



University of Glasgow offers business development support and endorsements for the [Start Up visa route](#) for prospective business founders who wish to start up a business in the UK for the first time. Your business plan must meet the following criteria:

Innovation:	Viability:	Scalability:
A genuine business plan that meets new or existing market needs and/or creates a competitive advantage.	Applicant has the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and market awareness to successfully run the business.	Evidence of structured planning and of potential for job creation and growth into national and international markets.

You will work closely with [Student Enterprise](#) to develop the proposal and formulate a business plan. This will then be assessed and considered by an experienced panel before to determine whether a [Start-Up endorsement](#) will be offered by University of Glasgow.

University of Glasgow have a limited number of endorsements to offer to those who successfully complete their business development and panel meeting – the endorsement will allow you make an application for the Start Up visa.

To discuss your business proposal and to make an initial appointment with the University’s Enterprise Manager please e-mail: marion.anderson@glasgow.ac.uk . Once the Start Up visa has been granted, you must agree to a monitoring programme which is designed to help you develop and grow the business.

How long will the Start Up visa be for?: You can expect to be granted the following length of time on your Start Up visa:

Type of applicant:	Length of Start Up visa:	Future potential visa options:
Application to switch into Start Up visa (current visa is not Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur)	2 years	Start Up visa holders will be expected to switch into the main Innovator route after 2 years if you wish to continue developing your businesses in the UK.
Application to switch into Start Up visa from a 1 st year Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visa* *If your Tier 1 GE visa is endorsed by UoG and the Start Up visa is also endorsed by UoG your business ideas will not need to meet new Start-up criteria for “innovation” and “scalability”.	1 year	

When should I apply?

- ✓ After current course has ended
- ✓ Within 3 months of the date on the endorsement letter
- ✓ On or before current visa expiry date (if applying inside UK)
- ✓ Within the 3 months before the date you will travel (if applying outside the UK)

If you apply to switch into the Start-up visa, so long as the application is submitted before your visa expiry date, you will be covered by Section 3C Leave until a decision is made and can stay in the UK legally during this time under the conditions of your current visa (check eligibility to switch in [Immigration Rules: "Validity requirements for Start-Up route"](#)).

Money required:

Immigration Health Surcharge: IHS is paid as part of submitting the online form and will cost £400 for each year of the length of Start-Up visa you will receive (£800 for the full 2- year Start-Up visa, or, £400 if switching into the Start-Up visa from the 1st year of a Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visa).

Visa processing fees:

Inside the UK:	Standard £508 (8 weeks for decision plus 7 working days for new BRP)
Outside the UK:	£378 (plus value added services)

Maintenance: £1,270 held in your name for at least 28 days before the date you submit the online visa application form. End balance on financial document cannot be more than 31 days before the date you submit the online visa application form. Dependants: Partner - £285, one child - £315, any other children - £200. Dependant money can be held in their name, Start-Up applicant's name or (for children only) name of other parent. If you have lived in the UK on a valid visa for 12 or more months on the date of application UKVI will not ask you to provide evidence of maintenance.

Overview of documents required:

- ✓ BRP / current visa (if applying inside the UK).
- ✓ Current passport – scan passport ID page.
- ✓ [TB screening](#) – only for applications made outside the UK from relevant countries and if you have been outside the UK for more than 6 months.
- ✓ If currently sponsored for fees and / or living costs or within last 12 months – letter of no objection from sponsor required ([Immigration Rules: Validity requirements for Start-Up route](#)).
- ✓ Police Registration Certificate (if current visa says you are required to register) – all details on certificate must be correct and up to date.
- ✓ English Language: You do not need to prove your knowledge of English if you've already proved it to be level B2 or above in an earlier successful visa application - see [Immigration Rules: English language requirement for the Start-Up route](#)
- ✓ Endorsement Letter from University of Glasgow.
- ✓ Evidence of maintenance: You will need to prepare documents (such as a bank letter or bank statement) in your name showing the maintenance has been held as cash funds in a “personal” bank account and not a business bank account. See [Immigration Rules: financial requirement for Start-Up route](#) and [Appendix Finance](#).
- ✓ Currency conversions: if financial documents are not in GBP they must be accompanied by currency conversions made on www.oanda.com of the end balance and lowest amount held over 90 day period – save as PDFs from Oanda website to upload.
- ✓ Any documents not in English must be accompanied by a fully certified translation by a professional translator / translation company. Ask the translation company to confirm in writing on the translation:
 - that it is a ‘true and accurate translation of the original document’
 - the date of the translation
 - the full name and contact details of the translator or a representative of the translation company

When can I operate my business? You can start operating your business once you have received your Start-Up visa (if you are applying to switch from a Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visa however see below).

Work on a Start Up visa: you will be able to undertake employment as well as working for your business to financially support yourself. See the employment conditions in [Immigration Rules: Conditions and period of grant on the Start-Up route](#) .

Study on a Start Up visa: study is permitted – see [Immigration Rules: Conditions and period of grant on the Start-Up route](#) and [Appendix ATAS](#) if the study requires an ATAS certificate.

PBS Dependants: your spouse and children may be able to apply for a Dependant visa – see [Immigration Rules: Dependants on the Start-Up route](#). If you and your partner or children are applying at the same time, there must be enough maintenance funds in total, as required for all the applications, otherwise all the applications are likely to be refused.

Switching to Start-Up from a Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visa:

You will be able to switch into the new Start-up route if you have not yet extended your Tier 1 GE visa (i.e. for the 2nd year). It is not possible to switch into the Start Up visa if you have already been granted a 2nd year on a Tier 1 GE visa. You can continue operating your business while you wait for a decision on your Start-Up visa application.

You will need to book an ISS Adviser appointment to have your Start Up visa application form and supporting electronic documents checked before submitting these. We can only assist with the online submission of Start-Up applications that will be made in the UK.

- If you are applying inside the UK you will complete the form to [switch into the Start-Up visa](#). Start filling out the online Start-Up visa application form but stop at the “Documents” section and avoid clicking on the link to pay IHS before having your form checked as this locks your answers.
- If you will apply outside the UK you can access the correct application form [here](#).
- Prepare all required electronic supporting documents in advance of your ISS Adviser appointment.

Any questions? Contact us at International Student Support:

e-mail us: internationalstudentsupport@glasgow.ac.uk

Book an appointment with ISS: Use your [Student Portal](#) to book an appointment for yourself.

If you wish to book a Start-Up application check appointment and are applying with dependants please e-mail internationalstudentsupport@glasgow.ac.uk with this request and confirm the number of dependants applying with you.

See ISS webpages for useful links to further information.