

Immigration Legal Services: transparency in price and service

Our team and approach

The Immigration department at Magrath Sheldrick LLP has consistently been recognised by Legal 500, Chambers and Partners Guide to the Legal Profession and other recognised legal directories as a top ranked immigration practice. We were one of the first designated “business immigration” departments in the United Kingdom. As a firm we have three decades of experience in providing advice and assistance in all areas of Immigration and Nationality law.

We have an excellent reputation and pride ourselves in delivering a bespoke service to our clients. The service that we provide is tailored to your individual needs and the team assigned to you will have significant experience and expertise in the area you require assistance with.

Details of the qualifications and experience of each member of the team can be found in the [Our People](#) section of our website.

Transparency

As a law firm, we are regulated by the Solicitors Regulatory Authority (“SRA”). As such we are required to publish price information in relation to some of the services offered by the firm. Whilst we are able to provide indicative pricing in the paragraphs below, much will depend on the complexity and nuances of individual cases and the bespoke nature of the services that we provide.

The information below is intended to inform private individuals about our fees for immigration and nationality matters. The fees do not apply to work undertaken for corporate clients.

Basis of our charges

Primarily our fees are based on the time we spend dealing with your work and the seniority and experience of the person instructed. Wherever possible we will provide an estimate of the costs involved in a specific piece of work, and where it is impracticable for us to give an estimate, we will endeavour to suggest a working budget based on our experience of similar work.

We usually offer clients the choice of whether they wish to us to charge on a time basis or fixed fees.

Charges based on an hourly rate will include all time spent on personal and other attendances, considering, preparing and working on papers, correspondence, research, preparing file notes, travelling to and from meetings, correspondence and making and receiving telephone calls. Time is charged in six minute units which are calculated at 10% of the hourly charge.

Our hourly rates range, depending on who is working on a matter, from £190 for paralegals to £500 for senior partners.

Cost estimates

Any estimate of costs will be provided in good faith but unless expressly stated will not be binding and will not amount to a fixed fee or quotation. In appropriate cases, you may set an upper limit on fees for which you may be liable without further authority, and beyond which you will not be liable without your consent. Our fees will be fair and reasonable having regard to all the relevant circumstances.

In particular we will take account of factors including time spent, the size and complexity of issues, amount of supporting evidence we need to consider, whether you are applying with dependants, the urgency of the matter, any need or request to work outside of normal office hours, the expertise or specialist knowledge required, time spent on personal and other attendances, preparation, drafting and perusal of documents.

If you are able to provide us with sufficient evidence at our first meeting and clearly meet the applicable requirements, the cost is likely to be at the lower end of this range. If your matter is complex or perhaps involves the consideration of substantial supporting evidence, or if there are complexities associated with your personal circumstances, then we will explain these to you.

The work we will undertake and our remit will be as agreed with you from time to time. We will keep you informed of issues arising, action taken and progress achieved. We will provide periodic updates, either as agreed with you or as appropriate to the matter being dealt with. We will let you know what action is needed by you and when, and we will make it clear when a matter is concluded or when no further action is required.

Disbursements

In dealing with your work we may incur various expenses (“called disbursements”) for which you will be liable. Disbursements often include, but are not limited to, the cost of Counsel’s fees, Court fees, expert’s fees, application fees, Home Office fees, expedited processing fees, search fees, filing fees, courier fees, charges for substantial photocopying (such as preparing trial bundles), travel charges, bank charges, translation fees and other out of pocket expenses.

We will explain to you any reasonably foreseeable payments that we may have to make on your behalf. If disbursements are incurred in a currency other than GBP these will normally be calculated and invoiced to you at the published Barclays Bank internet banking exchange rate on the date of payment. Exchange rates do fluctuate (including during the course of the business day), sometimes giving rise to minor discrepancies. We will not be liable to account to you for any gain, nor will you normally be liable for any loss arising from an alteration in exchange rate.

The main disbursements we anticipate will be the government application fees and charges (including, for some applications a government imposed NHS Surcharge). These charges vary depending on the application you are making and the processing times. Please see the link for all immigration and nationality fees charged for applications submitted from outside and within the UK. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visa-regulations-revised-table>

Value Added Tax

Our fees and most disbursements are subject to VAT. VAT is currently set at 20%.

How long will my application take?

We will do our best to progress legal work efficiently and cost-effectively. We will make a point of discussing relevant timetables, progress and deadlines with you. However, in some instances the pace of progress will be determined by a third party.

On average, immigration applications usually take between 3 to 6 weeks to prepare for submission. Where necessary we will expedite preparation times to meet pre-determined expiry dates. The length of time the government will take in processing the application is the main variable. Please see the links to:

- *Current UK Visa and Immigration service standards for UK Immigration and European Regulation applications* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about-our-services>
- *Current processing times for applications made from abroad* <https://visa-processingtimes.homeoffice.gov.uk/y>

Naturalisation applications are usually considered within 6 months of submission.

What is included in our fees?

The service you can expect from us for all applications has been generally set out below:

- 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/ Nationality law/ European Regulations and whether you meet the criteria;
- Considering and advising on the supporting evidence you have provided and suggesting additional supporting documents;
- If you do not fulfil certain criteria, whether this can be overcome and how;
- Meeting with you through your preferred means (face-to-face, email, telephone, video call), taking your instructions and providing clear advice;
- Advising on the time lines and the outcome of your application;
- Preparing your application and submitting it on your behalf.
- Advising on future steps and general immigration law requirements.

What is excluded?

- Disbursements (see above) disbursements are costs related to your matter that are payable to third parties, such as visa fees, interpreters etc. We handle most of the payment of the disbursements on your behalf to ensure a smoother process but this cost is not included in the fee. We will ask you to provide disbursement costs in advance to be held on your behalf in our client account in advance of submitting the 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 attending with you) at the appropriate time.
- If your application is refused, advice and assistance in relation to any appeal, administrative review, resubmission or Judicial Review.
- Dependant applications.
- Post submission issues such as processing delays, BRP card issues.

Fee quotes for specific matters

We have set out below an indication of our fees based on types of immigration transaction but please always contact us to discuss fees and pricing in details as the fee quoted to you will depend on the circumstances of your case. Non-standard or discretionary applications will be quoted separately.

<u>IMMIGRATION CATEGORY</u>	<u>MAGRATH SHELDRICK PROPOSED FEE</u>
Tier 1 Investor – Initial	£8,000 - £15,000
Tier 1 Investor – Extension	£8,000 - £15,000
Tier 1 Investor –ILR	£8,000 - £15,000
Naturalisation including passport applications	£3,000 – £5,000
Registration MN (1)	£3,000 – £5,000
Tier 1 Entrepreneur Initial	£8,000 - £15,000
Tier 1 Entrepreneur Extension	£10,000 - £17,000
Tier 1 Entrepreneur - ILR	£10,000 - £17,000
Tier 1 Exceptional Talent – Stage 1	£2,000 - £6,000
Stage 2	£2,000 - £6,000
Sole Representative- Initial	£5,000- £12,000
Sole Representative –Extension	£7,000- £12,000
Sole Representative- ILR	£7,000 - £12,000
UK Ancestry - Initial	£2,000 - £4,000
UK Ancestry - Extension	£3,000 - £5,000
UK Ancestry – ILR	£3,000 - £5,000
FLR – Domestic Worker	£2,000
Right of Abode Initial application Transfer of ROA in new passport in UK	£3,000 £2,000
Tier 5 Youth Mobility	£1,750 - £3,000
No Time Limit (NTL)	£1,000 - £2,000

Transfer Of Conditions (TOC)	£1,000 - £2,000
ILR 10 Year Long Residence	£7,000 - £10,000
Tier 4 - Entry Clearance	£2,000 - £4,000
Tier 4 –Extension	£2,000 - £4,000
Points Based System Dependants applying alone	£1,000 - £5,000 ⁶⁶
Applications under the EEA Regulations	£2,000- £5,000
Entry Clearance – Spouse Settlement	£3,000- £6,000
FLR Spouse Settlement	£3,000- £6,000
ILR- Spouse Settlement	£4,000 - £7,000
Entry Clearance Child Settlement	£3,000- £6,000
Child Settlement	£3,000- £6,000
Elderly Dependants	£7,000 - £10,000
Visitor Visa	£1,500 - £5,000
Appeals: Initial Filing, Preparing and Attending	£5,000-15,000
Tier 2 – if not fixed fee arrange with sponsor	£2,000 - £4,000 plus £250 per dependant
Tier 2 PBS dependant – not applying with main applicant	£1,800 plus £250 per child