

# Immigration - Cost and Service Information

## Our Services

As one of the leading UK private client firms, Boodle Hatfield works with individuals looking to relocate to, or remain in, the UK, assisting across all categories of application under the Immigration Rules as well as applications for naturalisation and registration as a British citizen under the British Nationality Act 1981.

Key stages of our advice and assistance generally includes the following:

- Taking instructions from our client on their immigration history;
- Attending our client throughout the matter;
- Advising on the best available UK immigration options;
- Providing a list of the documents required in support of our client's chosen visa application;
- Reviewing supporting documents provided;
- Assisting our client with completion of their visa application form;
- Preparing our client's UK visa application;
- Drafting legal representations in support of our client's UK visa application;
- Submitting our online client's visa application on their behalf and dealing with the associated administration; and
- Providing post-decision advice on the conditions of our client's visa.

Please note our advice and assistance on an application does not include advice and assistance in relation to any appeal should the Home Office refuse our client's application.

## Our Team

Our Immigration Team is led by Zoe Jacob. Further details regarding Zoe's experience and qualifications can be found [here](#). Zoe will have overall responsibility for each matter and, as well as being involved in the day-to-day work on that matter, will supervise the work of the Team of Associates, Trainee Solicitors and Legal Assistants.

We will provide you with details of the experience and qualifications of the team dealing with your immigration matter when confirming our appointment.

## Our Fees

Our fees are charged on an hourly rate basis. They are therefore based on the time we spend on the matter and the applicable hourly rates of the fee earners involved. Each fee earner's hourly rate is based on their experience and seniority. We always seek to have the work carried out at the appropriate level to ensure that we are as cost-effective as possible. Our current hourly rates are usually within the following ranges:

- Partners: £595 - £820
- Associates: £315 - £560
- Trainee Solicitors: £225 - £260
- Paralegals / Legal Assistants: £225 - £270

Please note, our fees are reviewed annually. Clients will be notified in writing of any changes to the rates applied to their matter(s).

Typically our fees fall within the following ranges:

- Visitor visa application: £5,000 - £9,000
- Entry clearance application: £4,000 - £25,000
- Leave to remain applications: £4,000 - £20,000
- Indefinite leave to remain applications: £4,000 - £25,000
- Naturalisation applications: £4,000 - £20,000

Our fees are exclusive of disbursements and VAT. All fees may be subject to the addition of VAT at 20%. As this will depend on where you reside and your immigration status, this will be confirmed once we have been instructed and are in a position to confirm if VAT is chargeable.

## How long will my matter take?

We cannot guarantee how long the Home Office will take to process your application. You can see the current processing times [here](#) but please note these are regularly updated. We will provide specific advice on processing times, and available priority services, depending on a client's specific circumstances.

We will normally be able to submit a visa application within 72 hours of being provided all requested supporting documentation. Our experience is that it can take clients several weeks, or even months, to gather the required supporting documentation.

On average, a visa application takes between 10 and 40 hours to prepare. The exact number of hours it will take will depend on the circumstances in your case. We frequently represent individuals in complex immigration matters. The fees we charge for our work vary according to the complexity of the matter at hand. The following factors are examples of how individual circumstances impact the price we charge:

- The type of visa application being made;

- The timescale involved;
- The number of people applying for a visa, including dependents;
- The need for pre or post approval planning e.g. the establishment of a UK registered company or opening of a UK bank account;
- Whether you meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules, or are asking the Home Office to exercise discretion in your case; and
- How quickly you are able to provide all the requested information in support of your application.

## Disbursements

Disbursements are costs related to a matter that are payable to third parties. We handle the payment of disbursements on behalf of clients and request funds on account to cover these costs, prior to payment.

The following disbursements are regularly incurred in immigration matters:

- Home Office application fees (shown on their website [here](#));
- Home Office premium processing fees (shown on their website [here](#));
- Translation fees. Our current supplier provides a bespoke fee estimate based on the documents provided. Relevant factors are the length of the document and the language the document has been written in. Average translation fees on an immigration matter where such services are required are in the region of £300;
- ECCTIS language qualification verification fees (shown on their website [here](#)); and
- International courier fees. These are charged by our current provider based on weight, location and urgency. Standard timeframe prices range from £31.12-£60.32 for a 1KG parcel, depending on location, with discounted rates applied as the weight increases (e.g. a 2KG parcel is priced £35.55-£76.71, depending on location). A premium rate can be quoted for expedited requests.

Occasionally it may also be necessary to incur the following disbursements:

- Interpreter's fees<sup>1</sup>. These will be based on the amount of time for which the interpreter is required. Home Office guidance on fees for interpreters can be found [here](#);
- Independent expert's fees e.g. if a medical report is required. The costs here are very case specific as the nature of any report will be based on the client's individual requirements. Costs also vary from country to country. As an example, a General Practitioner in the UK may charge approximately £30 for a short note regarding a medical condition;
- Travel expenses if we are required to attend a Home Office interview with our client. The further we are required to travel, the higher these are likely to be. On average these will be in the region of £300, based on travelling from one of the Firm's London offices to another London location.

Note that whilst we are able to recommend an interpreter or translator should you need one, you are free to choose your own.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note, the majority of our clients apply for visas for which there is an English language requirement, meaning an interpreter has not been required.

All disbursements may be subject to the addition of VAT at 20%. As this will depend on where you reside and your immigration status, this will be confirmed once we have been instructed and are in a position to confirm if VAT is chargeable.

**April 2024**