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# **MARRIAGE VISA UK: AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE**

If you are planning to bring your spouse to the UK, understanding the requirements and process for a [marriage visa UK](#) is essential. This visa, officially known as the UK Spouse Visa, allows non-UK residents married to British citizens or settled persons to join their partners in the United Kingdom.

### **Eligibility Criteria for a Marriage Visa UK**

- To apply for a marriage visa UK, both the applicant and the sponsor (the spouse who is a UK resident) must meet specific criteria:
- 1. Relationship Requirements:** The couple must be legally married, and the marriage must be recognized in the UK. Both partners must prove that they have been in a genuine and subsisting relationship. They should have met in person at least once before the application.
  - 2. Financial Requirements:** The UK resident must meet a minimum income threshold of £18,600 per year. This amount increases if there are dependent children. Alternatively, the applicant can demonstrate sufficient savings to meet this requirement.
  - 3. English Language Proficiency:** The applicant must demonstrate English language proficiency, typically by passing an approved English language test or holding a degree taught in English.
  - 4. Accommodation Requirement:** The couple must show that they have suitable accommodation available for living together in the UK without relying on public funds.





## Application Process for a Marriage Visa UK

The application process for a marriage visa UK involves several steps:

- 1. Online Application:** The application begins with filling out an online form on the UK government's visa and immigration website.
- 2. Supporting Documents:** Applicants must submit supporting documents, including proof of relationship, financial documents, accommodation details, and English language test results.
- 3. Biometrics and Health Surcharge:** Applicants will need to provide biometric information (fingerprints and a photograph) and pay the immigration health surcharge, granting them access to the UK's National Health Service (NHS).
- 4. Decision:** After submitting the application and all necessary documents, the processing time can vary, usually taking several weeks. If approved, the applicant will receive a visa allowing them to enter the UK.

## After Arriving in the UK

Once in the UK, the marriage visa allows the holder to live, work, and study without restrictions. The visa is initially granted for 2.5 years and can be extended for an additional 2.5 years. After five years, the visa holder may be eligible to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR), a step towards British citizenship.

Understanding the intricacies of the marriage visa UK process is crucial for a smooth application experience. By meeting the eligibility criteria and following the correct procedures, you can reunite with your spouse in the UK.