woman in a white shirt, and the other is a man in a light blue shirt and glasses. They are both looking at laptops. There are coffee cups and papers on the desk. The overall color palette is blue and grey.

# Immigration Specialists for Every Journey

Guidance Document: Business Visit Visa

# Business Visit



*"I have to be very honest I have been travelling all around the world and working with many different departments. I haven't seen this precise services!!! They care about every detail, they reply really fast, they're up to date with you about all the steps. They're fast in the process in general, we are very happy to have chooses to work with them."*

SA, Skilled Worker visa applicant

## Business Visit Visa

The UK Business Visit Visa allows overseas professionals to enter the UK for short-term business-related activities such as meetings, negotiations, and conferences, without undertaking paid work for a UK entity.

### What Is a UK Business Visit Visa?

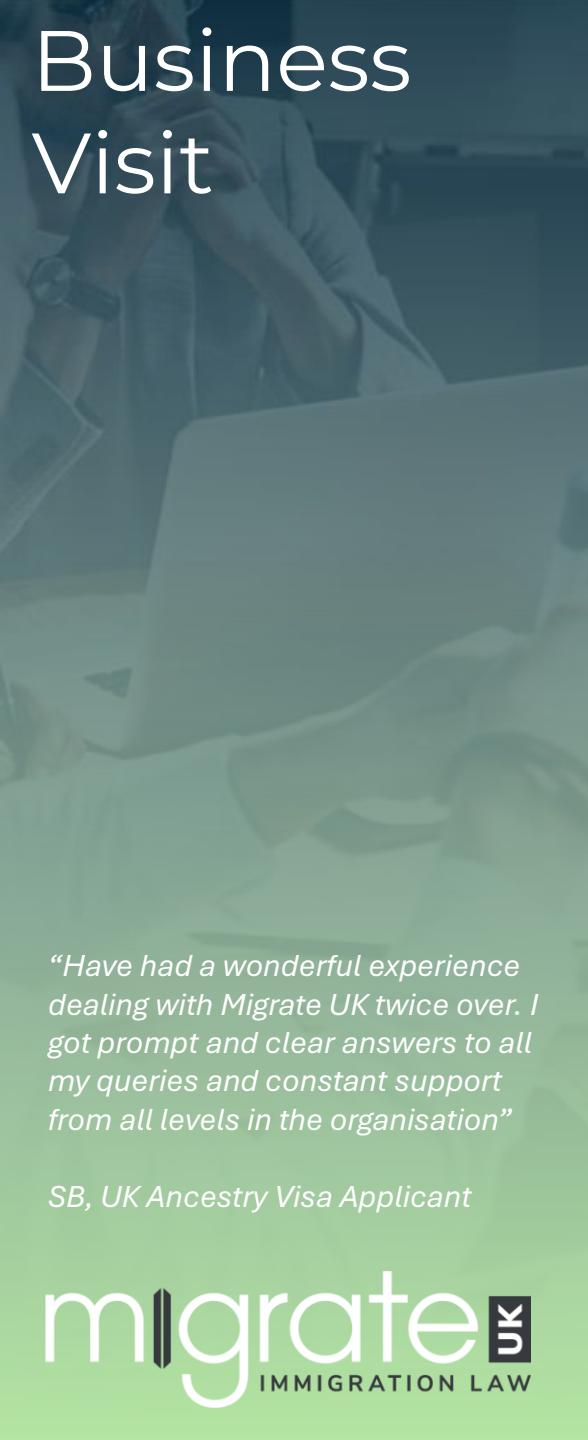
The UK Business Visit Visa is a category of the Standard Visitor Visa designed specifically for individuals travelling to the UK for temporary business purposes. It permits a range of commercial and professional activities, provided the visitor remains employed and paid overseas and does not undertake productive work for a UK business.

Permitted activities typically include attending meetings, conferences and trade fairs, negotiating contracts, conducting site visits, receiving training, and giving short-term advice. Certain client-facing activities may also be allowed, depending on the nature of the role and the overseas employment relationship.

Where the proposed activity involves taking up employment, delivering services directly to a UK client as part of a contract, or remaining in the UK on a long-term basis, a sponsored route such as the Skilled Worker visa may be required instead.

For multinational companies moving staff to the UK entity on an intra-group basis, the appropriate route may fall under Global Business Mobility route rather than a visit visa.

# Business Visit



*"Have had a wonderful experience dealing with Migrate UK twice over. I got prompt and clear answers to all my queries and constant support from all levels in the organisation"*

SB, UK Ancestry Visa Applicant

## Who Can Apply for a UK Business Visit Visa?

Applicants must meet the general visitor requirements and demonstrate that their visit is strictly for a permitted business purpose. Key eligibility criteria include:

- A genuine intention to undertake permitted business activities only
- An intention to leave the UK at the end of the visit
- Sufficient funds to cover travel and living costs
- Evidence of overseas employment or business ownership
- A clear business reason supported by documentation
- No intention to live in the UK through frequent or successive visits

If the activity being undertaken would require formal sponsorship or ongoing engagement with a UK business, the host organisation's obligations fall under Sponsor Compliance requirements.

Where the proposed work exceeds the scope of permissible visitor activities, a sponsored work route such as the Skilled Worker Visa will usually be required.

For overseas businesses sending senior staff to establish a UK presence, Global Business Mobility routes may be more appropriate.

# Business Visit



*“Amazing Team, seamless experience.”*

*SP, GBM Visa Applicant*

## How to Apply for a Business Visit Visa

### Step 1 – Confirm Eligibility and Purpose of Visit

Confirm that the planned activities fall strictly within the permitted business visitor rules. If the role involves hands-on work or long-term delivery of services, sponsorship considerations under Sponsor Compliance may apply.

### Step 2 – Prepare Documents

Gather all supporting documents, including employer confirmation, invitation letters, financial evidence, and proof of overseas ties. Documentation must clearly demonstrate that the applicant will remain employed and paid outside the UK.

### Step 3 – Submit Application & Biometrics

Applications are submitted online, followed by attendance at a visa application centre to provide biometrics. Optional priority services may be selected where available.

### Step 4 – Decision

Most applications receive a decision within standard processing times. Where the intended activity resembles employment, UKVI may assess whether a Skilled Worker Visa would be more appropriate. Corporate assignees may also be assessed against Global Business Mobility.

# Business Visit



*"I highly recommend Migrate UK! From start to finish, the entire visa application process was incredibly smooth and stress-free, all thanks to their expert guidance. Dealing with visa applications can be confusing and overwhelming, but the team at Migrate UK made it feel completely manageable. They were thorough, professional, and exceptionally responsive to all my questions, often getting back to me within the hour. "*

*MK, Skilled Worker visa applicant*

## Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Common reasons for refusal include:

- Unclear or inconsistent business purpose
- Insufficient evidence of overseas employment
- Undertaking activities that require sponsorship
- Lack of financial evidence
- Weak ties to the home country
- Previous UK immigration issues

Many refusals occur where visitors inadvertently undertake activities that fall under sponsorship requirements. These risks are closely linked to Sponsor Compliance obligations for UK hosts.

Where the role involves hands-on work or ongoing project delivery, a Skilled Worker Visa is often the correct solution. Corporate transfers within international groups may instead fall under Global Business Mobility routes.

# About us

*"We are a fast-growing SME in the utilities and property tech sector, and we've been delighted to work with Migrate UK to support members of our team transitioning from graduate visas into longer-term roles. From the very beginning, they have been professional, transparent, and an absolute pleasure to work with. Communication has been clear and supportive throughout, which made what could have been a complex process feel seamless."*

Skilled Worker Sponsor

We are very proud of our heritage and our successes. Here are some of our headlines:

22

Years of providing immigration advice, making us one of the longest serving specialist immigration law firms in the UK

9000+

Applications processed

50+

Years of combined immigration experience in our team

5

Star rating on [Google](#) and [Trustist](#)

Read more about us online via our [website](#), [LinkedIn](#), and via [HR Ninjas](#)