

# BNO Guide to live and work in the UK

**The Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa (BN(O) visa) was introduced on 31 January 2021 to allow people who are from Hong Kong and are a British National (Overseas) to live, work and study in the UK. All Hong Kong British National (Overseas) passport holders aged 18 and older who are living in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Hong Kong can apply for a BN(O) Visa and so can their close family members (“Dependents”). Employers should be aware of the application process if they wish for a Hong Kong British National (Overseas) employee to live and work in the UK.**

## Application Process

Applicants will be required to provide a valid passport or other travel document showing identity and nationality or a current or expired BN(O) passport (if applicable). Applicants will also be required to evidence the following:

- their permanent home address in Hong Kong, the UK, Channel Island or Isle of Man
- they have enough money to support themselves and their family for 6 months in the UK (unless they have already been living in the UK for at least 12 months);
- their relationship with family members
- a tuberculosis (TB) test certificate (if they have not already provided it)

Dependents will need to provide evidence their permanent home address is the same as the applicants unless they are the applicants partner or child under 18 or they are applying after the applicant has already moved to the UK.

Applicants can apply online on the Gov.UK website and provide the above documentation. Applicants can prove their identity either by using the ‘UK Immigration: Id Check’ app to scan their BN(O) Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) or EEA passport and create and sign into their UK visa and Immigration (UKVI) account or by going to an appointment at a visa application centre to obtain a biometric residence permit.

Applicants applying outside the UK should wait for a decision before traveling to the UK. UKVI aims to make a decision on applications within 12 weeks.

## Cost of Application

Applicants applying for a BN(O) visa or to extend one and their dependents will each need to pay

- the visa application fee:
  - £180 if applying for 2 years and 6 months; or
  - £250 if applying for 5 years; and
- the healthcare surcharge to be able to use the NHS in the UK:
  - £1,560 (each adult over 18) and £1,275 (for each child under 18) if you’re staying for 2 years and 6 months
  - £3,120 (each adult over 18) and £2,350 (for each child under 18) if you are staying for 5 years.

## Length of Stay

Applicants can apply to stay for 2 years and 6 months or 5 years with the ability to extend their visa once they are in the UK for as many times as they want. After living in the UK on a BN(O) visa for 5 years, the individual and their close family can apply to live and work in the UK permanently.

If employers require any advice in relation to the above, please contact the Business Immigration team.

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