

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance From The Home Office (March Update)

Due to travel restrictions because of the coronavirus pandemic, some individuals may be unable to arrange visa appointments or travel to the UK. Due to the economic impacts, some individuals may experience difficulties fulfilling their business plans and maintaining contact with their endorsing bodies.

1. Individuals who have not yet been endorsed

Endorsing bodies may still issue endorsements. If you are outside the UK, we will need to know that you are able to make a visa application and to travel. We will also consider with all applicants whether they are likely to be able to start developing their business in the UK under the current situation. If not, we will consider delaying your endorsement of them until a later date.

2. Individuals who have been endorsed but have not yet applied for a visa

Endorsement letters are valid for 3 months. If an individual is unable to make a visa application within this timeframe, we will need to issue them with a new endorsement (using a new secure reference number) before they can apply. Please get in contact if this is the case.

3. Individuals who have applied for a visa but are unable to travel

Individuals should refer to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) immigration guidance on gov.uk for the latest information.

4. Individuals who are due to have a checkpoint with their endorsing body

We will maintain contact checkpoints with the individuals we have endorsed wherever possible. It is not necessary for these to be face-to-face and we can arrange checkpoints via telephone or videoconference. We will make allowances for the current situation when considering progress against business plans, and, where possible, discuss future contingencies.

5. Individuals who need to apply to extend their stay

For those applying to switch from Start-up to Innovator, or to extend their Innovator visa, as with the checkpoint guidance above – We will make allowances for the current situation when considering progress against business plans, and, where possible, discuss future contingencies.