

UK **Start-up Visa** Endorsement **Process** Handbook



Introduction

The Start-up visa endorsement, enables Regent's University London graduates to remain in the United Kingdom (UK) for up to 2 years to develop a start-up entrepreneurial business. This must be a genuine business idea which is also innovative, scalable, offer high growth potential and that offers a positive impact onto the UK market.

To apply for a Start-up visa you must :

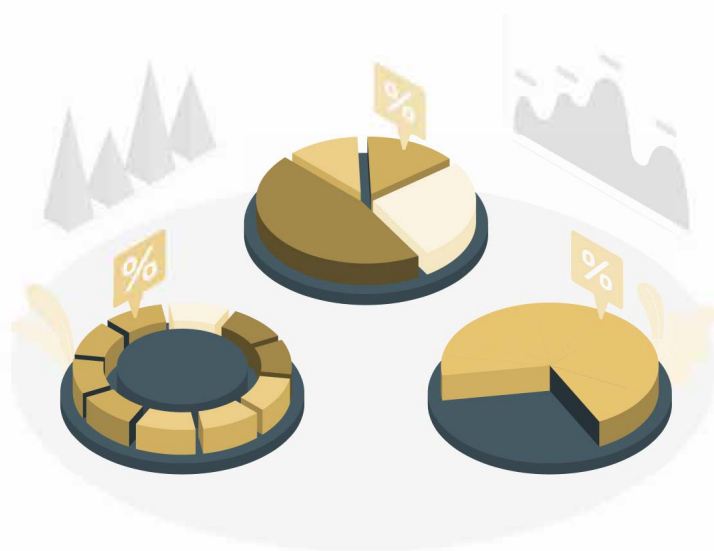
- Want to set up a business in the UK
- Meet the Regent's University London eligibility requirements (as detailed in this handbook)



Am I eligible for a Start-up Visa?

To apply for a Start-up visa you must :

- Have a recognised Bachelor's, Master's or PhD degree from Regent's University London.
- Have a robust, genuine business idea, which we will need to be approved by the Careers, Enterprise and Industry (CEI) Team (business adviser) and ratified by the Start-up Endorsement Panel.
- You must commit to spending the majority of your time developing this idea over the next 24 months, attending regular review meetings so that we can both monitor your progress and advise on any improvements.
- You must have held a minimum of £1270 in your bank account for a consecutive period of 28 days, ending no more than 1 month before your visa application is made.
- You must understand and agree to the conditions as outlined in this handbook, as well as meeting all the requirements and policies.



If you want to apply from the UK, you must begin your application process with at least 3 months left on your current visa.

- You must not have established a business in the UK.
- You must not have previously had 2 years' leave in the Start-up and / or Tier 1 (graduate Entrepreneur) categories.



Application Process

To apply for a Start-up visa you must :



If you have an Business Idea



Contact the CEI team



You will have an initial conversation with a careers consultant to understand your goals and objectives



If your startup idea/plan is eligible for a visa endorsement, you will work with the CEI team to solidify, refine and prepare a detailed business plan.



Once the business plan is prepared, you will be invited to present the idea to the Visa panel.



Present your business plan to the Startup Visa panel consisting of external subject matter experts + Regents faculty + CEI consultant.



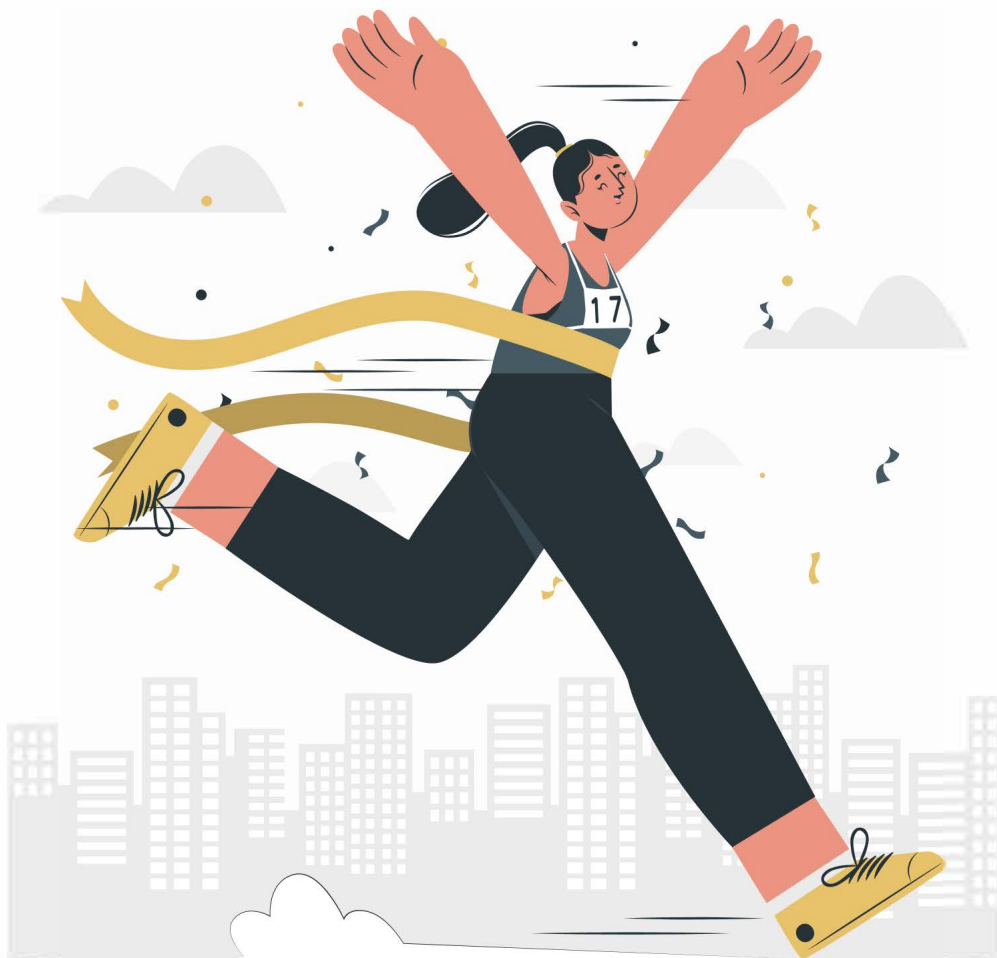
If your business plan is approved, you will then be recommended to the student immigration team for the UK Visa Endorsement. The Student Immigration team will then help you to apply for your Start-up Visa.



If Not approved > work with the CEI team to make any changes and re-present or continue with outside support.

If your application is Successful

- Successful applicants will be expected to attend a 30 minute catch-up with their business adviser every month, booking via Handshake (Entrepreneurial Appointment) these appointments can be accomplished utilising any of the following three methods; - Face to face, Handshake or by Telephone.
- Collect your new alumni key card from the alumni team – You cannot access co-working space without it.
- A formal progress report will be held every quarter including your business adviser and a member of the Regent's visa team.



If your application is Successful

- The half year review – a rigorous and robust review of your progress so far. What has worked and what changes may be required to make your business succeed. This will include members of the Regent's Visa team and The CEI team.
- End of Year Review – This formal panel (as per the Start-up Visa Panel) will review the year and look at the forecast for the year ahead. Failure to show suitable progression or failure to show significant planning for the 2nd year could put your endorsement at risk and potentially be revoked.
- Failure to book or attend the regular meetings (monthly, quarterly and half year reviews) with your business adviser could risk your endorsement being revoked.



FAQ's

When can I apply for the Endorsement at Regent's?

You can approach the CEI team at any time during the year to put in a request for an application. The panel interviews happen once a term during the year, you can apply for either as per the stage of your idea.

Is there a charge for Regent's to endorse students or alumni for the UK Start-up Visa?

No, Regent's does not charge any fees for endorsing its students or alumni for the UK Visa. It is a free and fair process assessed on the merits of the business plan and idea. The only fee you will need to keep in mind is while applying for the visa with the UK Visas and Immigration.

What can I expect during the Panel Interview Process?

Your panel (60 minutes) will consist of a 15-minute presentation and an in-depth breakdown of your business plan, which must fulfil and demonstrate the following requirements – Innovation, Scalability, Genuine and credible and offer a benefit to the UK market.

What is the monitoring process after the endorsement?

A formal progress report will be held every quarter (3 months) including; your business adviser and a member of the Regent's visa team. Apart from this, the half year review is a rigorous and robust review of your progress so far. What has worked and what changes may be required to make your business succeed. This will include members of the Regent's Visa team and The CEI team.

What is my panel interview is unsuccessful?

No problem. You can still re-work on your business idea and apply later in the academic year. You can access constant support and coaching from the CEI team all throughout the year.