



SHEPHERD+ WEDDERBURN



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Immigration Services for Private Individuals

Information about our services and costs

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Information about our team



John Vassiliou - Legal Director

Our team is led by accredited Law Society of Scotland immigration law specialist John Vassiliou. John gained an LLB from the University of Glasgow in 2010 and completed his Diploma in Legal Practice at the University of Glasgow in 2011. He completed a specialised immigration law traineeship in 2013 and has been practising in this area of law since then. John's full bio and profile is available [here](#).

Jack Freeland - Solicitor

Jack gained an LLB and an LLM from the University of Aberdeen in 2015 and 2016 respectively. He completed his Diploma in Legal Practice at the University of Glasgow in 2018. He completed a specialised immigration law traineeship in 2020 and has been practising in this area of law since then.

Information about our services and costs

In accordance with guidance issued by the Law Society of Scotland and rules issued by the Solicitors Regulation Authority, we set out below further details on how we charge. At the point of being instructed, we shall provide you with a "letter of engagement and terms of business" setting out the basis upon which we shall charge for a particular matter and ancillary matters relating to how the work will be conducted and who is involved. Where appropriate, we shall be happy to provide estimated costs for our work. At all times we shall look to be transparent on our fees. If you do have any questions about costs at any time we shall be happy to answer them.

Initial consultation

An initial consultation meeting with one of our immigration specialists will typically cost between £350-£600 plus VAT depending on the seniority of the specialist and the complexity of the subject matter involved. An initial consultation typically lasts up to one hour.

Estimated fees for immigration and nationality applications

In some straightforward cases, we can offer fixed fees for the preparation and submission of visa and nationality applications. In all other instances, due to the uniqueness of every immigration case, our fees to represent you will be charged on the basis of the time spent by our lawyers and other professionals to undertake the work. Details of our usual hourly rates are set out below. Whilst no two applications are the same, below are estimated fee ranges for different types of applications.

Application Type	Estimated Fee Range (exclusive of VAT)
Spouse/Partner visa application	£4,000 - £8,000
Long Residence visa application	£4,000 - £8,000
Adult Dependent Relative visa application	£6,000 - £12,000
Additional fees per dependant	£800 - £2,000
Application for British citizenship	£2,500 - £8,000
Other types of application	£3,000 - £12,000

The examples of typical costs above cover all of the work in relation to the following key stages in an immigration application:

- Discussing your circumstances and advising you on your options throughout the process.
- Advising you on the relevant law and policy and whether you meet the criteria for the application you are making.
- Where you do not fulfil any of the criteria, advising you on whether and how this can be overcome.
- Considering and advising you on the evidence you have provided in support of your application.
- Advising and assisting you with obtaining any further documentary evidence (for example, medical records or bank statements) and taking statements from any supporting witnesses.
- Preparing your application and submitting it on your behalf.
- Advising you on the outcome of the application and whether there are any further steps you need to take.

It would not normally be necessary to undertake other work or incur other costs other than those described above. However, we would be very happy to provide you with a more tailored quote for all stages of your particular case once we know about your specific circumstances.

Factors which will influence where a client's estimated fee sits on the range or in exceptional cases where the work exceeds the estimated fee include but are not limited to the following:

- The client has an adverse immigration history;
- The application is factually complex or document-heavy;
- Unexpected delays or postponements occur; and/or
- The client requests an exceptional level of communication.

Our legal fees will always reflect the estimate given unless new or unforeseen factors arise. If we are required to undertake more work and additional time is spent working on a matter, our legal fees will increase. If this happens, we will provide a revised written estimate of our legal fees.

Our estimated fee ranges do not include:

- Home Office fees and any fees paid for expedited services to the Home Office's commercial partners. The current Home Office immigration and nationality fees are available [here](#). The majority of visa applicants and their dependants must additionally pay an Immigration Health Surcharge. For further details see [here](#).
- Cost of challenging an application refusal.

How long will my application take?

We will normally be able to submit applications as soon as they are ready, or as soon as it is appropriate to submit the application. We will work with you to plan an estimated timetable. We cannot guarantee how long the Home Office will take to process your application. The current Home Office processing times are [published on the Home Office website](#).

Litigation services

Our specialist Immigration team has particular expertise in immigration litigation work. Given the bespoke nature of this work, we shall discuss with you our proposed method of charging at the point of being instructed and agree such before any work commences. Our fees for these services are usually charged on the basis of the time spent by our lawyers and other professionals to undertake the work. Details of our hourly rates are set out below.

Hourly rates

While our hourly rates will vary depending on various pricing factors, these typically range from £190 per hour up to £645 per hour (depending on the experience and location of the relevant fee earner, the complexity of the matter in question and other pricing factors). All hourly rates are stated exclusive of VAT (at the time of writing, VAT is charged at 20%) and disbursements. In certain cases, including where matters are particularly complex or high value, we may adjust rates to take account of the work involved. You will be notified of all such rates in writing.

VAT

If applicable, VAT is charged at the current applicable rate. At the time of writing, that rate is 20%. If you are seeking immigration advice and you are usually resident overseas, VAT may not be applicable.

Other funding sources

Some employers are willing to cover the cost of immigration advice to employees. If you have an employer in the UK, you may wish to enquire about contributions to advice fees.

Legal aid

Please note that Shepherd and Wedderburn does not provide a legal aid service. However, if you consider that you may qualify for legal aid, there are law firms in Scotland who will provide a legal aid service for immigration work. For further information, you may wish to contact the [Scottish Legal Aid Board](#).