



Applicant's guide to applying for a UK Skilled Worker visa

1. Check you need a UK visa

- Before you apply, first [check if you need a visa](#) and what type you need.
- You must have a job offer from [an approved UK employer](#) before you apply for a Skilled Worker visa. Approved employers are also known as 'sponsors'.
- If your employer is not currently approved, they can [apply for a sponsor licence](#) if they're eligible.
- Irish citizens do not require a visa.

2. Check your Skilled Worker visa eligibility

- Use this online tool to check your Skilled Worker visa eligibility**
- To apply for a Skilled Worker visa, you must have a 'certificate of sponsorship' from your employer.
- To find out if your job is eligible, ask your employer for your 4-digit occupation code. When you have your code, view the [table of eligible jobs](#) to see if it's included.
- You must prove you can speak, read, write and understand English to a [specific level](#).
- You'll usually need to be paid at least £25,600 per year, £10.10 per hour, or the '[going rate](#)' for your job, whichever is highest.



3. Apply

- You must [apply for your visa online](#) within 3 months of getting your certificate of sponsorship.
- You'll need to [prove your identity](#) and provide documents to show your eligibility. How you do this depends on where you're from and what type of passport you have.
- You'll either go to an appointment at a visa application centre or use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' smartphone app. You'll find this out when you start your application.
- Once you've applied online, proved your identity and provided your documents, you'll usually get a decision within 3 weeks if you're outside the UK and within 8 weeks if you're inside the UK.

4. Costs

- When you apply for a Skilled Worker visa, you'll need to have enough money to:
 - Pay the [application fee](#) – the standard fee ranges from £610 to £1,408 depending on your circumstances. You'll pay a lower application fee if your job is on the shortage occupation list.
 - Pay the [healthcare surcharge](#) – this is usually £624 per year
 - Support yourself when you arrive in the UK – you'll usually need to have at least £1,270 available (unless you're exempt)
- Your partner and children can also apply and will also need to pay costs.
- You'll be told how much you need to pay when you apply.