

UK Spouse Visa Document Checklist 2026

Introduction

Applying for a UK Spouse Visa in 2026 demands careful attention to detail and thorough preparation. The UK Home Office has stringent requirements to ensure that applicants meet financial, relationship, language, and accommodation standards. A well-organised and complete application increases the likelihood of approval and reduces the chances of delays or refusals.

This comprehensive guide from [AXIS Solicitors](#) provides an updated and detailed [UK Spouse Visa Document Checklist](#) for 2026. It outlines the key documents you need to support your application, how to meet the financial and language requirements, and other important considerations. While this checklist covers the essential requirements, individual circumstances may necessitate additional evidence.

By following this guide, you will be well-prepared to compile a complete and well-structured application, increasing your chances of securing a UK Spouse Visa.

Understanding the UK Spouse Visa

A UK Spouse Visa allows the partner of a British citizen or a person with settled status in the UK to join them and live together. The spouse visa falls under the family visa category and is granted for an initial period of **30 months**. After the initial period, the applicant can apply for an extension, and eventually for [Indefinite Leave to Remain \(ILR\)](#).

To qualify for a spouse visa, applicants must meet specific criteria, including proof of a genuine relationship, meeting the financial requirement, passing an English language test, and showing suitable accommodation arrangements.



Eligibility Criteria for a UK Spouse Visa

To be eligible for a UK Spouse Visa in 2026, you must meet the following conditions:

1. Relationship Requirement

- You and your partner must be legally married or in a civil partnership recognised under UK law.
- If unmarried, you must have been living together in a relationship akin to marriage for at least **two years**.
- You must have a genuine and subsisting relationship.
- You must intend to live together permanently in the UK.

2. Financial Requirement

- The sponsor (the UK-based partner) must have an income of at least **£29,000 per year** from **11 April 2024**.
- Savings above **£16,000** can be used to supplement income if the earnings fall below the threshold.
- If the sponsor receives certain benefits, such as Disability Living Allowance, the financial requirement may be waived.

3. English Language Requirement

- The applicant must prove knowledge of the English language by passing an approved test at the required CEFR level.
- Holding a degree taught in English or being from a majority English-speaking country may exempt you from this requirement.

4. Accommodation Requirement

- You must have suitable accommodation for yourself, your partner, and any dependants without relying on public funds.

5. Health and Suitability Requirement

- The applicant must pass a Tuberculosis (TB) test (if applicable).

- The applicant must not have any serious criminal convictions or pose a threat to UK security.

If you still have questions regarding the Eligibility Criteria or if you have any other query Just [Contact](#) **AXIS Solicitors** for guidance.

UK Spouse Visa Document Checklist

Below is a detailed checklist of the documents required for a UK Spouse Visa application in 2026:

1. Proof of Relationship

To demonstrate a genuine and subsisting relationship, you must provide the following:

- **Marriage or Civil Partnership Certificate** – A legally recognised document confirming your marriage or civil partnership.
- **Evidence of Communication** – Copies of emails, chat logs, call history, and letters exchanged between you and your partner.
- **Photographs** – Pictures of you and your partner together at various events, with family and friends.
- **Travel History** – Flight tickets, boarding passes, and hotel bookings showing that you have travelled together.
- **Relationship Statement** – A written statement detailing:
 - How you met.
 - How the relationship developed over time.
 - Your plans for living together permanently.
- **Divorce Certificate** – If either partner was previously married, provide the divorce certificate.



2. Financial Requirement Documents

To meet the financial threshold, you need to provide clear evidence of income and savings:

- **Payslips** – Last six months of payslips from the sponsor.
- **Employment Contract** – Including job title, job description, salary details, and duration of employment.
- **Bank Statements** – Last six months of statements showing income deposits.
- **Savings Evidence** – Bank statements confirming savings above £16,000 (if applicable).
- **Tax Returns (P60)** – To confirm annual income.
- **Self-Employment Documents** (if applicable):
 - Tax returns.
 - Business accounts.
 - Accountant's letter confirming income.
 - HMRC registration details.

Exemptions from Financial Requirement

You may be exempt from the financial requirement if:

- The sponsor is receiving benefits such as:
 - Disability Living Allowance.
 - Personal Independence Payment (PIP).
 - Carer's Allowance.
 - Attendance Allowance.
- The sponsor has sufficient personal funds to support the applicant without public funds.

3. English Language Requirement Documents

To meet the English language requirement, you must provide:

- **IELTS Life Skills Certificate** – A valid certificate with a SELT reference number from a Home Office-approved centre.
- **Degree Certificate** – If your degree was taught in English, provide an ECTIS (formerly UK NARIC) statement of compatibility.
- **Nationality Exemption** – If you are from a majority English-speaking country (e.g., the USA, Canada, Australia), provide proof of nationality.

4. Accommodation Requirement Documents

You need to demonstrate that you have suitable living arrangements:

- **Tenancy Agreement** – If you are renting accommodation.
- **Mortgage Statement** – If you own the property.
- **Landlord's Letter** – Confirming permission for the applicant to reside at the property.
- **Council Tax Bill** – To verify the address.
- **Utility Bills** – Gas, electricity, or water bills showing proof of residence.

5. Tuberculosis (TB) Test Certificate

Applicants from certain countries must provide a valid TB test certificate from a Home Office-approved clinic. The certificate must:

- Include the applicant's name and date of birth.
- Be dated no earlier than six months before the application.
- Include the details and signature of the medical professional.

6. Translation of Documents

Any non-English documents must be accompanied by a certified translation. The translation must include:

- Confirmation that the translation is accurate.

- Date of the translation.
- Translator's full name and signature.
- Translator's contact details.

7. Other Supporting Documents

- **Completed VAF4A Application Form** – Ensure all details are correct and consistent.
- **Valid Passport** – With at least one blank page.
- **Previous Passports** – If applicable.
- **Two Passport-Size Colour Photos** – Recent and compliant with UKVI guidelines.
- **Biometric Information** – Fingerprints and photographs.
- **Proof of Paid Visa Fees** – Receipt of payment for the visa application.
- **Certificate of Criminal Record** – From the applicant's home country (if applicable).
- **Details of Previous Immigration Applications** – If applicable.
- **Parents' Information** – Date of birth and nationality (if applying from outside the UK).

Application Process

1. **Complete the Online Application** – Submit your VAF4A form through the UKVI portal.
2. **Book a Biometric Appointment** – At a visa application centre.
3. **Upload Supporting Documents** – Through the UKVI system or in person.
4. **Pay the Visa Fee** – The spouse visa fee is currently £1,846 for applications from outside the UK.



5. **Attend the Appointment** – Provide fingerprints, photos, and other necessary information.
6. **Await Decision** – Processing times typically range from **8 to 12 weeks**.

The application process can be difficult to understand. For that we at [Axis Solicitors](#) are always prepared to provide you with legal guidance and consultation during the entire process.

Common Reasons for Refusal

- Insufficient evidence of relationship.
- Failure to meet financial requirements.
- Incorrect or missing documents.
- Failing the English language test.

To keep safe from such circumstances we often recommend our customers to consult our experts for a more seamless and risk free experience. For more details you can visit [AXIS Solicitors](#).

Expert Legal Support

Applying for a UK Spouse Visa can be complex. At **AXIS Solicitors**, our experienced immigration solicitors provide tailored guidance to help you navigate the process and meet all Home Office requirements.

[Contact](#) **AXIS Solicitors** today for consultation and guidance to increase your chances of a successful visa outcome.