

To work in the UK a person must have a valid visa that does not say 'prohibited' on it. When entering England on military orders, the visa our family members acquire is the correct one.

The applicant can apply online at HM Revenue and Customs for a National Insurance Number; this is similar to our SSN. Citizens of the UK receive these numbers at the age of 16, and not before. They are used to individually identify a person, and tax them when they work.

The applicant can apply for the NIN (National Insurance Number), and then apply for a job before the number arrives. This person is required to pay UK taxes, and not US taxes (there are a few exceptions to this rule, but none that the average spouse would fall under).

If a spouse would like to start their own business here in the UK, an application for an NIN is also required.

The NIN takes about 6 weeks to arrive, but the spouse can start working the second they arrive as long as the NIN has been applied for.

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ni/intro/number.htm>