

# A GUIDE TO THE ISLE OF MAN BUSINESS MIGRANT ENDORSEMENT PROCESS



## WHERE?

The Isle of Man is a Crown Dependency nestled in the heart of the British Isles, almost equidistant between England and Ireland. At just over 32 miles long and 14 miles wide, the Island has a diverse social scene and is perfect for people eager to try something new: from paddleboarding to horseback riding; gin tastings to cookery classes. A strong, diverse economy has opened up hundreds of job vacancies each year for skilled workers, making now the best time to discover a new opportunity in the Isle of Man.

## GETTING HERE

The Island is well connected, with daily flights and sailings to and from the UK, and Ireland. Most flights are operated by major airlines, making connecting to further destinations incredibly easy.

**By Air:** The Island's airport, Ronaldsway Airport, is situated in Castletown in the south of the Island. Regular flights operate to the UK and Ireland including services from EasyJet, Flybe, British Airways and Aer Lingus.

**By Sea:** You can travel back and forth to the Isle of Man via ferry from the port in the Island's capital, Douglas. The Steam Packet Company operates daily sailings to the UK and seasonal sailings to Ireland.



The Isle of Man's Business Migrant Visa offers two routes for entrepreneurs and business people who wish to relocate and either join an existing business or set up a new business in the Island.

The two routes available for applicants are: **Business Migrant – Innovator** and **Business Migrant – Start-up**. As part of the application process for both routes, applicants are required to obtain an Endorsement from the Isle of Man Department for Enterprise before proceeding with their immigration application.

This table outlines the key requirements for individuals looking to apply under either the Innovator or Start-up route and can be used initially to determine which route is right for you.

		INNOVATOR ROUTE	START-UP ROUTE
BEFORE YOU APPLY...	<b>Which Business Migrant Route is right for me?</b>	For individuals wishing to start, join or takeover one or more businesses in the Island.  Must have a minimum of <b>£50,000</b> to invest in the business.	For individuals and graduates with less business expertise. No specified investment is required.
	<b>What is involved in the application process?</b>	To achieve Endorsement from the Department for Enterprise, applicants must submit an application form for the relevant route, together with a copy of their business plan and any other supporting documentation.  This will be used to carry out a detailed assessment of the proposed business venture.	
	<b>How do I apply for the Department for Enterprise's Endorsement?</b>	A copy of the application forms for both routes can be obtained on the Department for Enterprise's website*.  Applicants are encouraged to contact the Department for Enterprise first to discuss their business plans prior to submitting a formal application.  Once completed, submit your application, including your business plan and supporting documentation by email to: <b>endorsement.DFE@gov.im</b> .	



PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION...	<p><b>What key criteria will you look for in my business plan?</b></p>	<p><b>If you are setting up a new business</b></p> <p>If you are seeking to establish a new business under either route, you will need to demonstrate that you have an <b>innovative, viable</b> and <b>scalable</b> business idea.</p>	
		<p><b>If you are joining or taking over an existing business</b></p> <p>You will be required to demonstrate how the investment will be used in addition to detailing what you are planning to do with the business.</p>	<p><b>This option is not available for individuals applying for the Start-up Route.</b></p>
	<p><b>What should I include in my business plan?</b></p>	<p>Applicants under both routes should ensure they include the following in their business plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Full details of the business idea, demonstrating a unique or innovative business proposition which will complement existing market needs.</li> <li>✔ A business model, together with short and long term objectives, key customers, confirmed orders or customer interest.</li> <li>✔ Employment structure including expected numbers of employees, types of jobs, and wage rates.</li> <li>✔ Details of expected premises, including whether the intention is to rent or purchase commercial premises</li> <li>✔ A marketing plan detailing the location of the customers, for example: whether they are off-Island or on-Island.</li> <li>✔ An analysis of why the business is suitable to be established and developed in the Isle of Man.</li> <li>✔ Any other information deemed relevant.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>To apply, do I need to reside in the Isle of Man?</b></p>	<p>In all cases, the applicant must be classed as resident in the Isle of Man for the purpose of Isle of Man Income Tax.</p>	
	<p><b>What assistance is available for this process</b></p>	<p>Further information on the Endorsement process can be found here*. To get in touch with the team, email: <a href="mailto:endorsement.DFE@gov.im">endorsement.DFE@gov.im</a></p>	
IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL...	<p><b>How long is the initial visa granted for?</b></p>	<p><b>3 years.</b></p> <p>This can be extended if certain criteria are met, applicants can then apply for indefinite leave to remain</p>	<p><b>2 years and 4 months.</b></p> <p>This route does not lead to indefinite leave to remain but it is possible to switch to the Innovator route at any time during your 2 years and 4 months.</p>
	<p><b>What do I need to do when I arrive in the Island?</b></p>	<p>Once you arrive you can begin to set up your business. There will be regular monitoring undertaken from the Department for Enterprise to ensure the business is making reasonable progress.</p>	

Please note once you have secured an Endorsement from the Department for Enterprise you will need to begin the immigration process for yourself and any family members you wish to bring to the Isle of Man.

Further information on the immigration process can be found here:  
<https://www.gov.im/categories/travel-traffic-and-motoring/immigration/>

Individuals wishing to apply for either route are encouraged to contact the Department for Enterprise first to discuss their business plans prior to submitting a formal application.



# CHECKLIST FOR MOVING TO THE ISLE OF MAN

## BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- ✓ **USEFUL DOCUMENTS TO BRING WITH YOU:**
  - ✓ Passport
  - ✓ Visa, Endorsement Letter and Confirmation of Employment (For those on Visas)
  - ✓ Educational Certificates
  - ✓ Tax papers from country of origin
  - ✓ Driving Licence from your home country
  - ✓ Photo Identification
  - ✓ Birth Certificates for all children under 18
  - ✓ Children's Passports and travel documents
- ✓ Find your new home to buy or rent, using one of the Island's many estate agents
- ✓ Contact schools
- ✓ Visit [www.locate.im](http://www.locate.im) to read up on Relocation stories and research practicalities
- ✓ Use [www.locate.im](http://www.locate.im) or the Isle of Man Job Centre to fine your dream role

## WITHIN A MONTH OF MOVING

- ✓ Register for a National Insurance Number
- ✓ Register with Income Tax
- ✓ Contact the school's administrator to register your child at the school in your catchment area

## WITHIN 3 MONTHS

- ✓ Register for free with your local doctor's surgery, either in person or online
- ✓ Register with an NHS dentist, or an independent practice

## WITHIN 1 YEAR

- ✓ Exchange your EU/EEA Driving license, or register for a new license if moving from outside the EU/EEA
- ✓ Register your vehicle



**Isle of Man  
Government**  
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**LOCATE**   
ISLE OF MAN

Department for Enterprise  
1st Floor, St Georges Court  
Douglas  
IM1 1EX  
Tel +44 1624 686400  
[www.iomdfenterprise.im](http://www.iomdfenterprise.im)

To access the Department for Enterprise website, scan here:



Or visit:  
<https://www.iomdfenterprise.im/why-the-isle-of-man/business-migrant-endorsement/>