



LEXEN LAW
JUSTICE, INTEGRITY, RESULTS

UK SELF SPONSORSHIP

The secret of setting up a business in the UK



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About Self Sponsorship

01 What is Self-Sponsorship?

Self-Sponsorship refers to a process by which you can come to the UK and work for your own registered company, which acts as your sponsor.

Through this route, you can establish and manage your business in the UK under a Skilled Worker Visa sponsored by your company.

With continued compliance and residency, this pathway may lead to permanent settlement (ILR) and, eventually, British citizenship for you and your family.



02 Who is Self-Sponsorship for?

This route is ideal if you:

- Are an entrepreneur, business professional, or recent graduate who wishes to set up and run a UK business.
- Currently hold another UK visa and are exploring the option of switching to a Skilled Worker Visa through your own company.
- Have identified a viable business opportunity or idea you wish to pursue in the UK.
- Want to own and manage your own company while working under your own business sponsorship.
- Desire greater independence to operate in the UK without relying on a third-party employer or sponsor.



Nature of Businesses

03

What Types of Businesses Qualify for Self-Sponsorship?

Any UK-registered business can apply for a Sponsor Licence if it meets the Home Office requirements and is actively trading.

From April 2024, licences are valid indefinitely unless revoked, surrendered, or withdrawn.

To keep your licence, your business must stay compliant with sponsor duties and UKVI rules.

If you fail to meet these obligations, your licence can still be suspended or revoked.

04

Can I Be a 100% Shareholder and Director of the UK Business?

Yes, you can be 100% Shareholder and Director of your UK Business.





Eligibility Criteria



05 Who would qualify?

- Possess experience, skills, or qualifications relevant to the business you wish to establish.
- Have a business idea or have already established a UK business.
- Have adequate financial resources to support your business venture in the UK. Note that there is no set minimum or maximum investment.
- Ideally, have a UK resident who is either settled or a British citizen to serve as the Authorising Officer (AO) for your business.
- Be able to pass an approved English language test at Level B1* (basic level).



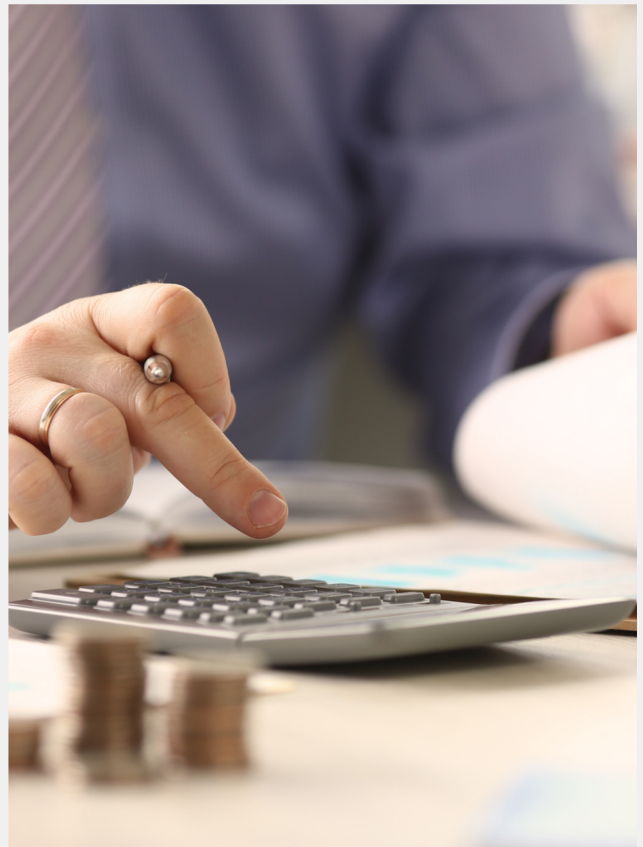
Funds and Costs

06 How Much Investment is Required for the UK Business?

There is no fixed minimum or maximum investment amount. This typically starts at £25,000 but can vary based on your business needs.

07 How Much Does a Skilled Worker Visa Cost?

The cost ranges from £769 to £1,519 inside the UK and £885 to £1751 Outside the UK , with additional fees such as the Immigration Health Surcharge, which is currently £1,035 per year for adults and £776 per year for children.



08 When Must Funds be Demonstrated?

You should ensure that you have the necessary funds before submitting the Sponsor Licence application to the Home Office.



What is Process Like?

09

What is the Process of Self-Sponsorship?

The Self-Sponsorship process involves **three** key stages



ESTABLISH A UK COMPANY

You can either create a new UK company or purchase an existing one. A registered UK accountant can assist with this process.

Your UK company will need to submit several documents, including a recent UK bank statement, Employer's Liability Insurance, VAT certificate, and PAYE and Accounts Reference Number. Other recommended preparations include setting up a functional website, company email address, business plan, organization chart, and a letter confirming various business details.

Timeline: Approximately 4 to 6 weeks.



CREATE A HUMAN RESOURCES PACK

Ensure your company has the necessary HR policies and procedures in place to sponsor you as a skilled worker.

Timeline: Approximately two days.



CERTIFICATE OF SPONSORSHIP & SKILLED WORKER VISA

After your company's Sponsor Licence is approved, you will need to obtain a Defined Certificate of Sponsorship to apply for your Skilled Worker Visa.

Timeline: Approximately 4 to 12 weeks. (Vary Case to Case)



Your Position in UK

10 What Will Be My Position in the Company?

You can be a majority shareholder, and your job title might range from Managing Director to Director of Operations or any other relevant role necessary to run your business.



11 Partner/Spouse and Children

Yes, you can bring your partner/spouse and children under the age of 18 to the UK.

12 Other Employment

You may be able to take on supplementary employment, provided it aligns with your job classification.

13 Salary on Self-Sponsorship

Yes, your company must pay you a monthly salary in line with your job classification.



Business Performance

14 What Happens if the Business Does Not Perform Well During the 5-Year Period?

If your business remains active and compliant, you can retain your Sponsor Licence.

However, if your business ceases trading or fails to meet sponsorship duties, your licence can be revoked or suspended, even if the company is still active.

15 What if the Authorising Officer (AO) Leaves?

If the AO leaves the company, you will be required to appoint a new Authorising Officer.





How Can Lexen Law help?

16 Lexen Law can provide comprehensive support:



- **Right People**
Introducing you to strategic partners such as accountants, web designers, and marketing consultants.
- **Business Plan**
Assisting with the preparation of a business plan and guidance on opening a business bank account.
- **Applying Sponsor Licence**
Advising on and preparing your company's sponsor licence application.
- **Training AO**
Preparing and training your Authorising Officer, or assisting in finding one.
- **Visa Application.**
Preparing and submitting your Skilled Worker Visa application.
- **Entry Clearance Officer**
Preparing you for the visa interview with the Entry Clearance Officer (ECO).



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