"I am an Englishman without a drop of English blood"

Peter Ustinov
Oscar Winner,
Commander of the Order of the British Empire
At Law Firm Limited what we care about most is “fighting your corner” on all aspects of immigration law.

At Law Firm Limited what we care about most is “fighting your corner” on all aspects of immigration law. We’re an international immigration firm who provide expert immigration advice as well as offering a complete relocation package for both individuals and businesses. Our head office is located in the heart of London with our second office in Moscow. We have experience of representing clients all over the world and communicate with our overseas clients via regular online conferences. We know through experience that “the devil is in the detail” - you can trust us to be the ones to help you negotiate the tricky negotiations and regulations.

We are regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) at the highest level, which means that our accredited advisors are fully qualified to represent clients at the initial application stage, as well as before Immigration Judges at the Immigration Tribunals in the UK for Appeals and other Immigration Hearings. This experience is invaluable when it comes to representing high net worth clients wishing to come to the UK, as the Immigration Rules and Guidelines regularly change as does UK immigration case law.
We understand the difficulty with relocating to a new country, so this is why, as well as providing expert immigration advice and representation, we provide our clients with specialist tax advice and administration, and assist in relation to property and banking procedures. We also have an education department who arrange educational courses for children and adults at the most prestigious institutions in the UK.

Below we give a brief overview of the high net worth visa options available in the UK to potential investors, entrepreneurs and sole representatives. If you have any queries or if you would like to discuss the options in further detail then please contact our office and we will be happy to arrange a consultation.

As well as advising and representing clients on high-net worth visa options, we also have vast experience in all areas of immigration including Tier 4 (Students), visitors, EEA applications, dependent relatives (including elderly dependent), Tier 2, spouse/unmarried partner, fiancé/ fiancée, Article 8 ECHR, human rights, discretionary applications, naturalization, detention cases, and Appeal and Bail Hearings before an Immigration Judge.

In addition to the above we advise and represent our clients in Tier 4 (Child) Student applications, as well as visas for parents of children at school.
We also have a number of clients who simply wish to visit the UK.

The visitor visa is the most popular single route for individuals coming to the UK for tourism, to visit family or for business or other special purpose visits. There are numerous reasons why an individual may wish to come to the UK for a short period. In addition to visiting family, sightseeing or visiting on business, people may wish to visit the UK to get married or undertake a civil partnership ceremony, arrange plans for studying in the UK, undertake a short course, attend important events, visit the UK as a representative of a company or conduct research or sit a test/exam in the UK. It is important that if you intend to visit the UK that you apply for the correct category of visitor visa before entering the country as you are required to comply with the conditions on your visa. Any breach of visa conditions during your stay in the UK may result in adverse consequences; and it is therefore recommended that you ensure that your intentions for coming to the UK are adequately reflected in the type of visitor visa you apply for.
This is the most popular visa route for our clients as Tier 1 (Investor) migrants can be eligible for permanent residency/settlement (Indefinite Leave to Remain) in the UK within two years depending on their investment. This is the quickest visa route to obtain settlement in the UK.

The qualifying period for settlement is:
- 2 years from the point when £10m is invested or;
- 3 years from the point when £5m is invested or;
- 5 years if £2m is invested.

You will only need to make an application to extend your Tier 1 (Investor) visa if you have invested £2m. For investments of £10m and £5m you apply directly for permanent residency once your money has been invested for 2 years and 3 years respectively.

Other benefits of the Investor route include:
- Very limited work and study restrictions for the Tier 1 (Investor) Migrant and their dependents
- Allowance to remain outside of the UK for a maximum of 180 days in any calendar year without losing your right to apply for permanent settlement.

INITIAL APPLICATION
- You must show that you have at least £2m of your own money in a regulated financial institution and this is disposable in the UK
- The money should be held in the bank account for 3 months prior to the application. If the money has been held in the bank account for less than 3 months, then it is necessary to give specified evidence of the source of the money.

PERMANENT RESIDENCE / EXTENSION APPLICATION*
- You must show that you have invested not less than £2 million in the UK by way of UK Government bonds, share capital or loan capital in active and trading UK registered companies within 3 month of arrival to the UK
- You must show that the level of investment has been maintained for the whole period of your visa

* Please note that the rules are different for those who applied for Investor visa before November 2014.
BUSINESS IMMIGRATION

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**TIER 1 (ENTREPRENEUR)**

If you would prefer to invest a smaller amount than that required for the Investor route then there is the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) Migrant route. This route is aimed at those who wish to invest in the UK by setting up or taking over, and being actively involved in the running of a business or businesses in the UK.

**INITIAL APPLICATION**

- You must have access to not less than £200,000;
  
or
  
- You must have access to not less than £50,000 if you were last granted leave as a Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur)*

- the funds must be held in one or more regulated financial institutions and are disposable in the UK

- You must meet the English language and maintenance requirements.

* Please note: there are other circumstances whereby having access to £50,000 can qualify for the purposes of the Entrepreneur route such as those who have money from UK government departments and regulated and endorsed venture capital firms and seed funding competition, however the requirements for these are very technical and highly detailed so we would very much encourage a consultation to discuss these options.

**EXTENSION APPLICATION**

- You must show that you have invested not less than £200,000 in cash directly into one or more businesses in the UK

- You have registered as a director or as self-employed

- Engaged in business activity and created new jobs

- You must meet the English language and maintenance requirements. The qualifying period for settlement as Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) is 5 years (or 3 years if you create 10 full time jobs for 1 year or generate a turnover of £5 million) and you are allowed to remain outside of the UK for a maximum of 180 days in any calendar year without losing your right to apply for permanent settlement.

**ENTREPRENEURIAL TEAMS**

Applicants can also apply in an entrepreneurial team of two people but each must have equal access to the investment funds. They can apply at the same time for the Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) visa using the same level of funds, i.e. either £200K or £50K funded by one of the above-mentioned establishments. Each one of them will still need to pass the language and maintenance requirements.
BUSINESS IMMIGRATION

SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN OVERSEAS COMPANY

This route is for those intending to set up a wholly owned subsidiary or register a UK branch for an overseas parent company. It is different to the Tier 2 route in that you can come to the UK without a certificate of sponsorship.

REQUIREMENTS

– You must have full authority to take operational decisions on the company’s behalf.

– You must be able to demonstrate a very good track record in the same or a closely related field of work.

– You must also be able to demonstrate your English language ability.

– You must have been recruited and employed outside the UK by a company whose headquarters and principal place of business is outside the UK.

– You must not intend to take employment in the UK except for the overseas company.

– You must be able to maintain yourself and any dependents adequately without recourse to public funds.

– You must be a senior employee (but not a majority shareholder in the company) who intends to establish a commercial presence for the company in the UK.

– The company must have no branch, subsidiary or other representative in the UK.

The qualifying period for settlement as the sole representative of an overseas company is 5 years and you are allowed to remain outside of the UK for a maximum of 180 days in any calendar year without losing your right to apply for permanent settlement.
Teaching standards from institutions in the UK are among the best in the world, while British qualifications are universally recognized. The UK enjoys a reputation for unsurpassed quality in education and encourages skills that are relevant, marketable and much sought-after by today’s top companies.

Investing in your children’s education could be the best decision you ever make, and it is important to make the right choice of school, college or university. With over 2,500 private schools scattered around the UK, hundreds of short courses and over 300 higher educational institutions, it might be difficult to choose the one which is best suited for yours or your children’s needs.
Full-time education is compulsory for all children starting from 5 years old; however, private schools usually accept children from the ages of 3 or 4. There are a large variety of private schools teaching children either based on traditional UK A-Level programs following the National Curriculum, IB (International Baccalaureate) in the international schools, or offering the relatively new program Cambridge Pre-U.

If you are not planning to relocate to the UK yet, but would like your child to benefit from the best of the UK education system, there is a possibility to enroll your child into the traditional British boarding school, some of which accept children on a full boarding basis from the age of 7.

The last 2 years of school education play a crucial role, as during those years pupils prepare for and sit exams, the results of which are then used to compete for a place at university. Higher education often begins with a 3 year Bachelor’s Degree, which tend to be shorter than in many other countries. Postgraduate Degrees include Masters Degrees, either taught or by research, and most Postgraduate Master’s courses can be completed in just 1 year instead of 2 years, unlike many other countries.

For those who want to improve the level of their English there are many short language courses to choose from, such as general English courses or preparation for English language exams (IELTS, GMAT and many others).

Summer camps for children and teenagers usually combine lessons of English language in the mornings with sports, entertainment and excursions in the second part of the day and during the weekends.

Whether you might be interested in two weeks summer camp, choosing the right school or receiving a Bachelor’s Degree, we can assist you in choosing the education establishment and a course of study most suitable for your needs and demands, guide you through the nuances of the UK educational system, help with the enrolment process, assist in arranging visas to the UK and advise you throughout this entire process.
We also provide visa support for all categories of students.

The most popular route for students enrolled for short term courses is the Short-Term Student Visa. For those students who enroll for long-term programs at private schools, colleges or universities we will be happy to assist them with their applications under the Tier 4 category. This category includes two sub-categories:

- Tier 4 General Student – for those aged at least 16 years old who are coming to the United Kingdom to study
- Tier 4 Child Student – for children between 4 and 17 years old coming to the UK to study at independent schools and colleges.

If you are a parent of a child under 12 who studies at an independent day school in the UK, you can apply for a 12-month ‘Parent of a Tier 4 (Child)’ visa to stay with your child during his/her studies.

Law Firm Education Consultancy Ltd has been helping international students since 2000, securing places in:

- Nurseries
- Private schools
- Colleges
- Higher education (Foundation courses, Bachelor Degrees, Master Degrees, MBA and others)
- Short English Language Courses for children and teenagers
- English Language courses for adults
- Summer language camps for children and teenagers.

Law Firm Education Consultancy Ltd. offers to search nationwide for suitable educational institutions and courses for overseas students. Our services are orientated to target every individual’s needs and we understand that students, sponsors and educational establishments require specific attention, and we will strive to achieve optimum satisfaction for all.
When it comes to buying a property, Law Firm Ltd acts in the interests of the buyer only, rather than the interests of the estate agent, who will often strive for a quick sale.

We know how to negotiate the price and to make the deal profitable for you. We also provide visa and immigration services. If you are a non-EEA national, we can help you through visa procedures, and provide a wide range of concierge services in relation to property management, property maintenance, renovation or tenancy.

LOCATION

The main factor essential to a decision on the purchase of a property anywhere in the world is location, and the area in which a property is situated will be the best cushion against falling prices. The best profits are made when a property can be purchased in an area that is up and coming. London is probably the most appealing place to buy property in the UK, especially with regard to investment property.

London is divided into 9 zones. The city centre forms zones 1 and 2. The most prestigious areas are Belgravia, Mayfair, Knightsbridge and Chelsea. London is very much a city of contrasts though. You can find quiet, almost rural environments in nearby suburbs that possess easy access to the city centre by public transport.

PROPERTY TYPE

The basic property types in Great Britain are:

- A detached house (mansion)
- A semi-detached house
- A terraced house
- A flat or an apartment.
OWNERSHIP

Property in England can be owned either freehold or leasehold.

Freehold is a title which gives you the right to fully own the property. A freeholder has full responsibility for the maintenance and repairs of the owned property and bears all risk in respect of damage and/or destruction.

A leasehold interest means that the land is owned by someone else (normally the freeholder) with the lease entitling the owner to occupy the property for as long as is specified in the lease agreement. At the end of the lease, the property becomes the possession of the former owner (the freeholder) again. The right of possession is granted for anything up to 999 years, but existing leases on properties are usually shorter.

Houses are usually freehold and flats are usually leasehold, although in many instances one can have a share of the freehold (in the context of a flat or apartment) through a management company.

COST

All property titles are registered at HM Land Registry. The stamp duty of between 1 - 15% needs to be paid on the TR1 to the Inland Revenue and the document is then stamped to show tax has been paid. It is this stamped document that is sent together with other supporting documentation to the Land Registry for registration.

The single flat rate system on stamp duty for residential property was scrapped and moved to a simple progressive system. According to the new rules, each rate will only apply to the part of the property price that falls within that band:

- no tax on first £125k of a residential property
- 2% tax on portion from £125k to £250k
- 5% tax on portion from £250k to £925k
- 10% tax on portion from £925k up to 1.5m
- 12% tax on everything above 1.5m

When residential property purchase price is above £500,000 and it is owned by the company, the stamp duty is calculated at 15% of the total purchase price.

Properties valued above £1,000,000 and owned by companies shall also pay annual ATED tax, which depends on the property price and currently starts at 7,000 p/a for properties worth between £1 and £2 mil. From April 2016, ATED will also be introduced for properties worth between £500,000 and £999,000, resulting in additional charge of £3,500 p/a for properties owned by companies in this price range.

Lawyers will charge up to 0.5% of the property value for buying or selling, although the conveyancing market has become very competitive in recent years. Conveyancing is simply the legal term used for the buying and selling of property.
WHAT WE DO TO HELP YOU?

Our experts can provide a professional search and selection of property in the UK for the client to view. We identify what is available in relation to the client’s needs, visit the properties concerned and then draw up a shortlist so that the prospective purchaser need only view a small selection of properties matching their requirements. We provide detailed reports on the properties, including information about the probable costs involved, the area in which the property is situated, the surrounding environment, and other related issues.

We also negotiate the price and carry out the conveyancing procedure.

As mortgages are available through British banks both for British citizens and nonresidents, we provide mortgage and related insurance services.

Concierge services in relation to property maintenance, renovation or tenancy are also available upon request.
BUSINESS AND TAX CONSULTANCY

Law Firm Limited provides company formation, corporate, tax and accounting services for our clients. The company are proven experts in these fields, with a strong track record for more than 15 years, with an established reputation as a reliable player in the corporate market.

We work in close cooperation with reliable private banks and other financial providers in order to achieve maximum result for our clients. We work with individual and corporate clients from various jurisdictions that are planning to relocate to the UK or those who simply wish to carry out business in the UK.

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The UK is a very competitive jurisdiction from a tax point of view and provides a special tax regime for non-domiciled individuals, it also offers a lower rate of corporate tax. Therefore it makes it very attractive for people who want to achieve a certain level of stability, confidentially and efficient taxation.

Non UK domiciled tax resident individuals are subjected to their worldwide income on a remittance basis during the first 15 years of their residency, which is a very efficient way to be a tax resident by avoiding paying tax on their worldwide income until they actually bring these funds to the UK. Secondly, tax legislation in the UK provides some tax incentives for non UK domiciled tax resident individuals to invest their worldwide income into UK businesses. The UK has a competitive low tax rate on dividends received by individuals and 0% on dividends received by companies. The current corporate tax rate is 20% with a further reduction to 19% in 2017 and 18% in 2020. Also, the UK government has introduced a tax incentive “Patent Box” with a 10% corporate tax rate.

We also have £500,000 annual allowance for plant and machinery.

This is just a very brief outline of the variety of tax incentives, which exist in the UK and make this jurisdiction to be business friendly for individuals and corporate entities. Law Firm Limited offers a complete package of services for businesses to provide our clients’ commercial presence in the UK.
BUSINESS SERVICES PROVIDED BY LAW FIRM LIMITED IN THE UK

In order to fulfil the needs of our clients, we have developed a wide range of corporate services and we would like to touch briefly on the core fields of the business consultancy division:

– On shore and offshore Company Formations services;
– Management of companies/legal and secretarial support;
– Full range of accounting Services (annual accounts for individuals and companies, VAT returns, Payroll Bureau);
– Tax advice;
– Assistance with setting up Trust in various jurisdictions (mainly Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man);
– Bank account services (account opening process and general administration of the accounts);
– Registration of Trade Marks/ Patents.

We have a variety of clients and there are currently around 500 limited companies and partnerships in the company’s portfolio. Our company is dealing from start-up to well established clients and provides various packages and tailor-made services and is able to assist on matters which would be outside the scope of our professional frame in order to satisfy our clients to the highest standard.

Law Firm Limited has a unique approach to our clients and our professional staff will structure the affairs of every single client in such a way in order to fulfil his/ her immigration and tax and corporate needs in the most efficient way. Ultimately, we are here to help you every step of the way, and with every interaction that you will need to make in order to negotiate the potential pit falls that may lie before you.

The landscape of company formation in the UK is such that a trusted and experienced partner is vital to secure the best possible advantage, and we are willing to go the ‘extra mile’ on your behalf with our complete package of services for businesses. A world class reputation. Clients who have confidence in our ability to get the desired results. Let us show you what we can do.