



THE COMPLETE GUIDE

Bulgaria Type D Visa

Your step-by-step blueprint from UK departure
to Bulgarian Residence Card — all six routes covered.

For
British Citizens

Updated
2026 Edition

Format
Complete Playbook

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Quick Overview

A short, honest snapshot of what you're actually applying for before any paperwork starts.

Type D is NOT residence. It's the KEY that unlocks residence.

Think of it as a 6-month entry permit. You use it once to get into Bulgaria, then trade it for a real Residence Card. After that, Type D is finished forever.

What	Detail
Type D Visa	Entry visa only — 6 months validity
Purpose	Enter Bulgaria to get the Residence Card
Where to apply	Bulgarian Embassy London — in person
Cost	€100 / £84.80 — card payment only
Processing time	35 working days (~7 weeks)
End result	Residence Card (Карта на чужденец) — 1 year renewable

Common Documents — All Routes


Every single route needs these. No exceptions. Get these sorted before you even think about route-specific paperwork.

- Passport** — minimum 18 months validity, 2 blank pages
- Passport photo** — 3.5cm × 4.5cm, light background
- Visa application form (English version)** — download from mfa.bg, fill in English, sign personally
- ACRO Criminal Record** — from acro.police.uk → apostille at FCDO → translate to Bulgarian
- Bank statements — last 3 months** — minimum €3,721 (6 × €620.20 Bulgarian minimum wage 2026)

- Health insurance** — minimum €30,000 coverage, valid in Bulgaria, covers hospitalisation + repatriation, valid for 12 months

- Proof of accommodation** — notarial deed (if you own property) OR lease + notary-certified owner declaration

- Bulgarian translation** of all non-Bulgarian documents — use an embassy-approved sworn translator

 **ACRO TIMING TRAP**

Your ACRO criminal record is valid for only 6 months. It must still be valid when you apply for the Residence Card in Bulgaria — not just at the London embassy. Plan your timeline backwards from that Migration Office appointment.

 **GOOD NEWS**

A UK bank account is completely fine. Your funds do NOT need to be held in a Bulgarian bank.



How to Fill the Form

Download: Application Form for Bulgarian Visa (ENG) from mfa.bg

Page	What to fill
Page 1	Full name, DOB, place of birth, nationality, passport details, address, email, phone, attach photo
Page 2	Marital status, purpose → tick "Other" → write your route (e.g. Company Manager / Property Owner), intended arrival date
Page 3	Length of stay (From/To), address in Bulgaria, current occupation, Field 36 → tick "from own funds" + "Cash" or "Credit card"
Page 4	Sign and date



Document Translation

WHAT ACTUALLY NEEDS TRANSLATING

Yes: ACRO criminal record · Route-specific documents (company docs, pension letter, etc.)

No: Passport · Bank statements

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

Use an embassy-approved sworn translator in the UK. They translate the document, sign it, then you take it to the embassy to be certified.

TOP LONDON TRANSLATORS (OFFICIAL EMBASSY LIST)

Name	Phone	Email
Ioanna Peeva	07584 901 901	ipeeva@bulgarian-translation-uk.com
Natalia Ilieva	07951 740094	nataliailieva.mail@gmail.com
Nelly Gyosheva	07899 710416	inbox@bulgarianlondon.com
Nelina Nikolova	0779 464 8811	nelina.nikolova@yahoo.co.uk
Veliana Vasileva	07916 152150	velianav@yahoo.com
Daniela Krumova	07480 060700	dvkrumovagb@gmail.com

PRO TIP

Bulgarian Translation UK (Ioanna Peeva) offers full service: translate + certify at the embassy in one go.

Website: bulgarian-translation-uk.com

ROUTE 1



Property Owner + EOOD Company

House with land — for British citizens moving long term

CRITICAL RULE

British citizens **CANNOT own land personally**. Land must be owned by a Bulgarian company (EOOD). This is the law. Apartments without land can be bought personally — no company needed.

1 Enter Bulgaria Visa-Free

British passport only. 90 days in any 180-day Schengen period. No visa needed. You can legally: view properties, meet lawyers, register a company, open a bank account.

2 Buy Property + Register EOOD (~10 days in Bulgaria)

Buy the property first: find property → sign preliminary contract + pay deposit → Bulgarian notary signs deed in person (mandatory for foreigners) → property registered to EOOD.

EOOD specs:

Company type	EOOD (Еднолично дружество с ограничена отговорност)
Owner / Manager	You — 100%, appointed at registration
Minimum capital	€1 symbolic (€500–1000 recommended)
Time to register	1–3 business days
Total cost	~€400–800 including legal fees

You leave with: Company Registration Certificate, Manager Appointment Document, UIC number.

3 Leave Bulgaria

Must exit before 90 days run out. Return to UK. You cannot apply for Type D from inside Bulgaria.

4 Prepare Documents in UK

- Get ACRO criminal record → apostille at FCDO → translate to Bulgarian
- Get EOOD company documents → translate to Bulgarian
- 3 months bank statements (showing min €3,721 / ~£3,200)
- Get Bulgarian health insurance (min €30,000 coverage)
- Notarial deed of property (proof of accommodation)
- Fill visa application form (ENG version) + passport photo

5 Apply for Type D at Bulgarian Embassy London

186–188 Queen's Gate, SW7 5HL · Mon–Fri 9:00am–1:30pm · Book via bgconsullondon.co.uk

Attend in person (mandatory). Personal interview (mandatory). Submit all documents + 1 copy each. Pay €100 / £84.80 by card.

Wait: 35 working days (~7 weeks).

6 Receive Type D Visa

Visa sticker in passport · 6 months validity · Multiple entry · This is your entry permit — not residence.

7 Enter Bulgaria with Type D

Enter as a future resident, not a tourist. Go to the Migration Office as soon as possible — do NOT wait. You have 90 days from entry to apply for residence.

8 Apply for Temporary Residence at Migration

Where: Migration Directorate (Дирекция Миграция) — in person.

Bring: Passport + Type D visa, ACRO (apostilled + translated), EOOD documents (translated), notarial deed of property, bank statements, health insurance, application form (in Bulgarian).

At the office: submit documents, biometrics taken (photo + fingerprints), processing ~14 days.

9

Receive Residence Card

You get three things:

1. **Temporary Residence Permit** — the official decision (1 year)
2. **Карта на чужденец** — physical plastic card (your Bulgarian ID)
3. **ЛНЧ** (Личен Номер на Чужденец) — your Bulgarian personal number, printed on the card

With this card you can: live in Bulgaria full time (no 90/180 limits), get KEP (electronic signature), open personal bank accounts, sign contracts, access healthcare, run your EOOD, travel Schengen 90/180, use all government services.

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Renew Every Year

Renew at Migration Directorate in Bulgaria before the card expires. Same documents as original. No embassy trip. No new Type D — ever.

ROUTE 1 FULL SUMMARY

Enter Bulgaria visa-free (British passport)

↓

Buy house → Notary in person

Register EOOD → Notary + bank in person

↓

Leave Bulgaria → Back to UK

↓

Translate docs → ACRO apostille → Health insurance

↓

Apply Type D at Bulgarian Embassy London

↓

Wait 35 working days

↓

Enter Bulgaria with Type D visa

↓

Migration Office ASAP (within 90 days)

↓

Submit documents + biometrics

↓

Receive Карта на чужденец (1 year)

↓

Renew annually at Migration in Bulgaria

ROUTE 2



Employment

For someone with a confirmed job at a Bulgarian employer

⚠️ KEY RULES

Bulgaria does NOT issue open work permits. You must have a confirmed job BEFORE applying. The employer secures the work permit on your behalf. No "finding a job after arrival."

WHAT THE EMPLOYER MUST DO FIRST

Obtain work permit approval from the Bulgarian Employment Agency (Ministry of Labour).

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR TYPE D (ON TOP OF COMMON DOCS)

- Work permit issued by Bulgarian Employment Agency
- Employment contract with Bulgarian employer

ROUTE SUMMARY

Find Bulgarian employer



Employer applies for work permit (Ministry of Labour)



Employer gets work permit approval



Apply Type D at Bulgarian Embassy London



Enter Bulgaria



Apply for Temporary Residence at Migration



Receive Карта на чужденец (1 year)

ROUTE 3



Pensioner

For British citizens receiving a UK state or private pension

REQUIREMENTS

Receiving a pension (state or private) · sufficient funds to support yourself · accommodation in Bulgaria.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR TYPE D

- Official pension letter — apostilled by FCDO → translated to Bulgarian
- Bank statements showing pension income

NOTES

No work rights on this permit. But this is one of the simplest routes — no company needed, no employment needed, just proof of income and a place to live.

ROUTE 4



Property Owner — Apartment Only

Buying an apartment (no land, no garden) — no company needed

KEY RULE

Apartments can be bought **personally** — no EOOD company needed. Only land requires a company.

REQUIREMENTS

Own property in Bulgaria of any value (standard route). For the **enhanced route**: property worth minimum **€307,000** — gives you a direct residence permit route.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR TYPE D

- Notarial deed of property (in your name personally)
- No company documents needed

ROUTE SUMMARY

Buy apartment in Bulgaria
Notary signs deed in your name personally
↓
Return to UK
↓
Apply Type D at Bulgarian Embassy London
↓
Enter Bulgaria
↓
Apply for Temporary Residence at Migration
↓
Receive Карта на чужденец (1 year)

ROUTE 5

Student

Enrolled in a Bulgarian university full time

REQUIREMENTS

Accepted by a licensed Bulgarian educational institution · full-time study only (no part-time, no language courses).

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR TYPE D

- Enrolment letter from Bulgarian university

- Enrolment letter from Bulgarian Ministry of Education

- Bank statements or sponsor letter covering tuition

ROUTE 6



Family Reunification

Family members of someone already resident in Bulgaria

REQUIREMENTS

Sponsor must already hold legal residence or be a Bulgarian citizen. Family = spouse, children under 18, dependent parents.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR TYPE D

- Family gathering letter issued by Migration Directorate in Bulgaria

- Marriage certificate / birth certificate (apostilled + translated)

- Sponsor's residence card copy

- Declaration by sponsor to cover financial expenses



Long-Term Pathway

Type D is just step one. Here's the full trajectory from first visa to EU passport.

Type D Visa (6 months)



Карта на чужденец – Temporary Residence (1 year, renew annually)



After 5 years → Long-Term Residence (5-year card)



Permanent Residence



Bulgarian Citizenship → EU Passport

PERMANENT RESIDENCE QUALIFIER

To qualify for Permanent Residence you must have lived in Bulgaria for **30 months within any 5-year period**. Half your time, essentially.



Costs Summary

Item	Cost
Type D visa fee	€100 / £84.80
ACRO criminal record	~£50
FCDO apostille	~£40
Bulgarian translation (per doc)	~£50–100
Health insurance (12 months)	~£200–400
EOOD company registration	~€400–800
Notary fees (property purchase)	~1–3% of property value
Migration Directorate fee	~€15–50 admin



Health Insurance

FIRST TRIP (VISA-FREE 90 DAYS — COMPANY + PROPERTY)

Normal UK travel insurance is fine. No special Bulgarian insurance needed for tourist entry.

FOR TYPE D VISA APPLICATION

- Minimum **€30,000 coverage**
- Must cover medical expenses, hospitalisation, repatriation
- Must be from a Bulgarian-licensed insurer
- Buy online from UK before embassy appointment
- Receive policy by email → print → attach to application

⚠ WATCH OUT

International plans like SafetyWing or Cigna Global may NOT be accepted by the Bulgarian Migration Office. Always use a Bulgarian-licensed insurer to be safe.

BEST PROVIDERS (BUY ONLINE, ACCEPTED BY EMBASSY)

Provider	Notes
bg.euromedins.com	Official Bulgarian broker, policy issued within 4 hours, accepted by all Bulgarian consulates
Allianz Bulgaria	Major insurer, widely accepted
Uniq Bulgaria	Covers all requirements including repatriation
AXA Global Healthcare	International option — verify Bulgarian acceptance first

TYPICAL COST

~€30–€80 per month depending on age and coverage level. Buy for **12 months minimum** — must cover the full residence period, not just the 6-month visa.



Critical Rules to Remember

The non-negotiables. Print this page if you print nothing else.

- Cannot apply for Type D from inside Bulgaria — must apply from UK
- Cannot get Карта на чужденец on 90-day visa-free entry — Type D is mandatory
- British citizens cannot own land personally — EOOD required for houses with land
- Must go to Bulgarian notary in person for property purchase and company registration
- ACRO must still be valid when applying for Residence Card in Bulgaria — not just at embassy
- Bank statements minimum €3,721 (6 × Bulgarian minimum wage 2026)
- Health insurance minimum €30,000 coverage, 12 months duration
- Apply at Migration Office as soon as you enter on Type D — do not wait
- Type D is used once — after Карта на чужденец is issued, Type D is finished forever
- Renew Карта на чужденец every year at Migration in Bulgaria — not at the embassy



Bulgaria Entry Rules by Nationality

Entry depends on EU status and visa agreements. Not every country has the same rights.

European Union Citizens

All 27 EU member states

- Free entry · No 90-day limit · Can live and work (with registration) · Full freedom of movement.



Visa-Free (Non-EU)

United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea

- No visa required · ⌚ Stay up to 90 days in any 180-day period. Developed / low-risk countries.



● Non-EU Europe — Special Case

Norway, Switzerland, Serbia, United Kingdom

Not EU members, but  visa-free entry ·  90-day limit. Many are part of Schengen or similar agreements.

● Visa Required

India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Syria

 Must apply for visa before travel ·  Cannot enter freely.

● European Countries That Still Need a Visa

Russia, Belarus, Turkey

 Located in/near Europe ·  Still require a visa despite geography.

KEY CONTACTS

186–188 Queen's Gate, SW7 5HL

Phone 020 7581 3144

Email consular.london@mfa.bg

Opening hours Mon–Fri 9:00am–1:30pm

Book appointment bgconsullondon.co.uk

Visa forms mfa.bg/en/services-travel/consular-services/travel-bulgaria/visa-application-forms

ACRO criminal record acro.police.uk

FCDO apostille gov.uk/get-document-legalised

This guide is for informational purposes and reflects rules as of 2026.
Always verify current requirements at the Bulgarian Embassy London before applying.