

Costs information for individuals making immigration applications specified in the SRA transparency rules

1 January 2024

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Costs information for individuals making immigration applications specified in the SRA Transparency Rules

1. INTRODUCTION

This costs information is provided in accordance with the SRA Transparency Rules and the Price and Service Transparency guidance issued by the Law Society. Those Rules require us to provide costs information in relation to the preparation and submission of immigration applications, excluding asylum applications. The costs information provided here is a guide and is not a binding quote for working on your case. If you instruct us we will provide you with a fee estimate tailored to your case.

The information provided does not amount to legal advice or a comprehensive overview of every potential permutation that could occur in every individual immigration application. We are obliged to provide you with information about likely third party costs, such as barristers' fees. As changes to these are outside our control we are not responsible for any errors in this information, which we are providing to you based on our experience and as a guide only.

2. WHO WILL WORK ON YOUR APPLICATION?

One or more of Doyle Clayton's immigration team will work on your application. The team's contact details, experience and qualifications are available here.

Any member of the team below Partner level will be supervised by one of the Partners in the team.

3. OUR FEES

Our fee offerings vary depending on the type of application we are instructed on. We offer fixed fees as well as fees based on time spent at the relevant team member's hourly rates. Hourly rates in the immigration team range from £125 plus VAT per hour to £500 plus VAT per hour, as at 1 November 2023. Our hourly rates may be increased each year. We may offer lower hourly rates in some cases.

FEE RANGE – AVERAGE STANDARD APPLICATION

The prices set out at section 5 below are an estimate of the range of costs for a standard immigration application. You can obtain a full application-specific estimate by contacting the adviser assigned to your application.

The fee range for the various possible visa applications is due to our solicitors and other advisers having different levels of experience and being based in different locations. Typically, your adviser on a standard application will be a paralegal or solicitor with between two to ten years' post qualification experience (or equivalent). All of our advisers

are supervised by Partners of the firm who have considerable expertise in making immigration applications on behalf of individuals.

What does a “standard” application typically involve?

A standard application will typically involve one applicant:

- with no prior criminal or civil convictions;
- with no adverse immigration history (UK or worldwide);
- who can meet the eligibility criteria for the immigration route they are applying for;
- using a standard processing route (not priority or super priority);
- with an application bundle of no more than 100 pages.

What does a “standard” application typically not involve?

Whether your application is standard or non-standard, we will always provide you with an application-specific estimate for your particular matter.

A non-standard application may include any of the following. Please note that some of these items may also be relevant to standard applications, in which case they will be charged for as separate items in addition to the standard application fee range:

- Investigative work prior to beginning work on the application to determine the best route to apply for entry or leave to remain, or alternative routes;
- Advice given at the outset or throughout the matter as a result of the complexity of the matter, including but not limited to adverse immigration history, prior criminal convictions or any other possible bars to a successful application;
- The drafting or review of any additional documentation which is required (over and above a standard set of supporting documents) because of the complexity of the application;
- Instructing a barrister;
- Liaising with the Home Office and/or overseas application centres on your behalf due to the complexity of the application or the need for urgent processing;
- The costs of any family member applying at the same time as you. These will be confirmed separately depending on the number and age of family members, and the complexity of their applications.

What might cause our fees to rise in either a standard or non-standard application?

The costs information and any application-specific fee estimate is provided on the basis that:

- the amount of communication (phone calls, emails etc) and other correspondence received from you or others involved in your application is not excessive;
- information is provided to us promptly and is complete and accurate;
- requested documents are provided to us in one set rather than piecemeal;
- requested documents are available within a reasonable period;
- collections of documents are set out in an ordered manner by reference to any application checklists we provide;
- multiple changes to documents are not needed;
- third party organisations (such as accountants, banks, translators or employers) provide us with information and documentation in a timely and logical manner.

Where we consider that communication is excessive, we will endeavour to work with you to reduce the volume but where this is not possible we will notify you as soon as reasonably possible of any additional fees or other costs that you are likely to incur. Similarly, if information is not provided to us promptly, is incomplete or inaccurate, resulting in us spending additional time on your application, we will advise you of any additional fees or other costs that you are likely to incur as a result.

What VAT is charged on our fees?

The standard rate of UK VAT, which is currently 20%, is charged on our fees, except where indicated below. The only circumstances where we do not charge VAT (in relation to fees) are where we are billing an individual or company residing in a country that is outside of the UK.

4. DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements are expenses related to your application that are payable to us or to third parties, such as visa application fees or translation fees. Sometimes we will handle payment of disbursements on your behalf. Alternatively you may be asked to pay them direct.

You can expect to incur the following main disbursements:

- Home Office filing fees ([click here](#) for a list of all Home Office fees);
- Immigration Health Surcharge fees, if applicable;
- Optional premium service fees (found under Section 4 and 5 [here](#)); and
- Other relevant ancillary disbursements (see below).

The visa application fees are set down by the Home Office.

Other possible disbursements for standard applications include:

- Translation fees, which are usually payable per character and the cost is dependent upon the language and length of document being translated;
- English language test fees or UK ECCTIS comparability and English language proficiency statements, the cost of which varies depending on country of application and method you can use to demonstrate your English language skills. ECCTIS is the Home Office approved agency that deals with the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills;
- Tuberculosis test certificates for nationals of certain countries, the cost of which varies from country to country;
- Overseas criminal record certificates;
- Travel costs (for example to meet with you) including rail, air and taxi fares, mileage and parking. These will differ according to where you are based. We will always try to use the most cost effective means of transport;
- Courier or similar delivery charges where speedy collection, delivery or service is required;
- Bulk photocopying charges (we are permitted to charge for photocopying charges which are not considered as “petty” and we reserve the right to charge for over 100 sheets of photocopying at 25p per sheet plus VAT).

What other disbursements might be charged in non-standard applications?

Higher visa fees will be payable for priority or super priority applications. These vary from country to country. Those costs are set out on either Teleperformance or VFS Global, depending on the country you are applying from.

What rate of VAT is charged on disbursements?

The standard rate of UK VAT, which is currently 20%, is charged on all disbursements, except where indicated below. VAT is added on to our standard services such as travel and bulk photocopying costs. The only circumstances where we do not charge VAT (in relation to disbursements) are where:-

- We are billing an individual or a company residing in a country that is outside the scope of UK VAT, which is any foreign country including countries within the EEA.
- We can classify a cost as a “disbursement” and we are not recovering VAT on the purchase invoice e.g. VAT would not be charged on the cost of Home Office visa application fees.

5. INDIVIDUAL IMMIGRATION APPLICATIONS COVERED BY THE SRA TRANSPARENCY RULES

The number of weeks it will take us to work on and lodge your visa application, as set out below, are an indication only. We can give you a more accurate estimate once we have more information about your specific application and circumstances.

The published processing times for each application, set out below, are provided by the Home Office/UK Government and are estimates only, correct at the time of writing. Doyle Clayton has no control over these timescales and applications can be subject to delay based on various factors including the Home Office’s case volume; the complexity of the application; the need for more information; internal Home Office changes (such as digitisation of systems or the closure of centres) or the need to interview you. This list is not exhaustive. Equally the processing time may be quicker if you use a priority or super priority service, if applicable/available.

The costs involved with each application generally include the following:

- Doyle Clayton fees (as set out below for each type of matter)
- Home Office disbursements (found here)
- Optional priority services (found under Section 4 and 5 here)
- Other ancillary disbursements (see section 4)

The key stages and average timeframes are found below. Please note however preparation and UKVI processing times vary greatly between different UK immigration applications and this is something we will discuss with you in more detail when first instructed.

STAGE WORK UNDERTAKEN AND LIKELY TIMESCALES

STAGE	WORK UNDERTAKEN AND LIKELY TIMESCALES
Stage 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking instructions and providing strategic advice re immigration options • Preparing a personalised checklist • Assisting with preparing the application form • Checking the supporting documentation • Advising on changes required to pack and drafting cover letter, if required Likely timescale for stage 1 – between 2 to 8 weeks
Stage 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of your application by the Home Office Likely timescale for stage 2 - Varying depending on how the application is submitted.
Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking approval decision has been granted correctly

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing post approval advice on terms and conditions as well as future UK immigration applications (if relevant) <p>Likely timescale for stage 3 - no more than 1 week</p>
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(1) Naturalisation or registration as a British citizen

Average cost: £2,800 - £7,500 plus VAT and disbursements (lower end of estimate is likely for straightforward applications and the higher end for applications requiring the exercise of discretion)

(2) Pre settled status or Settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) for EU nationals

Average cost: £2,500 - £5,000 plus VAT and disbursements (lower end of fee estimate applies to in-time, straightforward applications and the higher end for applicants whose residency issues in the UK are complex or an EUSS application is being submitted out of time).

(3) EUSS Family permit, Pre settled status or Settled status applications for EU and non-EU family members

Average cost: £3,000 - £5,000 plus VAT and disbursements (lower end if married with biometric passports and the higher end for applicants with non-biometric passports, requiring further evidence of relationship and residence in the UK. Please also note that this fee range is not applicable to applicants wishing to rely on their retained or derivative rights of residence in the UK. We will provide a separate fee quote for this work due to the complexity of these types of cases).

(4) Applications as Family member of a British citizen (spouse, civil partner, unmarried partner, fiancé(e), child)

Average cost: £4,000 - £9,000 plus VAT and disbursements (lower end of fees if financial requirement met on basis of employment income or straightforward cash savings and higher end where the financial evidence includes non-salaried employment, non-employment income, complex cash savings or self-employed income).

(5) Applications as Parent of a British/settled child

Average cost: £4,500 - £7,500 plus VAT and disbursements (higher end for complex applications, applications requiring the exercise of discretion or higher-level service).

(6) Applications under the Innovator Founder category

Average cost: £5,000 - £8,000 plus VAT and disbursements (depending on level of assistance required with endorsement process and corresponding immigration application. This fee is also applicable to individuals holding permission under the predecessor Start Up/Innovator categories looking to extend their permission or settle in the UK).

(7) Applications under the Global Talent category

Average cost: £6,000 - £9,500 plus VAT and disbursements (depending on level of assistance required with endorsement process and corresponding immigration application).

(8) Entrepreneur leave to remain applications (Extensions and Settlement only)

Average cost: £12,000 - £15,000 plus VAT and disbursements (lower end where assisted with initial visa application and the higher end for complex applications and/or requiring the exercise of discretion).

(9) Investor applications (Extensions and Settlement applications only)

Average cost: £15,000 - £18,000 plus VAT and disbursements (lower end where assisted with initial visa application and the higher end for complex applications, applications requiring the exercise of discretion or higher-level service).

(10) Applications under the UK Ancestry category

Average cost: £3,000 - £5,000 plus VAT and disbursements.

(11) Graduate applications

Average cost: £2,500 - £3,500 plus VAT and disbursements (higher end if need to arrange letter from third party regarding scholarship or sponsorship by a Government or international scholarship agency).

(12) High Potential Individual

Average cost: £2,800 - £3,500 plus VAT and disbursements (higher end if need to arrange letter from third party regarding scholarship or sponsorship by a Government or international scholarship agency).

(13) Youth Mobility Scheme applications

Average cost: £3,000 - £3,500 plus VAT and disbursements.

(14) Visit visas

Average cost: £2,800 - £5,000 plus VAT and disbursements (higher end if previous visa refusals or relying on third party sponsorship).

(15) Indefinite leave to remain applications

(i) 5-year route

Average cost: £3,750 - £6,000 plus VAT and disbursements (lower end of estimate is likely for straightforward applications and the higher end for applications requiring the exercise of discretion).

(ii) 10-year route

Average cost: £4,000 - £7,500 plus VAT and disbursements (lower end of estimate is likely for straightforward applications and the higher end for applications requiring the exercise of discretion).

The stages set out above are an indication and if some of the stages above (or steps within the stages) are not required, any fees that would otherwise be attributable to any omitted stages will not be charged. Some of the items listed in one stage may take place at a different stage in the process, as not all applications run in the same linear fashion.

COSTS INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUALS
MAKING IMMIGRATION APPLICATIONS
SPECIFIED IN THE SRA TRANSPARENCY
RULES



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