



LEXEN LAW

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 come and work in the UK for your own business without the need of having a UK Sponsor. This can lead to permanent residency and British Citizenship for yourself and your family.



02 Who is Self-Sponsorship for?

This route is ideal if you:

- Are a successful entrepreneur, a recent graduate, or currently hold a Skilled Worker visa and are considering changing your visa status, whether alone or with a business partner.
- Have identified a business opportunity in the UK or have an innovative business idea that you wish to pursue.
- Want to own and manage your own UK business.
- Desire the freedom to operate in the UK without the risk of losing your visa status.



Nature of Businesses

03 What Types of Businesses Qualify for Self-Sponsorship?

The Sponsor Licence is valid for 10 years. If your business remains active and trading, you can retain the Sponsor Licence. If your business ceases trading, you will need to switch your immigration category.

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, though it typically starts at around £25,000.
- 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. The required investment 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 £719 to £1,500, 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 must demonstrate 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. If you are a non-UK resident, you will need to appoint a UK-based Director initially.

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.



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?

The Sponsor Licence is valid for 10 years. If your business remains active and trading, you can retain the Sponsor Licence. If your business ceases trading, you will need to switch your immigration category.

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).



**For inquiries,
contact us.**

Office 41, The Winning Box, Aquis
House, 27-37 Station Rd, Hayes,
United Kingdom. UB3 4DX
+44 7391 981726



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