

## United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



### About The United Kingdom

**Capital city:**

- London

**Monetary Unit:**

- British Pound (GDP)

**Major Languages:**

- English, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic

**Main Exports:**

- Manufactured goods
- Fuels
- Food & Beverages

### Our Immigration Services in the United Kingdom

**Business & Entry Clearance Visas –**

Guidance & assistance with visa or entry clearance applications to be submitted through the UK Border Agency

**Work Permits Applications under the Points-Based System –** For foreign nationals who are not members of the EEA

**Applications for Sponsor License –** For employers who wish to sponsor foreign nationals for work authorization

**Permanent Residency or Indefinite Leave –** For foreign nationals who have lived in the UK for 5 or more years

### The British Economy

Home to nearly 63 million people, the United Kingdom comprises England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. An active member of the European Union (EU), the United Kingdom (UK) has the third largest economy in Europe. Unlike most other EU members, the UK retained its own economic system and currency.

The UK was the world's first industrialized country. Its economy remains one of the largest, but it has for many years been based on service industries rather than on manufacturing. <http://tinyurl.com/2wverz>

The UK is the 6th largest economy in the world in 2010 according to nominal GDP (current prices, US dollars) and the 8th largest in the world according to GDP (PPP). In 2010, UK's GDP (PPP) was US\$2.172 trillion or 2.982 percent of the world's GDP. <http://tinyurl.com/3to6paw>

According to the World Bank, the UK is one of the most preferred destinations for direct foreign investment. At one point, the UK had overtaken the United States in terms of both inwards and outwards FDI. On the average, the UK has had up to US\$1 trillion in FDI. That makes it the best place to conduct business in Europe and the world, in general.

For more economic data and tools for the UK, visit the web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/3g8f4ro>

### Business Travel to the United Kingdom

Individuals entering the UK will fall into one of three categories: those not subject to immigration controls; non-visa nationals; and visa nationals. It is important for business visitors to know, in advance, under which category they will fall.

The following individuals are generally not subject to immigration controls and do not require advance permission to enter the UK: British citizens, Commonwealth citizens with the right of abode in the UK; and Irish citizens. Foreign nationals and Commonwealth citizens without the right of abode and UK British Overseas Citizens are subject to immigration controls.

The UK is a member of the European Economic Area (EEA). Nationals of the EEA and Switzerland are generally able to enter the UK as a business visitor without any prior formalities. Source: <http://tinyurl.com/44nfzpb>

“Visa nationals” will require an entry clearance, regardless of purpose for visit, prior to arriving in the UK. “Non-visa nationals” who intend to visit the UK for business purposes and plan to stay no more than six months typically will not require a visa. Source: <http://tinyurl.com/y9z6abg>

Under the current visa regime, there is a specific UK category for Business Visitors. Individuals entering for business purposes must continue to receive compensation from abroad and must be able to establish that they have no intent of producing goods or providing services. The UK Border Agency has indicated the following activities are permissible as a business visitor: attending meetings and trade fairs; attending board meetings; representing foreign manufacturer by coming to service or repair equipment under warranty, etc.

The UK Border Agency maintains a foreign entry requirements tool at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/4eaneww>

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## Living in the United Kingdom

It is difficult to offer a summary statement for living in the UK, as it is made up of four distinct nations, each with its own character and offerings. The most popular destination in the UK for expatriates is London. London is the capital and largest city. It is commonly known that London is one of the most expensive expatriate destinations in the world and affordable housing can be challenging to find. Most expatriates report this challenge is outweighed by the many positive aspects of living within a highly multicultural society that offers an extremely rich and diverse cultural heritage. Further, London has many boroughs

and suburbs which are linked by a fairly comprehensive public transportation system.

## British Business Culture

The British are known for their manners and appreciate proper handshake greetings. Generally, British business people are formal and reserved, using minimal amounts of gesturing. Business dress is conservative and patterned ties should be avoided in formal settings.

Business meetings are generally viewed as a forum for debate and deliberation of potential solutions. The British strongly value diplomacy in business dealings. Direct communication may be interpreted as rude or aggressive.

## British Work Permit Process

1

Licensed employer assessment and resident labour market test (unless exempt) followed by application for Certificate of Sponsorship

2

Within 90 days of Certificate of Sponsorship approval:

If outside of the UK, the foreign national must apply for Entry Clearance at a British consulate

- OR -

If within the UK, the foreign national may be allowed to extend their current work authorization or change their work authorization for employment with another employer

## How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in the United Kingdom

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including the UK. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: work permit and visa application preparation and filing; detailed guidance on Limosa Declaration, visa

stamping and residence permit application process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the British embassy or consulate abroad and local commune may be available.

The new visa and work authorization regime in the UK can be challenging for employers to navigate. New initiatives have resulted in a limitation on the amount of work authorizations issued in a year and require the British sponsor to meet stringent compliance requirements. Thus, if your company's British office anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at [jill.bussey@goellaw.com](mailto:jill.bussey@goellaw.com) or +1 703.796.9881.

\*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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