

PAYNE HICKS BEACH

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT FEES

Background

Our team has over 50 years of collective experience in providing advice of the highest standards in all matters relating to Citizenship and Immigration. We provide a bespoke and personalised service.

Regardless of who works on your matter, they will be supervised either by Matt Ingham, Partner and Head of the Citizenship and Immigration Department, or Kathryn Bradbury, Managing Partner. Details of each team member appear here: [Team Members](#).

Our fees

We have set out below the range of fees charged for the majority of straightforward applications. The exact fee we will charge depends on the circumstances in your case. Such as:

1. The amount of supporting evidence that we need to consider;
2. The complexity of the case, including any adverse immigration history, criminal charges or convictions, and any non-compliance with immigration rules; and
3. Whether you are applying with dependants.

If you are able to provide sufficient evidence at our first meeting and clearly meet the applicable Immigration Rules, the cost is likely to be at the lower end of this range. If the matter is complex, we may apply an increase to our standard hourly rate and therefore the fees will be higher than those costs noted below.

Once we have assessed your circumstances, and taken instructions from you, we will advise in writing what the charges would apply in your case. A note on value added tax (VAT) – All the figures given exclude VAT charged at 20% unless specifically stated. However, charging VAT in relation to immigration matters may depend on where you live and what immigration permission you have. We will confirm whether VAT (at a rate of 20%) is payable when you instruct us and we can work out if VAT is properly chargeable.

As at 1 June 2026, our hourly rates are as follows:

Fee Earner Type	Hourly Rate (2026)
Partners	£640 – £800
Consultant	£435 – £550
Legal Director	£450 – £495

Senior Associates	£435 – £495
Associates	£315 – £375
Legal Executive	£315 – £350
Trainee Solicitors / Paralegals / Other Fee Earners	£210 – £275

Example costs for preparing application are as follows:

EEA Applications (Residence, Cards, Certificates)	£3,000 – £5,000	5–15
Skilled Worker Visa	£5,000 – £7,000	15–25
Student & Graduate Visas	£3,500 – £6,000	10–25
Visit Visas	£8,500 – £25,000	20–50
Spouse / Partner Applications	£8,000 – £10,000	30–50
Work / Business / Study (Points-Based System)	£8,000 – £45,000	15–150
Dependent Adult / Family Reunion	£25,000 – £40,000	30–150
Dependent Child Visa	£8,000 – £10,000	30–50
Ancestry Visa	£4,500 – £7,000	8–15
Domestic Worker Visa	£4,500 – £8,000	10–25
Indefinite Leave to Remain	£8,000 – £50,000	15–150
Long Residence & Other Categories	£15,000 – £25,000	15–50
Appeals (First-tier Tribunal – Human Rights)	£50,000 – £250,000	100–500

The exact number of hours it will take depends on the circumstances in your case. Such as:

- The amount of supporting evidence that we need to consider;
- The complexity of the application; and
- Whether you are applying with other dependants If you are able to provide sufficient evidence at our first meeting and clearly meet the applicable Immigration Rules, the cost is likely to be at the lower end of this range.

What services are included?

The work will involve:

- discussing your circumstances in detail and confirming whether this is the most appropriate application for you to make and what other options may be available to you;
- giving you advice about the requirements of the Immigration Rules and whether you meet the criteria;
- if you do not fulfil certain criteria, whether this can be overcome and how, which on average takes 2-5 hours;
- considering the supporting documents you have provided;
- where necessary, helping you obtain further evidence (such as medical records and bank statements), including taking statements of any witnesses;
- preparing your application and submitting your application;
- Attendance at a Home Office interview: if the Home Office ask you to attend an interview, we will give you clear advice (and discuss the possibility of us attending with you) at the appropriate time. This could be between 3-12 hours of work; and
- giving you advice about the outcome of the application and any further steps you need to take.

The amount of hours depends on the number of documents, whether they need to be translated, whether anything is missing and how long it will take to obtain the missing documents

Disbursements (not included in costs set out above).

Disbursements (not included in costs set out above) Disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties, such as visa fees. We handle the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process.

- Interpreters fees at £150 per hour. An immigration application will normally require between 0-10 hours with an interpreter, depending on the complexity of your case.
- Independent expert reports e.g. medical experts. These are not required in many cases: we will let you know as soon as possible if we consider an expert report is necessary.
- If there is an interview and we do attend with you, there will be additional disbursements in respect of our mileage/travel expenses.
- Translation costs. These vary depending upon the number of documents to be translated. A standard birth or marriage certificate usually costs in the region of £30- £50 to translate.
- The cost of challenging a decision if the application is refused – we would advise on the cost of this if it arises;
- Counsel's fees (for a barrister). In the event it is necessary to instruct counsel in your matter, we will discuss this with you and advise of the applicable costs. Generally barristers charge on an hourly rate of between £300 to £1,000 per hour depending on seniority;

The costs quoted here do not include:

- Any Home Office fees for making the application. You will pay this to the Home Office directly as part of the application process;
- Where the Home Office refuse your application, advice and assistance in relation to any appeal.

How long will my application take?

We cannot guarantee how long the Home Office will take to process your application. We will normally be able to submit this type of application within 4-6 weeks of you instructing us, but we will let you know at the earliest opportunity if it is likely to take longer than this.

Please note the anticipated number of hours and fees are an estimate based on the facts above. All applications are likely to vary and of course, we can give you a more accurate estimate once we have more information about your specific case.