



Sole Representative Visa Programme

Programme Summary

The Sole Representative visa allows an international company to send a senior representative to live in the UK to establish a commercial presence. This local manager or Sole Representative will be granted entry clearance to setup and run a branch or wholly-owned subsidiary of that business.

The Sole Representative is granted entry clearance in the UK as a local manager for an initial period of 3 years, then can apply to extend their stay for up to another 2 years before grant of Indefinite Leave to Remain ('ILR').

Sole Representative visa holders are able to bring their family as dependants and access schools and health services without any restrictions.

There are many advantages to the Sole Representative visa making it a desirable entry route, but the eligibility requirements are strict. InvestUK is ready to serve as a trusted partner of the Sole Representative, assisting them and their employer at every stage from the initial visa application to achieving UK settlement.

Programme Specifications

Suitability	A senior employee of an overseas company that is intending to establish a commercial presence in the UK.
Investment amount	Unspecified but should be sufficient capital to ensure the viability of the new enterprise: InvestUK recommends a minimum budget of £200,000.
Permissible activities	The commercial presence may be a new registered branch or a wholly owned subsidiary concerned with the same business activity as the parent company.
Restrictions	Sole Representatives may not work for themselves or any other business, receive public funds or switch to this visa from any other category.
Additional requirements	The applicant needs to have been employed by the overseas operation for at least 6 months and must not hold or be connected to more than 50% of the shares in the parent company. English language skills and UK residency also required.

— Recommended —

£200k

— Investment Size —

How InvestUK Help

Success in the Sole Representative visa category requires careful planning, access to capital and proper management in the UK to ensure that the new commercial enterprise is a success and that the Sole Representative can achieve ILR.

InvestUK is highly experienced in helping clients to achieve their UK business, visa and residency goals. We cover a range of service options that both increase the chance of the application for the visa being accepted and the eventual commercial success of the qualifying business.

InvestUK ordinarily will work for the prospective Sole Representative and has a 5-step process to give the applicant peace of mind:

- 1. Assess**
 - ✓ Review needs and objectives
 - ✓ Assess background and skills to assess viability of the local business
- 2. Optimise & Select**
 - ✓ Review the CV of the applicant and other documents to ensure suitability and compliance
 - ✓ Match the new enterprise with potential local partners and relevant local professional partners e.g. immigration and commercial lawyers
- 3. Plan & Prepare**
 - ✓ Create a comprehensive suite of visa-compliant documents, including:
 - comprehensive business plan outlining the company's activities
 - full suite of the necessary confirmatory letters
 - job description, salary and contract of employment for the applicant
 - full suite of the necessary notarised statements
- 4. Confirm**
 - ✓ Provide extensive training for submitting the visa application, including preparing for the possibility of a genuineness interview
 - ✓ Liaise with Immigration Lawyers and carry out KYC & AML checks to ensure a smooth and stress-free visa application process leading to grant of Entry Clearance
- 5. Support**
 - ✓ Facilitate company registration alongside business bank account formation and opening
 - ✓ Introduction to business relationships and additional capital
 - ✓ Access to business support and mentoring following Entry Clearance until ILR is achieved after 5 years
 - ✓ Access to full wealth, tax management and education consultancy for UK schools and universities via our trusted partners

Application Process

The process starts with an individual consultation with InvestUK so that we can create a bespoke proposal for you. This will include:

- 1 The application process
- 2 The fee structure
- 3 A tailored business strategy



You should allow a minimum of 3 months for the application process, but ideally more.

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