

## FAQs for startups

Below are some of the questions we are regularly asked by startups, covering a range of topic areas.

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Below are some of the questions we are regularly asked by startups. They cover a range of topic areas, to see the answer simply click on the question.

If you have a question and cannot find the answer below, [email us here](#) and a member of our team will be in touch.

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## Convertible instruments

What types of convertible instruments are there?

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What is a convertible loan?

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What is an ASA?

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What are the benefits of ASAs and convertible loans?

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## Shareholders' agreements

Do all startups need a shareholders' agreement?

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Why is a shareholders' agreement useful?

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When should I put a shareholders' agreement in place?

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What should be included in a shareholders' agreement?

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What are investor consents?

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## Brand and IP protection

What is copyright?

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Who owns the registered trademark?

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What kind of work qualifies for automatic copyright?

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How will others know if my work has copyright protection?

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How long does copyright last?

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Who owns the copyright?

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What is a trademark?

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How do I register a trademark?

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How long does the process of registering a trademark take?

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How long does trademark protection last?

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## Taking on employees - from outside of the UK

Do I/my staff need a visa to come to the UK?

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How much does it cost for a Tier 2 visa and how long does it take to get one?

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How do I know which type of visa I/my staff will need?

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As an employer, what do I need to do to help an individual obtain a visa?

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Why does my organisation need to apply for a sponsor licence?

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How do I apply for a Sponsor Licence?

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What are the general requirements and what should I do to prepare the application?

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What are my obligations to the UKVI as a Sponsor?

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How do I check my duties?

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How much does it cost to apply for a Licence to Sponsor and how long does it take to get one?

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# Tax efficient incentives

I want to incentivise some of my key staff. Can I just offer them some shares for no consideration?

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How can I make a staff incentive more tax efficient?

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Are there any tax implications for staff incentives at the point of granting the EMI options?

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Can I offer some shares for free under an EMI Scheme?

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Can I get the EMI share valuation agreed in advance with the Revenue?

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What kind of situations can EMIs be used for?

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How do I know the company is eligible for an EMI?

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If the company isn't eligible for an EMI, what should I look at next?

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Are there any alternatives to HMRC approved share options to incentivise some of my key staff?

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# FCA regulation

Can I provide financial services through my business?

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How do I get authorisation to provide financial services to my customers?

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Will applying to the FCA for authorisation to provide financial services to my customers affect my business plan?

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Why should I bother to get authorisation from the FCA to provide financial services to my customers?

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How do I find out if my business needs to be FCA authorised?

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# Contact

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# Related expertise

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