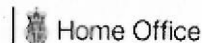




OPI 328: 2012/13 Fees – Affirmative and Negative Regulations

Summary



- Details 2012/13 fees effective from 6th April 2012
- Fee freeze at 2011/12 levels for dependants of serving Armed Forces personnel
- New category of visa fee for Refugee Dependent Relative settlement visa
- New category of visa fee for Media Representatives
- Visa waiver arrangements for certain accredited Olympic Family members
- Tier 1 Graduate entrepreneur route introduced
- Premium customer service developed for Tier 2 and 5 sponsors

Main Text

Fee Increase

- The majority of applicants will see fee increases of 2% which is below the current rate of inflation:

Short term visit visa:	Increase from £76 to £78
2 year visit visa:	Increase from £265 to £270
5 year visit visa:	Increase from £486 to £496
10 year visit visa:	Increase from £702 to £716
Settlement visa:	Increase from £810 to £826
Tier 1 (highly skilled)	Increase from £800 to £816

- There are several exceptions where higher increases have been applied:

Tier 2 (skilled)	Increase from £400 to £480
Tier 4 (students)	Increase from £255 to £289
Tier 5 (youth mobility)	Increase from £190 to £194

Armed Forces

- In recognition of the sacrifices being made by members of UK Armed Forces we are freezing the visa fee, for dependants of serving personnel of UK Armed Forces, at 2011/12 levels.
- The fee applies irrespective of the nationality of the soldier and includes dependants of British Citizens
- The fee will be £810, and entry clearance staff should account for these visas against 412240 on the Consular Fees Certificate.

Dependent of Relatives of Refugees

- We have reviewed the fees for entry clearance settlement visa applications for extended family members of refugees and persons with humanitarian protection
- Previously, these applications were classified as 'other visa' and charged at £265. This year, we have aligned this route with similar settlement visa routes, and set a cost recovery fee of £458.
- This fee reflects the administrative cost to the UK Border Agency of processing these applications. Applications from direct family members of refugees will continue to be considered free of charge under current international obligations.

- Entry clearance staff should continue to account for these visas against 412237 on the Consular Fees Certificate.

Media Representatives

- Media representatives previously gained entry to the UK through the Other Visa route.
- Those entering the UK under this route are doing so to work for an overseas employer on a long term assignment. This is very similar to what those entering the UK to work for an employer under Tier 2 are coming to do.
- It is right, therefore, that those coming to the UK for similar purposes pay similar fees. As a result fee for media representatives has been adjusted to reflect this.
- Those seeking entry will be required to pay £480 in order to come to the UK to work, and entry clearance staff should account for these visas as they would a Tier 2 visa on the Consular Fees Certificate.

Olympics

- In line with our obligations under the Olympic Host City Contract the UKBA is facilitating the entry of certain accredited Olympic Games Family Members (GFMs) by providing them with visa free access to the UK. Eligible GFM will be able to use their Olympic Identity and Accreditation Card (OIAC) or Paralympic Identity and Accreditation Card (PIAC) as a visa waiver to travel to the UK between 30 March and 8 November 2012 (the accreditation period).
- Approximately 20,000 games GFMs will be exempt from visa requirements
- The International Olympic Committee and International Paralympic Committee advises, respectively, for each Olympic and Paralympic Games on the accreditation category codes entitling visa free access to the Host City country.
- Individuals accredited under codes OCOG, S and X are not exempt from visa requirements and will need to apply for the appropriate entry clearance to enter the UK for the Games.
- Accredited card holders (excluding OCOG, S and T) will be entitled to enter the UK without a visa when they present their accreditation card with a valid national passport or other approved travel document during the accreditation period of the Games.
- The Agency has introduced an Olympic and Paralympic Games Visit Visa (OPGV) to facilitate the entry of GFM who will be accredited for the Olympic and Paralympic Games who wish to enter the UK prior to the start of the accreditation period (i.e. 30 March 2012), and for those accredited, LOCOG invited, individuals who are not entitled to visa waiver or those who have not yet received their accreditation cards. For the cost of a 6-month visit visa (£78) the OPGV is valid from the date of issue until 8 November 2012 and available to those who will be accredited and invited to participate in the Olympic or Paralympic Games.
- The Olympic/ Paralympic Identity Accreditation Card will only be eligible for use as a visa waiver for certain accredited categories after 30 March 2012. LOCOG accredited GFMs who have not yet received their OIAC/PIACs will be required to apply for an Olympic and Paralympic Games Visit Visa (OPGV) at a cost of £78.
- It is anticipated that the UK Border Agency will receive an increased number of visa applications leading up to the Games and whilst we are committed to continuing to process all UK visit visa applications within 15 working days, we have allowed applicants wishing to visit London for the Olympics, the ability to apply for their visa from 1 January 2012. Regular visitors to the Games will need to apply for a standard visit visa (£78).

Actions required to implement fee increases

1. ECMs are responsible for converting the new fee levels into local currencies using the [spreadsheet converter](#) for the locations they cover. This will **automatically** generate and send email to the central UKBA website team, who will, from the UK, update each country specific website with the new fee levels in local currencies. In some locations, fees are remitted in a designated currency, rather than the local currency. In these locations the designated currency should be used in the converter. ECMs should complete the converter **as soon as possible**, using the March Corporate Rate of Exchange, no later than **30 March 2012**.
2. The Commercial Partner websites are now set up so that customers will be routed to see the current local currency prices for visas on the UKBA country specific sites. However ECMs will still retain responsibility to liaise with local Commercial Partner contacts on ensuring signage is updated accordingly in Visa Application Centres.
3. ECMs must ensure the template format is used for both the April fee revision and **all subsequent revisions for Consular fee updates throughout the lifecycle of this OPI**

so that the websites can be updated to reflect visa fees at current exchange rates in a timely manner.

4. The spreadsheet tools provided offer a range of conversions and rounding methods. ECMs should ensure consistent methodology is used such as using same calculation (rounding) methods and currency rate.

5. All Visa4UK locations must lodge their updated fees using Admin4Visas (<http://www.admin4visas.fco.gov.uk>) by no later than close of play, **3 April 2012**. Please ensure that the effective dates given are no later than **6 April 2012**. Note: fee updates will be effective from 00:01 GMT on 6 April 2012.

6. Admin4Visas is available through the Central Reference System. There is an Admin4Visas user guide within the CRS Documentation area. If Posts cannot see the Visa4UK Administration option in CRS or are having problems in trying to update their fees they should email UKBAIG IT Enquiries (UKBAIGITEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

7. Due to problems with updating cash tills to reflect the revised fees, it has been decided that those posts that were unable to implement PBS upgrades should continue with the manual receipting process where necessary. Any concerns or queries regarding this issue should be directed to the Cash Tills mail box at cashtills@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

8. Any other questions about new fees in this OPI should be directed to [REDACTED]

Annex 1: Summary Fees table from 6 April 2012

Annex 2: Full Fee table applicable from 6 April 2012

Fees increases 2012/2013 overseas lines to take

Fees for dependants: Dependants are charged the same fee as the main applicant apart from where exceptions are shown. All dependants who are travelling must pay the fee whether or not they are included in the main applicant's passport.

Refunds: Your visa application fee will only be refunded if you withdraw your application in writing prior to any processing taking place or if your biometric information has not been taken. Refunds will not be given if your application is refused or if a long term visit visa is granted for less than the period applied for.

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