



Home Office

# Immigration Rules

## Appendix V

### **Immigration Rules for visitors**

This is a consolidated version of the current Immigration Rules.

## **APPENDIX V: immigration Rules for visitors**

### **Introduction**

A visitor is a person who is coming to the UK, usually for up to six months, for a temporary purpose, for example as a tourist, to visit friends or family or to carry out a business activity.

Visitors cannot work or study in the UK unless this is allowed by the permitted activities that are set out in these Visitor Rules.

Each visitor must meet the requirements of these Visitor Rules, even if they are travelling as, for example, a family group, a tour group or a school party.

Applications are decided based on the information provided by the applicant and any other relevant circumstances at the date of decision.

Definitions of terms and phrases used in these Visitor Rules are in Appendix 1. Defined words are in italics.

### **PART V1. Entry to the UK**

#### **Types of permission to enter the UK**

V 1.1 A person who wishes to enter the UK as a visitor must have permission to do so. That permission may be granted as a *visit visa* or as *leave to enter*.

#### **Who needs a visit visa**

V 1.2 A *visa national* must obtain a *visit visa* before they arrive in the UK. Appendix 2 sets out who is a *visa national*. A *visa national* who arrives in the UK without a *visit visa* will be refused *leave to enter*.

V 1.3 A *non-visa national* may apply for a *visit visa*, but is not required to unless they are:

- (a) visiting the UK to marry or to form a civil partnership, or to give notice of this; or
- (b) seeking to visit the UK for more than 6 months.

#### **Who can apply for leave to enter on arrival**

V 1.4 A *non-visa national* may apply for *leave to enter* as a visitor on arrival at the UK border, unless V 1.3 (a) or (b) applies.

#### **Types and lengths of visit visa and leave to enter or remain**

V 1.5 There are four types of visitor routes which depend on the purpose of the visit:

	<b>Types of visit visa/Leave to enter or remain</b>	<b>Visitors of this type can:</b>	<b>The maximum length of stay that can be granted for each type of visitor:</b>
(a)	Visit (standard)	Do the permitted activities in Appendix 3 except visitors entering under the <i>Approved Destination Status</i> agreement who may only do the activities in paragraph 3 of Appendix 3 to these Rules;	up to 6 months, except: (i) a visitor who is coming to the UK for private medical treatment may be granted a <i>visit visa</i> of up to 11 months; or (ii) an academic, who is employed by an overseas institution and is carrying out the specific permitted activities paragraph 12 of Appendix 3, of these Rules, along with their spouse or partner and children, may be granted a <i>visit visa</i> of up to 12 months; or (iii) a visitor under the Approved Destination Status Agreement ( <i>ADS Agreement</i> ) may be granted a <i>visit visa</i> for a period of up to 30 days.
(b)	Marriage / civil partnership visit	Visit to marry or to form a civil partnership, or to give notice of this, in the UK, and do the permitted activities in Appendix 3;	up to 6 months.
(c)	Permitted Paid Engagements (PPE) visit	Do the paid engagements in Appendix 4 and do the permitted activities in Appendix 3;	up to 1 month.
(d)	Transit visit	Transit the UK.	up to 48 hours, except for <i>leave to enter</i> as a transit visitor under the Transit Without Visa Scheme which may be granted until 23:59 hours on the next day after the day the applicant arrived.

V 1.6 Within the period for which the *visit visa* is valid, a visitor may enter and leave the UK multiple times, unless the *visit visa* is endorsed as a single- or dual-entry visa.

## PART V2. Making an application for a visit visa

### How to apply for a visit visa

V 2.1 An application for a *visit visa* must be made while the applicant is outside the UK.

- V 2.2 To apply for a *visit visa* the applicant must:
- (a) complete the online application process on the visas and immigration pages of the gov.uk website; and
  - (b) pay any *fee* that applies; and
  - (c) provide their *biometrics* if required; and
  - (d) provide a valid *travel document*.
- Where the online application process is not available, the applicant must follow the instructions provided by the local *visa post* or *application centre* on how to make an application.

### **Date of application**

- V 2.3 An application for a *visit visa* is made on the date on which the *fee* is paid.
- V 2.4 Where a *fee* is not required, the date of application is the date on which the application is submitted online.
- V 2.5 Where a *fee* is not required and an online application is not available, the date of application is the date on which the paper application form is received by the relevant *visa post* or *application centre*.

### **Withdrawing an application and return of a travel document**

- V 2.6 An applicant may withdraw their application at any time before a decision is made on it. The request must be made in writing or email to the *visa post* or *application centre* where the application was submitted. When notice of withdrawal is received no decision will be made on the application and the applicant's *travel document* and any other documents will be returned. The *fee* will not be refunded.
- V 2.7 A request from an applicant for return of their *travel document* after an application has been submitted must be made in writing or email to the *visa post* or *application centre* where the application was submitted. It will be treated as a notice of withdrawal of the application, unless the *visa post* states otherwise.

## **PART V3. SUITABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL VISITORS**

- V 3.1 This Part applies to all applications for *visit visas*, *leave to enter*, and *an extension of stay* as a visitor except where explicitly stated otherwise.

### **Not conducive to the public good: exclusion and deportation**

- V 3.2 An application will be refused if:
- (a) the Secretary of State has personally directed that the applicant's exclusion from the UK is conducive to the public good; or
  - (b) the applicant is currently the subject of a deportation order or a decision to make a deportation order.

V 3.3 An application will be refused if the *decision maker* believes that exclusion of the applicant from the UK is conducive to the public good because, for example, the applicant's conduct (including convictions which do not fall within paragraph V 3.4), character, associations, or other reasons, make it undesirable to grant their application.

#### **Not conducive to the public good: criminal convictions, etc.**

V 3.4 An application (except for an application for an *extension of stay as a visitor*) will be refused if the applicant has been *convicted of a criminal offence* for which they have been sentenced to a *period of imprisonment* of:

- (a) at least 4 years; or
- (b) between 12 months and 4 years, unless at least 10 years have passed since the *end of the sentence*; or
- (c) less than 12 months, unless at least 5 years has passed since the *end of the sentence*.

Where this paragraph applies, it will only be in exceptional circumstances that the public interest in maintaining refusal will be outweighed by compelling factors.

V 3.5 An application will normally be refused if:

- (a) within the period of 12 months before the application is decided, the applicant has been *convicted of* or admitted an *offence* for which they received a *non-custodial sentence* or *out of court disposal* that is recorded on their criminal record (except for an application for an *extension of stay as a visitor*); or
- (b) in the view of the Secretary of State the applicant's offending has caused serious harm; or
- (c) in the view of the Secretary of State the applicant is a persistent offender who shows a particular disregard for the law.

#### **False information in relation to an application**

V 3.6 An applicant will be refused where:

- (a) false representations have been made or false documents or information have been submitted (whether or not material to the application, and whether or not to the applicant's knowledge); or
- (b) material facts have not been disclosed,  
in relation to their application or in order to obtain documents from the Secretary of State or a third party provided in support of their application.

#### **Breaches of UK immigration laws**

V 3.7 An applicant will be refused:

- (a) if the applicant previously breached UK immigration laws as described at V 3.9; and
- (b) if the applicant is outside the UK, the application is made within the relevant re-entry ban time period in V 3.10 (which time period is relevant will depend on the manner in which the applicant left the UK).

V 3.8 If the applicant has previously breached UK immigration laws but is outside the relevant re-entry ban time period the application will normally be refused if there are other aggravating circumstances, such as a failure to cooperate with immigration control or enforcement processes. This applies even where the applicant has *overstayed* for 90 days or less and left voluntarily and not at *public expense*.

V 3.9 An applicant, when aged 18 years or over, breached the UK's immigration laws:

- (a) by *overstaying* (except where this was for 90 days or less and they left the UK voluntarily and not at *public expense*); or
- (b) by breaching a *condition* attached to their leave; or
- (c) by being an *illegal entrant*; or
- (d) if *deception* was used in relation to an application or documents used in support of an application (whether successful or not).

V 3.10 The duration of a re-entry ban is as follows:

<b>Duration of re entry ban from date they left the UK (or date of refusal of entry clearance under paragraph f)</b>	<b>This applies where the applicant</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>and</b>
(a) 12 months	left voluntarily	at their own expense.	-
(b) 2 years	left voluntarily	at <i>public expense</i>	Within 6 months of being given notice of <i>liability for removal</i> or when they no longer had a <i>pending appeal</i> or administrative review, whichever is later.
(c) 5 years	left voluntarily	at <i>public expense</i> ,	more than 6 months after being given notice of <i>liability for removal</i> or when they no longer had a <i>pending appeal</i> or administrative review, whichever is later.
(d) 5 years	left or was removed from the UK	as a condition of a caution issued in accordance with section 22 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (and providing that any condition prohibiting their	-

		return to the UK has itself expired)	
(e) 10 years	was deported from the UK or was removed from the UK	at <i>public expense</i>	-
(f) 10 years	used <i>deception</i> in an application for entry clearance (including a <i>visit visa</i> ).	-	-

V 3.11 Where more than one breach of the UK's immigration laws has occurred, only the breach which leads to the longest period of absence from the UK will be relevant.

#### **Failure to produce satisfactory identity documents or provide other information**

V 3.12 An applicant will be refused where the applicant:

- (a) fails to produce a valid *travel document* that satisfies the *decision maker* as to their identity and nationality.
- (b) fails without reasonable excuse to comply with a requirement to:
  - (i) attend an interview; or
  - (ii) provide information; or
  - (iii) provide *biometrics*; or
  - (iv) undergo a medical examination or provide a medical report.

#### **Medical**

V 3.13 An applicant will normally be refused where, on the advice of the *medical inspector*, it is undesirable to grant the *application for medical reasons*.

#### **Debt to the NHS**

V 3.14 An applicant will normally be refused where a *relevant NHS body* has notified the Secretary of State that the applicant has failed to pay charges under *relevant NHS regulations* on charges to overseas visitors and the outstanding charges have a total value of at least £1000.

#### **Admission to the Common Travel Area or other countries**

V 3.15 An applicant will be refused where they are seeking entry to the UK with the intention of entering another part of the *Common Travel Area*, and fails to

satisfy the *decision maker* that they are acceptable to the immigration authorities there.

- V 3.16 An applicant will normally be refused where they fail to satisfy the *decision maker* that they will be admitted to another country after a stay in the UK.

## PART V4. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITORS (STANDARD)

- V 4.1 The *decision maker* must be satisfied that the applicant meets all of the eligibility requirements in paragraphs V 4.2 – V 4.10. The *decision maker* must be satisfied that the applicant meets any additional eligibility requirements, where the applicant:
- (a) is a *child* at the date of application, they must also meet the additional requirements at V 4.11 – V 4.13; or
  - (b) is coming to the UK to receive *private medical treatment*, they must also meet the additional requirements at V 4.14 – V 4.16; or
  - (c) is coming to the UK as an organ donor, they must also meet the additional requirements at V 4.17 – V 4.20; or
  - (d) is coming to the UK under the *ADS agreement*, they must also meet the additional requirements at V 4.21; or
  - (e) is an academic seeking a 12 month *visit* visa, they must also meet the additional requirements at V 4.22.

### Genuine intention to visit

- V 4.2 The applicant must satisfy the *decision maker* that they are a genuine visitor. This means that the applicant:
- (a) will leave the UK at the end of their visit; and
  - (b) will not live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits, or make the UK their main home; and
  - (c) is genuinely seeking entry for a purpose that is permitted by the visitor routes (these are listed in Appendices 3, 4 and 5); and
  - (d) will not undertake any prohibited activities set out in V 4.5 – V 4.10; and
  - (e) must have sufficient funds to cover all reasonable costs in relation to their visit without working or accessing *public funds*. This includes the cost of the return or onward journey, any costs relating to dependants, and the cost of planned activities such as *private medical treatment*.

### Funds, maintenance and accommodation provided by a third party

- V 4.3 A visitor's travel, maintenance and accommodation may be provided by a third party where the *decision maker* is satisfied that they:
- (a) have a genuine professional or personal relationship with the visitor; and
  - (b) are not, or will not be, in breach of UK immigration laws at the time of decision or the visitor's entry to the UK; and

- (c) can and will provide support to the visitor for the intended duration of their stay.

V 4.4 The third party may be asked to give an undertaking in writing to be responsible for the applicant's maintenance and accommodation. In this case paragraph 35 of Part 1 of these Rules applies also to Visitors. An applicant will normally be refused where, having been requested to do so, the applicant fails to provide a valid written undertaking from a third party to be responsible for their maintenance and accommodation for the period of any visit.

## **Prohibited activities**

### **Work**

V 4.5 The applicant must not intend to work in the UK, which includes the following:

- (a) taking employment in the UK;
- (b) doing work for an organisation or business in the UK;
- (c) establishing or running a business as a self-employed person;
- (d) doing a work placement or internship;
- (e) direct selling to the public;
- (f) providing goods and services;

unless expressly allowed by the permitted activities in Appendices 3, 4 or 5.

V 4.6 Permitted activities must not amount to the applicant taking employment, or doing work which amounts to them filling a role or providing short-term cover for a role within a UK based organisation. In addition, where the applicant is already paid and employed outside of the UK, they must remain so. Payment may only be allowed in specific circumstances set out in V 4.7.

### **Payment**

V 4.7 The applicant must not receive payment from a UK source for any activities undertaken in the UK, except for the following:

- (a) reasonable expenses to cover the cost of their travel and subsistence, including fees for directors attending board-level meetings; or
- (b) prize money; or
- (c) billing a UK client for their time in the UK, where the applicant's overseas employer is contracted to provide services to a UK company, and the majority of the contract work is carried out overseas. Payment must be lower than the amount of the applicant's salary; or
- (d) multi-national companies who, for administrative reasons, handle payment of their employees' salaries from the UK; or
- (e) where the applicant is engaged in Permitted Paid Engagements (PPE) as listed at Appendix 4, provided the applicant holds a visa or *leave to enter* as a PPE visitor; or
- (f) paid performances at a permit free festival as listed in Appendix 5.

***Study***

- V 4.8 The applicant must not intend to study in the UK, except as permitted by paragraph 25 of Appendix 3.

***Medical***

- V 4.9 The applicant must not intend to access medical treatment other than *private medical treatment* or to donate an organ (for either of these activities they must meet the relevant additional requirements).

***Marriage or civil partnership***

- V 4.10 The applicant must not intend to marry or form a civil partnership, or to give notice of this, in the UK, except where they have a *visit visa* endorsed for marriage or civil partnership.

**Additional eligibility requirements for children**

- V 4.11 Adequate arrangements must have been made for their travel to, reception and care in the UK.
- V 4.12 If the applicant is not applying or travelling with a *parent* or *guardian* based in their home country or country of ordinary residence who is responsible for their care; that *parent* or *guardian* must confirm that they consent to the arrangements for the *child's* travel to, and reception and care in the UK. Where requested, this consent must be given in writing.
- V 4.13 A *child* who holds a *visit visa* must either:
- (a) hold a valid *visit visa* that states they are accompanied and will be travelling with an adult identified on that *visit visa*; or
  - (b) hold a *visit visa* which states they are unaccompanied;
- if neither applies, the child may be refused entry unless they meet the requirements of V 4.12.

**Additional eligibility requirements for visitors coming to the UK to receive private medical treatment**

- V 4.14 If the applicant is suffering from a communicable disease, they must have satisfied the *medical inspector* that they are not a danger to public health.
- V 4.15 The applicant must have arranged their *private medical treatment* before they travel to the UK, and must provide a letter from their doctor or consultant detailing:
- (a) the medical condition requiring consultation or treatment; and
  - (b) the estimated costs and likely duration of any treatment which must be of a finite duration; and
  - (c) where the consultation or treatment will take place.
- V 4.16 If the applicant is applying for an 11 month *visit visa* for the purposes of *private medical treatment* they must also:

- (a) provide evidence from their medical practitioner in the UK that the proposed treatment is likely to exceed 6 months but not more than 11 months; and
- (b) if required under paragraph A39 and Appendix T Part 1 of these Rules, provide a valid medical certificate issued by a medical practitioner listed in Appendix T Part 2 of these Rules confirming that they have undergone screening for active pulmonary tuberculosis and that this tuberculosis is not present in the applicant.

#### **Additional eligibility requirements for visitors coming to the UK to donate an organ**

- V 4.17 An applicant must satisfy the *decision maker* that they genuinely intend to donate an organ, or be assessed as a potential organ donor, to an identified recipient in the UK with whom they have a genetic or close personal relationship.
- V 4.18 The applicant must provide written confirmation of medical tests to show that they are a donor match to the identified recipient, or that they are undergoing further tests to be assessed as a potential donor to the identified recipient.
- V 4.19 The applicant must provide a letter, dated no more than three months prior to the applicant's intended date of arrival in the UK from either:
  - (a) the lead nurse or coordinator of the UK's NHS Trust's Living Donor kidney Transplant team; or
  - (b) a UK registered medical practitioner who holds an NHS consultant post or who appears in the Specialist Register of the General Medical Council; which confirms that the visitor meets the requirements in V 4.17 and V 4.18 and confirms when and where the planned organ transplant or medical tests will take place.
- V 4.20 The applicant must be able to demonstrate, if required to do so, that the identified recipient is legally present in the United Kingdom or will be at the time of the planned organ transplant.

#### **Additional eligibility requirements for visitors coming under the ADS agreement**

- V 4.21 An applicant under the Approved Destination Status (ADS) Agreement with China must:
  - (a) be a national of the People's Republic of China; and
  - (b) intend to enter, leave and travel within the UK as a member of a tourist group under the *ADS agreement*.

#### **Additional eligibility requirements for academics**

- V 4.22 An academic applying for a 12 month *visit visa* (standard) must intend to do one (or more) of the permitted activities set out in paragraph 12 of Appendix 3; and:

- (a) be highly qualified within their own field of expertise; and
- (b) currently working in that field at an academic institution or institution of higher education overseas; and
- (c) if required under paragraph A39 and Appendix T Part 1 of these Rules, provide a valid medical certificate issued by a medical practitioner listed in Appendix T Part 2 of these Rules confirming that they have undergone screening for active pulmonary tuberculosis and that this tuberculosis is not present in the applicant

## **Conditions**

- V 4.23 *Visit visas, leave to enter or an extension of stay as a visitor* will be subject to the following *conditions*:
- (a) no recourse to *public funds*; and
  - (b) no study, except as permitted by paragraph 25 of Appendix 3; and
  - (c) no work (which does not prohibit the permitted activities in Appendix 3, 4 or 5 as set out in V1.5).

## **PART V5. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A PPE VISITOR**

- V 5.1 An applicant for permitted paid engagements must satisfy the *decision maker* that they meet the requirements at V 4.2 - V 4.10.

### **Additional eligibility requirements for a permitted paid engagements visit visa or leave to enter**

- V 5.2 An applicant must intend to do one (or more) of the permitted paid engagements set out in Appendix 4 to these Rules, which must:
- (a) be arranged before the applicant travels to the UK; and
  - (b) be declared as part of the application for a *visit visa* or *leave to enter*; and
  - (c) be evidenced by a formal invitation, as required by Appendix 4; and
  - (d) relate to the applicant's area of expertise and occupation overseas.

- V 5.3 An applicant must not be a *child*.

## **PART V6. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A MARRIAGE OR CIVIL PARTNERSHIP VISIT VISA**

- V 6.1 An applicant for a marriage or civil partnership *visit visa* must satisfy the *decision maker* that they meet the requirements at V 4.2 - V 4.10 and must be aged 18 or over.
- V 6.2 On arrival in the UK a visitor coming to marry or form a civil partnership, or give notice of this, in the UK must have a valid *visit visa* endorsed with this purpose and the name of the holder's fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner.

### **Additional eligibility requirements for a marriage or civil partnership visit visa**

- V 6.3 An applicant seeking to come to the UK as a visitor

who wishes to give notice of marriage or civil partnership, or marry or form a civil partnership, in the UK during that visit must satisfy the *decision maker* that they:

- (a) intend to give notice of marriage or civil partnership; or
  - (b) intend to marry or form a civil partnership; and
  - (c) do not intend to give notice of or enter into a *sham marriage or sham civil partnership*,
- within the validity period covered by their *visit visa*.

## PART V7. TRANSIT VISITOR

### Transit visitor

- V 7.1 A transit visitor is a person who seeks to travel via the UK en route to another destination country outside the *common travel area*.
- V 7.2 Individuals seeking to transit the UK without passing through the *UK border* may need a Direct Airside Transit Visa. These are provided for by the Immigration (Passenger Transit Visa) Order 2014 (as amended).
- V 7.3 This Part does not apply to crew members who are employed in the working or service of their ship, aircraft, hovercraft, hydrofoil or train who fall under section 8(1) of the Immigration Act 1971.
- V 7.4 A visa national must either hold a transit *visit visa* or, if they meet the requirements for admission under the transit without visa scheme in V 7.6 – V 7.8, they may seek *leave to enter* at the *UK border*.

### Eligibility requirements for a transit visa or leave to enter for transit

- V 7.5 An applicant must satisfy the *decision maker* that they:
- (a) are genuinely in transit to another country outside the *common travel area*, meaning the main purpose of their visit is to transit the UK and that the applicant is taking a reasonable transit route; and
  - (b) will not access *public funds* or medical treatment, work or study in the UK; and
  - (c) genuinely intend and are able to leave the UK within 48 hours after their arrival; and
  - (d) are assured entry to their country of destination and any other countries they are transiting on their way there.

### Transit Without Visa Scheme

- V 7.6 To be granted *leave to enter* under the transit without visa scheme a *visa national* must meet all the requirements at V 7.7 and one of the requirements at V 7.8.
- V 7.7 The applicant must:

- (a) have arrived by air and will be departing by air; and
- (b) be genuinely in transit to another country, meaning the purpose of their visit is to transit the UK and that the applicant is taking a reasonable transit route; and
- (c) will not access *public funds* or medical treatment, work or study in the UK; and
- (d) genuinely intend and be able to leave the UK before 23:59 hours on the day after the day when they arrived; and
- (e) have a confirmed booking on a flight departing the UK before 23:59 hours on the day after the day when they arrived; and
- (f) be assured entry to their country of destination and any other countries they are transiting through on their way there.

V 7.8 The applicant must also:

- (a) be travelling to or from (or on part of a reasonable journey to or from) Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and have a valid visa for that country; or
- (b) be travelling from (or on part of a reasonable journey from) Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and it is less than 6 months since he last entered that country with a valid entry visa; or
- (c) hold a valid permanent residence permit issued by either:
  - (i) Australia;
  - (ii) Canada, issued after 28 June 2002;
  - (iii) New Zealand; or
- (d) hold a valid USA I-551 permanent resident card issued on or after 21 April 1998; or
- (e) hold a valid USA I-551 temporary immigrant visa (a wet-ink stamp version will not be accepted); or
- (f) hold an expired USA I-551 permanent resident card issued on or after 21 April 1998, provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension of the period of permanent residency; or
- (g) hold a valid standalone US immigration form 155A/155B attached to a sealed brown envelope; or
- (h) hold a valid common format residence permit issued by an EEA state (pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No. 1030/2002) or Switzerland; or

- (i) hold a valid uniform format category D visa for entry to a state in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland; or
- (j) be travelling on to the Republic of Ireland and have a valid Irish biometric visa; or
- (k) be travelling from the Republic of Ireland and it is less than three months since the applicant was last given permission to land or be in the Republic by the Irish authorities with a valid Irish biometric visa.

V 7.8.1 Paragraph V 7.8 (a) and (b) shall not apply where the transit passenger is a citizen or national of Syria holding a B1 or B2 category visa for entry to the United States of America.

V7.9 Electronic versions of any documents listed in paragraph V7.8, such as electronic visas (including printed versions), will not be accepted.

## PART V8. EXTENSION OF STAY AS A VISITOR

### **Who can apply for an extension of stay as a visitor**

V 8.1 It is not possible to switch to become a visitor while in the UK where a person is in the UK in breach of immigration laws or has entry clearance or *leave to enter* or remain for another purpose.

### **Making an application for an extension of stay as a visitor in the UK**

V 8.2 An application for an *extension of stay* as a visitor must comply with the requirements in paragraphs A34 – 34D of Part 1 of these Rules.

### **Eligibility requirements for an extension of stay in the UK as a visitor**

V 8.3 The applicant must be in the UK as a visitor. Visitors for permitted paid engagements and transit visitors may not apply for an *extension of stay* as a visitor.

V 8.4 An application for an *extension of stay* as a visitor must satisfy the *decision maker* that they continue to meet all the suitability and eligibility requirements for a *visit* visa.

V 8.5 The applicant must not be in the UK in breach of immigration laws, except for any period of *overstaying* of 28 days or less which will be discounted.

V 8.6 If the applicant is applying for an *extension of stay* as a visitor for the purpose of receiving *private medical treatment* they must also satisfy the *decision maker* they:

- (a) have met the costs of any medical treatment received so far; and
- (b) provide a letter from a registered medical practitioner, at a private practice or NHS hospital, who holds an NHS consultant post or who

appears in the Specialist Register of the General Medical Council, detailing the medical condition requiring further treatment.

### **How long can a visitor extend their stay in the UK**

- V 8.7 A visitor (standard) and a visitor for marriage or civil partnership, who was granted a *visit visa* or *leave to enter* for less than 6 months may be granted an *extension of stay* as a visitor so that the total period they can remain in the UK (including both the original grant and the *extension of stay*) does not exceed 6 months.
- V 8.8 A visitor (standard) who is in the UK for *private medical treatment* may be granted an *extension of stay* as a visitor for a further 6 months, provided this is for *private medical treatment*.
- V 8.9 A visitor (standard) who is an academic on sabbatical leave and is in the UK undertaking their own research, or the spouse, partner or *child* accompanying such an academic, can be granted an *extension of stay* as a visitor so that the total period they can remain in the UK (including both the original grant and the *extension of stay*) does not exceed 12 months.
- V 8.10 A visitor (standard) may be granted an *extension of stay* as a visitor for up to 6 months in order to resit the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) Test, provided they meet the requirements at Appendix 3, paragraph 22(b)(i).
- V 8.11 A visitor (standard) who is successful in the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board Test may be granted an *extension of stay* as a visitor to undertake an unpaid clinical attachment, provided they meet the requirements of Appendix 3, paragraph 22(a) so that the total period they can remain in the UK (including both the original grant and the *extension of stay*) does not exceed 18 months.

## **PART V9. GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION OF A VISIT VISA OR LEAVE BEFORE OR ON ARRIVAL AT THE UK BORDER AND CURTAILMENT OF LEAVE**

### **Cancellation of a visit visa or leave to enter or remain as a visitor on or before arrival at the UK border**

- V 9.1 A current *visit visa* or *leave to enter* or remain as a visitor may be cancelled whilst the person is outside the UK or on arrival in the UK, if any of paragraphs V 9.2 – V 9.7 apply.

### ***Change of circumstances***

- V 9.2 Where there has been such a change in the circumstances of the case since the *visit visa* or *leave to enter* or *remain* was granted that the basis of the visitor's claim to admission or stay has been removed and the visa or leave should be cancelled.

### **Change of purpose**

V 9.3 Where the visitor holds a *visit visa* and their purpose in arriving in the United Kingdom is different from the purpose specified in the *visit visa*.

### **False information or failure to disclose a material fact**

V 9.4 Where:

- (a) false representations were made or false documents or information submitted (whether or not material to the application, and whether or not to the applicant's knowledge); or
- (b) material facts were not disclosed,  
in relation to the application for a *visit visa* or *leave to enter* or remain as a visitor, or in order to obtain documents from the Secretary of State or a third party provided in support of their application.

### **Medical**

V 9.5 Where it is undesirable to admit the visitor to the UK for medical reasons, unless there are strong compassionate reasons justifying admission.

### **Not conducive to the public good**

V 9.6 Where the criteria in V 3.2 - V 3.5. apply.

### **Failure to supply information**

V 9.7 Where the person is outside the UK and there is a failure to supply any information, documents, or medical reports requested by a *decision maker*.

### **Curtailment**

V 9.8 A *visit visa* or *leave to enter* or remain as a visitor may be curtailed while the person is in the UK if any of paragraphs V 9.9 – V 9.13 apply.

### **False information or failure to disclose a material fact**

V 9.9 Where:

- (a) false representations were made or false documents or information were submitted (whether or not material to the application, and whether or not to the applicant's knowledge); or
- (b) material facts were not disclosed,  
in relation to any application for an entry clearance or *leave to enter* or remain, or for the purpose of obtaining either a document from the Secretary of State or third party required in support of the application, or a document from the Secretary of State that indicates the person has a right to reside in the UK.

### **Requirements of the Rules**

V 9.10 If the visitor ceases to meet the requirements of the Visitor Rules.

### **Failure to comply with conditions**

V 9.11 If the visitor fails to comply with any *conditions* of their *leave to enter* or remain.

***Not conducive to the public good***

V 9.12 Where either:

- (a) the visitor has, within the first 6 months of being granted a *visit visa* or *leave to enter*, committed an offence for which they are subsequently sentenced to a *period of imprisonment*; or
- (b) in the view of the Secretary of State the applicant's offending has caused serious harm; or
- (c) in the view of the Secretary of State the applicant is a persistent offender who shows a particular disregard for the law; or
- (d) it would be undesirable to permit the visitor to remain in the UK in light of their conduct, character, associations, or the fact that they represent a threat to national security.

## APPENDICES TO THE IMMIGRATION RULES FOR VISITORS

### VISITORS APPENDIX 1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

1 For the purposes of these Visitor Rules the following definitions and interpretations apply:

<b>accredited institution</b>	in relation to permitted study, this means an institution which is: (a) the holder of a Tier 4 sponsor licence; or (b) the holder of valid accreditation from Accreditation UK, the Accreditation Body for Language Services (ABLS), the British Accreditation Council (BAC), or the Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC); or (c) the holder of a valid and satisfactory full institutional inspection, review or audit by the Bridge Schools Inspectorate, Estyn, Education Scotland, the Independent Schools Inspectorate, Office for Standards in Education, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, the Schools Inspection Service or the Education and Training Inspectorate Northern Ireland; or (d) an overseas higher education institution offering only part of its programmes in the UK, holding its own national accreditation and offering programmes that are an equivalent level to a UK degree.
<b>ADS Agreement</b>	means the Memorandum of Understanding on visa and related issues concerning tourist groups from the People's Republic of China to the United Kingdom as a approved destination, signed on 21 January 2005.
<b>application centre</b>	means a commercial partner who has been authorised by the Secretary of State to accept entry clearance applications or British Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post overseas where entry clearance applications can be made.
<b>biometrics</b>	has the same meaning as in section 15 of the UK Borders Act, for example, fingerprints.
<b>child</b>	means a person under the age of 18 years.
<b>Common Travel Area</b>	the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland collectively form the common travel area.
<b>condition</b>	means any condition of leave to enter or remain under section 3(1) (c) of the Immigration Act 1971, such as a prohibition on employment or study.

<b>control zone</b>	means a control zone for the time being as defined by article 2(1) of, and Schedule 1 to, the Channel Tunnel (International Arrangements) Order 1993 (SI 1993/1813) and article 2 of the Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (Juxtaposed Controls) Order 2003 (SI 2003/2818).
<b>convicted of a criminal offence</b>	means a conviction for a criminal offence in the UK or any other country providing that where the offence was committed and the person was convicted outside the UK, the offence would, if it was committed in the UK (or any part of the UK) also constitute a criminal offence in the UK.
<b>deception</b>	means making false representations or submitting false documents or information (whether or not material to the application), or failing to disclose material facts.
<b>decision maker</b>	means an entry clearance officer, immigration officer or the Secretary of State as the case may be.
<b>end of the sentence</b>	means the end of the sentence imposed whether or not all of it has been served in prison.
<b>extension of stay</b>	means leave to remain as a visitor granted under the Immigration Act 1971.
<b>fee</b>	means any fee payable under regulations made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 68 and 69 of the Immigration Act 2014.
<b>guardian</b>	means a person appointed according to local laws to take care of a <i>child</i> .
<b>illegal entrant</b>	has the same meaning as in section 33(1) of the Immigration Act 1971.
<b>leave to enter</b>	has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Immigration Act 1971.
<b>medical inspector</b>	means a medical inspector appointed under Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971.
<b>non-custodial sentence</b>	means a sentence other than a sentence of imprisonment.
<b>non-visa national</b>	means a person who does not require a visit visa under Appendix 2 to these Visitor Rules.
<b>notice of liability for removal</b>	has the same meaning as in paragraph 6 of these Rules
<b>out of court</b>	means a penalty imposed for an offence without

<b>disposal</b>	prosecution, e.g. a caution.
<b>overstayed or overstaying</b>	means the applicant has stayed in the UK beyond the time limit attached to the last period of leave granted (including any extension of that leave , or under sections 3C or 3D of the Immigration Act 1971).
<b>parent</b>	<p>includes</p> <p>(a) the stepfather of a <i>child</i> whose father is dead and the reference to stepfather includes a relationship arising through civil partnership;</p> <p>(b) the stepmother of a <i>child</i> whose mother is dead and the reference to stepmother includes a relationship arising through civil partnership and;</p> <p>(c) the father as well as the mother of an illegitimate <i>child</i> where he is proved to be the father;</p> <p>(d) an adoptive parent, where a <i>child</i> was adopted in accordance with a decision taken by the competent administrative authority or court in a country whose adoption orders are recognised by the UK or where a <i>child</i> is the subject of a de facto adoption in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 309A of these Rules.</p>
<b>pending appeal</b>	has the same meaning as in section 104 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.
<b>period of imprisonment</b>	means a period of imprisonment in the UK or outside the UK (subject to the matters mentioned in section 38(2) of the UK Borders Act 2007).
<b>private medical treatment</b>	means treatment provided by a private health provider, or by the NHS where there is a reciprocal arrangement in place with another country by which certain nationals may receive NHS treatment.
<b>public expense</b>	in relation to a person's departure from the UK, means directly or indirectly at the expense of the Secretary of State.
<b>public funds</b>	<p>means</p> <p>(a) housing under Part VI or VII of the Housing Act 1996 and under Part II of the Housing Act 1985, Part I or II of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, Part II of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 or Part II of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1988;</p> <p>(b) attendance allowance, severe disablement allowance, carer's allowance and disability living allowance under Part III of the Social Security Contribution and Benefits Act 1992; income support, council tax benefit and housing benefit under Part VII of that Act; a social fund payment under Part VIII of that Act; child benefit under Part IX of that Act;</p>

income based jobseeker's allowance under the Jobseekers Act 1995, income related allowance under Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2007 (employment and support allowance) state pension credit under the State Pension Credit Act 2002; or child tax credit and working tax credit under Part 1 of the Tax Credits Act 2002;

(c) attendance allowance, severe disablement allowance, carer's allowance and disability living allowance under Part III of the Social Security Contribution and Benefits (Northern Ireland) Act 1992; income support, council tax benefit and, housing benefit under Part VII of that Act; a social fund payment under Part VIII of that Act; child benefit under Part IX of that Act; income based jobseeker's allowance under the Jobseekers (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 or income related allowance under Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act (Northern Ireland) 2007;

(d) Universal Credit under Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 or Personal Independence Payment under Part 4 of that Act;

(e) Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment or any domestic rate relief under the Northern Ireland Welfare Reform Act 2013;

(f) a council tax reduction under a council tax reduction scheme made under section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in relation to England or Wales or a council tax reduction pursuant to the Council Tax Reduction (Scotland) Regulations 2012 or the Council Tax Reduction (State Pension Credit) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

Paragraphs (6A), (6B) and (6C) of the Immigration Rules also apply.

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**recreational course** means a course undertaken purely for leisure purposes, for example, pottery or horse riding.

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**relevant NHS body** means

a) in relation to England-

(i) a National Health Service Trust established under section 25 of the National Health Service Act 2006,

(ii) a NHS foundation trust.

b) in relation to Wales-

(i) a Local Health Board established under section 11 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006,

(ii) a National Health Service Trust established under section 18 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006,

(iii) a Special Health Authority established under 22 of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006.

c) in relation to Scotland-

(i) a Health Board or Special Health Board established under section 2 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 (c. 29),

(ii) the Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service established under section 10 of that Act,  
(iii) Healthcare Improvement Scotland established under section 10A of that Act.  
d) in relation to Northern Ireland-  
(i) the Regional Health and Social Care Board established under the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (Northern Ireland) 2009,  
(ii) a Health and Social Care trust established under the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (S.I. 1991/194 (N.I. 1)) and renamed under the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (Northern Ireland) 2009.

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<b>relevant NHS regulations</b>	means (i) The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2004 (2004 No 1433); (ii) The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Scotland) Regulations 1989 as amended (1989 No 364); (iii) The Health and Personal Social Services (Provision of Health Services to Persons not Ordinarily Resident) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 (2005 No 551); or (iv) The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations (2011 No 1556).
<b>sham marriage &amp; sham civil partnership</b>	this has the same meaning as in sections 24(5) and 24A(5) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
<b>supplementary control zone</b>	means the supplementary control zone within the meaning of Article 2(1) and Schedule 1 to the Channel Tunnel (International Agreements) Order 1993 (SI 1993/1813).
<b>travel document</b>	means a valid passport or other document that allows the holder to travel internationally and which (i) complies with international passport practice; (ii) is not issued by a territory that: is not recognised by Her Majesty's government as a state; or is not dealt with as a government by them; or does not accept valid UK passports for the purpose of its own immigration control.
<b>UK border</b>	means immigration control at a UK port and a <i>control zone</i> in France or Belgium or a <i>supplementary control zone</i> in France as defined by Article 2(1) and Schedule 1 to the Channel Tunnel (International Arrangements) Order 1993 (SI 1993/1813) and Article 3 of the Nationality Immigration

and Asylum Act 2002 (Juxtaposed Controls) Order 2003 (SI 2003/2818).

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**UK Higher Education Institution**

means a body that receives public funding as a UK Higher Education Institution from the:

- Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland;
- Higher Education Funding Council for England;
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales; or
- Scottish Funding Council.

And Richmond, the American International University in London.

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**visa national**

persons specified in Appendix 2 to Appendix V: Visitors who need a visa for the United Kingdom for a visit or for any other purposes where seeking entry for 6 months or less.

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**visa post**

means a British Diplomatic Mission or Consular Post overseas or other office nominated by the Secretary of State where entry clearance applications are considered. Applicants can find the relevant local *application centre* on gov.uk.

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**visit visa**

means an entry clearance for the purpose of a visit under section 33 of the Immigration Act 1971. It is normally a vignette in the holder's passport. It includes entry clearances for visitors that were issued under paragraphs 40-56, 56D-56J, 56N-56Z, 75A-75M of these Rules and Appendix V.

## APPENDIX 2. VISA NATIONAL LIST

### Visa nationals

1 People who meet one or more of the criteria below need a visa in advance of travel to the UK as a visitor or for any other purpose for less than six months, unless they meet one of the exceptions set out in paragraphs 2 – 19:

- (a) Nationals or citizens of the following countries or territorial entities (a “\*” indicates there are exceptions in paragraphs 2 - 19):

Afghanistan	Ghana
Albania	Guinea
Algeria	Guinea Bissau
Angola	Guyana
Armenia	Haiti
Azerbaijan	India
Bahrain*	Indonesia
Bangladesh	Iran
Belarus	Iraq
Benin	Ivory Coast
Bhutan	Jamaica
Bolivia	Jordan
Bosnia Herzegovina	Kazakhstan
Burkina Faso	Kenya
Burma	Korea (North)
Burundi	Kosovo
Cambodia	Kuwait *
Cameroon	Kyrgyzstan
Cape Verde	Laos
Central African Republic	Lebanon
Chad	Lesotho
People's Republic of China*	Liberia
Colombia	Libya
Comoros	Macedonia
Congo	Madagascar
Cuba	Malawi
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mali
Djibouti	Mauritania
Dominican Republic	Moldova
Ecuador	Mongolia
Egypt	Montenegro
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco
Eritrea	Mozambique
Ethiopia	Nepal
Fiji	Niger
Gabon	Nigeria
Gambia	Oman*
Georgia	Pakistan
	Peru
	Philippines

Qatar\*  
Russia  
Rwanda  
Sao Tome e Principe  
Saudi Arabia  
Senegal  
Serbia  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa\*  
South Sudan  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Suriname  
Swaziland  
Syria  
Taiwan\*  
Tajikistan  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Togo  
Tunisia  
Turkey \*  
Turkmenistan  
Uganda  
Ukraine  
United Arab Emirates\*  
Uzbekistan  
Venezuela  
Vietnam\*  
Yemen  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

- (b) Stateless people.
- (c) People travelling on any document other than a national passport, regardless of whether the document is issued by or evidences nationality of a state not listed in (a), except where that document has been issued by the UK.

### **Exceptions to the list of visa nationals**

#### ***Holders of specified travel documents***

- 2 The following people do not need a visa before they travel to the UK as a visitor:
  - (a) nationals or citizens of the People's Republic of China who hold passports issued by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; or
  - (b) nationals or citizens of the People's Republic of China who hold passports issued by the Macao Special Administrative Region; or
  - (c) nationals or citizens of Taiwan who hold a passport issued by Taiwan that includes in it the number of the identification card issued by the competent authority in Taiwan; or
  - (d) people who hold Service, Temporary Service and Diplomatic passports issued by the Holy See.
- 3 The following people do not need a visa before they travel to the UK as a visitor if they are travelling to the UK as a visitor for official purposes or the purposes of tourism or as a visitor in transit:
  - (a) nationals or citizens of Oman, who hold a diplomatic or special passport issued by Oman; or
  - (b) nationals or citizens of Qatar who hold a diplomatic or special passport issued by Qatar; or
  - (c) nationals or citizens of the United Arab Emirates who hold a diplomatic or special passport issued by the United Arab Emirates; or
  - (d) nationals or citizens of Turkey, who hold a diplomatic passport issued by Turkey; or
  - (e) nationals of Kuwait who hold diplomatic or special passports issued by Kuwait; or
  - (f) nationals of Bahrain who hold diplomatic or special passports issued by Bahrain; or
  - (g) nationals of South Africa who hold diplomatic passports issued by South Africa; or
  - (h) nationals of Vietnam who hold diplomatic passports issued by Vietnam.

#### **Exception to visa nationals where the applicant holds an Electronic Visa Waiver Document (Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates passport holders only)**

#### ***Objective***

- 4 Under the Electronic Visa Waiver (EVW) scheme, holders of a valid EVW document do not need to obtain a *visit visa*, or a visa for entry for six months or less where there is no mandatory entry clearance requirement,

in advance of arrival in the UK, but can instead apply for *leave to enter* at the *UK border*.

- 5 Only passport holders of Oman, Qatar or the United Arab Emirates can hold and use an EVW document.
  - (a) If the holder's EVW does not meet the validity requirements at paragraphs 7-13 of this Appendix; or
  - (b) the EVW Document is not used in the manner specified in 14 - 19 of this Appendix;they will be a *visa national* and will require a *visit visa*, meaning that they will normally be refused entry to the UK.
- 6 An EVW Document relates to one person and may only be used for one application for *leave to enter* the UK or, where applicable, one crossing of the land border from the Republic of Ireland.

#### ***Electronic Visa Waiver Document validity requirements***

- 7 To obtain an EVW, an applicant must provide the required biographic and travel information at the Visa4UK website established by the UK Government at <http://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/home/evw>.
- 8 The EVW Document must specify the flight, train or ship on which the applicant intends to arrive in the UK, including the port of departure and arrival, and the scheduled date and time of departure and arrival, unless 9 or 10 applies.
- 9 Where the applicant is seeking to arrive in the UK by entering a *control zone* in France or Belgium or *supplementary control zone* in France, the EVW must specify the train or ship on which they intend to arrive in the UK, including:
  - (a) the railway station or port where the visitor enters the *control zone* or *supplementary control zone* and from which the applicant intends to depart for the UK; and
  - (b) the railway station or port at which the applicant intends to leave the train or ship after arrival in the UK; and
  - (c) the scheduled date and time of departure from, and arrival at, the specified railway stations or ports.
- 10 Where the applicant intends to cross the land border from the Republic of Ireland to the UK by train, car or any other means, the EVW must specify the place at which it is intended to cross the border and the intended date and time of arrival in the UK.
- 11 When the EVW Document is issued it must be printed in a legible form and in English.
- 12 An EVW Document is only valid if issued at least 48 hours before the holder departs on a flight, train or ship to the UK or crosses the UK land border from the Republic of Ireland by train, car or any other means.

- 13 An EVW Document may not be issued more than 3 months before the date of the holder's scheduled departure to the UK as specified on the EVW Document or, where the holder intends to cross the land border with the Republic of Ireland, before the intended date of the holder's arrival in the UK as specified on the EVW Document.

***How an Electronic Visa Waiver Document must be used***

- 14 The holder must present the EVW Document to an Immigration Officer on request upon the holder's arrival at the *UK Border* or, where the holder is seeking to arrive in the UK by entering a *control zone* in France or Belgium or a *supplementary control zone* in France, upon arrival in that zone.
- 15 The EVW Document must be surrendered to an Immigration Officer upon request.
- 16 The biographic details on the EVW Document must match those on the valid passport also presented by the holder to the Immigration Officer.
- 17 The holder must travel on the flight, train or ship specified on the EVW Document unless 18 or 19 applies.
- 18 If the holder travels on a different flight, train or ship this must depart from the same port or railway station and arrive at the same UK port or railway station as specified on the EVW Document; and either
- (a) depart after the departure time specified on the EVW Document and arrive in the UK no more than 8 hours after the arrival time specified on the EVW Document; or
  - (b) if the holder is seeking to arrive in the UK by entering a *control zone* in France or Belgium or a *supplementary control zone* in France, arrive no more than 8 hours after, the departure time specified on the EVW Document.
- 19 If the holder is seeking to arrive in the UK by crossing the land border from the Republic of Ireland, the holder must cross at the time specified on the EVW Document or no more than 8 hours after the time specified on the EVW Document.

## **VISITORS APPENDIX 3. PERMITTED ACTIVITIES FOR ALL VISITORS (EXCEPT TRANSIT VISITORS)**

- 1 All visitors are permitted to undertake the activities listed in paragraphs 3 – 27 of this Appendix provided they meet the requirements at V 4.5- V 4.8. Visitors coming to the UK under the ADS agreement may only do activities in paragraph 3 of this appendix.
- 2 Visitors may only receive payment where allowed by V 4.7.

### **Tourism and leisure**

- 3 A visitor may visit friends and family and / or come to the UK for a holiday.

### **Volunteering**

- 4 A visitor may undertake incidental volunteering (i.e. the main purpose of the visit is not to volunteer), provided it lasts no more than 30 days in total and is for a charity that is registered with either the Charity Commission for England and Wales; the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland; or the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

### **Business – general activities**

- 5 A visitor may:
  - (a) attend meetings, conferences, seminars, interviews;
  - (b) give a one-off or short series of talks and speeches provided these are not organised as commercial events and will not make a profit for the organiser;
  - (c) negotiate and sign deals and contracts;
  - (d) attend trade fairs, for promotional work only, provided the visitor is not directly selling;
  - (e) carry out site visits and inspections;
  - (f) gather information for their employment overseas;
  - (g) be briefed on the requirements of a UK based customer, provided any work for the customer is done outside of the UK.

### **Business – corporate**

#### ***Intra-corporate activities***

- 6 An employee of an overseas based company may:
  - (a) advise and consult;
  - (b) trouble-shoot;
  - (c) provide training;
  - (d) share skills and knowledge;on a specific internal project with UK employees of the same corporate group, provided no work is carried out directly with clients.
- 7 An internal auditor may carry out regulatory or financial audits at a UK branch of the same group of companies as the visitor's employer overseas.

### ***Prospective Entrepreneur***

- 8 A visitor who can show support from:
- (a) one or more registered venture capitalist firms regulated by the financial conduct authority; or
  - (b) one or more UK entrepreneurial seed funding competitions which is listed as endorsed on [www.gov.uk/government/publications/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk); or
  - (c) one or more UK Government Departments; may come to the UK for discussions to secure funding from one of the above sources which they intend to use to join, set up or take over a business in the UK.

### ***Manufacturing and supply of goods to the UK***

- 9 An employee of a foreign manufacturer or supplier may install, dismantle, repair, service or advise on equipment, computer software or hardware where it has a contract of purchase or supply or lease with a UK company or organisation.

### ***Clients of UK export companies***

- 10 A client of a UK export company may be seconded to the UK company in order to oversee the requirements for goods and services that are being provided under contract by the UK company or its subsidiary company, provided the two companies are not part of the same group. Employees may exceptionally make multiple visits to cover the duration of the contract.

## **Business – specific sectors**

### ***Science, research and academia***

- 11 Scientists and researchers may:
- (a) gather information and facts for a specific project which directly relates to their employment overseas;
  - (b) share knowledge or advise on an international project that is being led from the UK, provided the visitor is not carrying out research in the UK.
- 12 Academics may:
- (a) take part in formal exchange arrangements with UK counterparts (including doctors);
  - (b) carry out research for their own purposes if they are on sabbatical leave from their home institution;
  - (c) if they are an eminent senior doctor or dentist, take part in research, teaching or clinical practice provided this does not amount to filling a permanent teaching post.

### ***Legal***

- 13 An expert witness may visit the UK to give evidence in a UK court. Other witnesses may visit the UK to attend a court hearing in the UK if summoned in person by a UK court.

14 An overseas lawyer may advise a UK based client on specific international litigation and/or an international transaction.

### ***Religion***

15 Religious workers may visit the UK to preach or do pastoral work.

### ***Creative***

16 An artist, entertainer, or musician may:

- (a) give performances as an individual or as part of a group;
- (b) take part in competitions or auditions;
- (c) make personal appearances and take part in promotional activities;
- (d) take part in one or more cultural events or festivals on the list of permit free festivals in Appendix 5 (where payment is permitted).

17 Personal or technical staff or members of the production team of an artist, entertainer or musician may support the activities in paragraph 16 of this Appendix or paragraph 1(e) of Appendix 4, provided they are attending the same event as the artist, entertainer or musician, and are employed to work for them outside of the UK.

18 Film crew (actor, producer, director or technician) employed by an overseas company may visit the UK to take part in a location shoot for a film or programme that is produced and financed overseas.

### ***Sport***

19 A sports person may:

- (a) take part in a sports tournament or sports event as an individual or part of a team;
- (b) make personal appearances and take part in promotional activities;
- (c) take part in trials provided they are not in front of a paying audience;
- (d) take part in short periods of training provided they are not being paid by a UK sporting body;
- (e) join an amateur team or club to gain experience in a particular sport if they are an amateur in that sport.

20 Personal or technical staff of the sports person, or sports officials, may support the activities in paragraph 19 of this Appendix or in paragraph 1(e) of Appendix 4, if they are attending the same event as the sports person. Personal or technical staff of the sports person must be employed to work for the sports person outside the UK.

### ***Business - overseas roles requiring specific activities in the UK***

21 Individuals employed outside the UK may visit the UK to take part in the following activities in relation to their employment overseas:

- (a) a translator and/or interpreter may support a business person in the UK, provided they will attend the same event(s) as the business person and are employed by that business person outside of the UK;
- (b) personal assistants and bodyguards may support an overseas business person in carrying out permitted activities, provided they will

- attend the same event(s) as the business person and are employed by them outside the UK. They must not be providing personal care or domestic work for the business person;
- (c) a driver on a genuine international route delivering goods or passengers from abroad to the UK;
  - (d) a tour group courier, contracted to a company with its headquarters outside the UK, who is entering and departing the UK with a tour group organised by their company;
  - (e) a journalist, correspondent, producer or cameraman gathering information for an overseas publication, programme or film;
  - (f) archaeologists taking part in a one-off archaeological excavation;
  - (g) a professor from an overseas academic institution accompanying students to the UK as part of a study abroad programme, may provide a small amount of teaching to the students at the host organisation. However this must not amount to filling a permanent teaching role for that institution.

### **Work-related training**

- 22 Overseas graduates from medical, dental or nursing schools may:
  - (a) undertake clinical attachments or dental observer posts provided these are unpaid, and involve no treatment of patients. The visitor must provide written confirmation of their offer to take up this post and confirm they have not previously undertaken this activity in the UK;
  - (b) take the following test/examination in the UK:
    - (i) the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test, where the visitor can provide written confirmation of this from the General Medical Council; or
    - (ii) the Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) for overseas, where the visitor can provide written evidence of this from the Nursing and Midwifery Council.
- 23 Employees of an overseas company or organisation may receive training from a UK based company or organisation in work practices and techniques which are required for the visitor's employment overseas and not available in their home country.
- 24 An employee of an overseas based training company may deliver a short series of training to employees of a UK based company, where the trainer is employed by an overseas business contracted to deliver global training to the international corporate group to which the UK based company belongs.

### **Study**

- 25 Visitors may carry out the following study:
  - (a) educational exchanges or visits with a UK state or independent school; or
  - (b) a maximum of 30 days study, provided that the main purpose of the visit is not to study;

- (i) *recreational courses* (not English language training);
- (ii) a short-course (which includes English language training) at an *accredited institution*.

### **Medical treatment**

- 26 An individual may receive *private medical treatment* provided they meet the additional eligibility requirements at V 4.14 – V 4.16.
- 27 An individual may act as an organ donor or be assessed as a potential organ donor to an identified recipient in the United Kingdom, provided they meet the additional eligibility requirements at V 4.17 – V 4.20.

## VISITORS APPENDIX 4. PERMITTED PAID ENGAGEMENTS

- 1 The following are permitted paid engagements:
  - (a) an academic who is highly qualified within his or her field of expertise may examine students and/or participate in or chair selection panels, if they have been invited by a *UK Higher Education Institution* or a UK based research or arts organisation as part of that institution or organisation's quality assurance processes.
  - (b) An expert may give lectures in their subject area, if they have been invited by a *UK Higher Education Institution*; or a UK based research or arts organisation provided this does not amount to filling a teaching position for the host organisation.
  - (c) An overseas designated pilot examiner may assess UK based pilots to ensure they meet the national aviation regulatory requirements of other countries, if they have been invited by an approved training organisation based in the UK that is regulated by the UK Civil Aviation Authority for that purpose.
  - (d) A qualified lawyer may provide advocacy for a court or tribunal hearing, arbitration or other form of dispute resolution for legal proceedings within the UK, if they have been invited by a client.
  - (e) A professional artist, entertainer, musician or sports person may carry out an activity directly relating to their profession, if they have been invited by a creative (arts or entertainment) or sports organisation, agent or broadcaster based in the UK.

## VISITORS APPENDIX 5. PERMIT FREE FESTIVALS

- 1 An artist, entertainer or musician visiting the UK to perform at one or more of the following permit free festivals may receive payment to do so:
  - (a) Aberdeen International Youth Festival
  - (b) Aldeburgh Festival
  - (c) Alchemy (Southbank Centre)
  - (d) Alnwick Festival
  - (e) Barbican Festivals (Only connect: Bruce Dessner's Marathon Weekend, Summer Festival, Autumn 1: Transcender, Autumn 2 : Jazz at Lincoln Center)
  - (f) Belfast International Arts Festival
  - (g) Bestival
  - (h) Billingham International Folklore Festival of World Dance
  - (i) Birmingham International Jazz Festival
  - (j) Breakin Covention
  - (k) Brighton Festival
  - (l) Brighton Fringe
  - (m) Brouhaha International Street Festival
  - (n) Calling Festival
  - (o) Camp Bestival
  - (p) Cambridge Folk Festival
  - (q) Celtic Connections
  - (r) Cheltenham Festivals (Jazz/Science/ Music/Literature)
  - (s) City of London Festival
  - (t) Cornwall International Male Voice Choral Festival
  - (u) Dance Umbrella
  - (v) Download
  - (w) Edinburgh Festival Fringe
  - (x) Edinburgh International Festival
  - (y) Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival
  - (z) Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo
  - (aa) Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru/National Eisteddfod of Wales
  - (bb) Glasgow International Jazz Festival
  - (cc) Glastonbury
  - (dd) Glyndebourne
  - (ee) Greenbelt
  - (ff) Harrogate International Festival
  - (gg) Hay Festival
  - (hh) Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival
  - (ii) Latitude
  - (jj) LIFT (not being held in 2015)
  - (kk) (EFG) London Jazz Festival
  - (ll) Leeds Festival
  - (mm) Manchester International Festival
  - (nn) Meltdown
  - (oo) Norfolk and Norwich Festival
  - (pp) Reading Festival
  - (qq) Salisbury International Arts Festival
  - (rr) Snape Festival

- (ss) T in the Park
- (tt) V Festival
- (uu) Wireless
- (vv) WOMAD
- (ww) Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod



UK visas may now be in either physical form, or a digital eVisa. If a passenger holds a digital eVisa, the receipt of a '0A - Valid Permission to Travel Found' response message, via iAPI messaging, Direct REST or web user interfaces is satisfactory evidence of a passenger's permission to travel to the UK.

<u>Afghanistan</u>	<u>Congo</u>
<u>Albania</u>	<u>Congo Dem. Republic</u>
<u>Algeria</u>	<u>Iran</u>
<u>Angola</u>	<u>Iraq</u>
Armenia	<u>Ivory Coast</u>
Azerbaijan	<u>Jamaica</u>
<u>Bangladesh</u>	<u>Jordan</u>
<u>Belarus</u>	<u>Kazakhstan</u>
Benin	<u>Kenya</u>
Bhutan	<u>Korea (Dem. People's Republic)</u>
Bolivia	<u>Kosovo</u>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>
<u>Botswana (8)</u>	<u>Laos</u>
Burkina Faso	<u>Lebanon</u>
<u>Burundi</u>	<u>Lesotho</u>
Cambodia	<u>Liberia</u>
<u>Cameroon</u>	<u>Libya</u>
Cape Verde	<u>Madagascar</u>
Central African Republic	<u>Malawi</u>
Chad	<u>Mali</u>
<u>China (People's Republic of) (1)</u>	<u>Mauritania</u>
<u>Colombia</u>	<u>Moldova</u>
Comoros	<u>Mongolia</u>
	<u>Montenegro</u>

<u>India (3)</u>
<u>Indonesia</u>
<u>Iran</u>
<u>Iraq</u>
<u>Ivory Coast</u>
<u>Jamaica</u>
<u>Jordan</u>
<u>Kazakhstan</u>
<u>Kenya</u>
<u>Korea (Dem. People's Republic)</u>
<u>Kosovo</u>
<u>Kyrgyzstan</u>
<u>Laos</u>
<u>Lebanon</u>
<u>Lesotho</u>
<u>Liberia</u>
<u>Libya</u>
<u>Madagascar</u>
<u>Malawi</u>
<u>Mali</u>
<u>Mauritania</u>
<u>Moldova</u>
<u>Mongolia</u>
<u>Montenegro</u>

<u>Morocco</u>
<u>Mozambique</u>
<u>Myanmar (Burma)</u>
<u>Namibia</u>
<u>Nepal</u>
<u>Niger</u>
<u>Nigeria</u>
<u>North Macedonia</u>
<u>Pakistan</u>
<u>Palestine</u>
<u>Philippines</u>
<u>Russia</u>
<u>Rwanda</u>
<u>Sao Tome e Principe</u>
<u>Senegal</u>
<u>Serbia</u>
<u>Sierra Leone</u>
<u>Somalia (2)</u>
<u>South Africa (7)</u>
<u>South Sudan</u>
<u>Sri Lanka</u>

<u>Sudan</u>
<u>Surinam</u>
<u>Syria (6)</u>
<u>Taiwan (4)</u>
<u>Tajikistan</u>
<u>Tanzania</u>
<u>Thailand</u>
<u>Timor-Leste</u>
<u>Togo</u>
<u>Trinidad and Tobago</u>
<u>Tunisia</u>
<u>Turkey (7)</u>
<u>Turkmenistan</u>
<u>Uganda</u>
<u>Ukraine</u>
<u>Uzbekistan</u>
<u>Venezuela (non biometric)</u>
<u>Venezuela (biometric)</u>
<u>Vanuatu</u>
<u>Vietnam (5)</u>
<u>Yemen</u>
<u>Zambia</u>
<u>Zimbabwe</u>

Please note, ETA eligible countries and requirements are **not** listed here.  
 Guidance regarding ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation) can be found here:  
[www.gov.uk/electronictravelauthorisation](http://www.gov.uk/electronictravelauthorisation)

1. Diplomatic or Service passport holders may transit airside without a visa.
2. Passport not recognised by HM Government – visa should be issued on a Form for Affixing a Visa (FAV).
3. Diplomatic or official passport holders may transit without a visa.
4. Passports that include a personal ID number on the biodata page are exempt from the visa requirement.
5. Diplomatic or Official passport holders may transit airside without a visa.
6. Holders may not use a B1/B2 USA visa to transit the UK.
7. Diplomatic passport holders may transit airside without a visa.
8. There will be a transition period from 15:00hrs (BST) 14 October 2025 until 15:00hrs (GMT) 25 November 2025 for nationals of Botswana seeking to enter the UK, during which passengers who hold a valid ETA and booked their travel before 15:00hrs (BST) 14 October 2025 who are scheduled to arrive in the United Kingdom before 15:00hrs (GMT) 25 November 2025 may travel without a visa.

There will also be a transition period from 00:01hrs (BST) 15 October 2025 until 23:59hrs (GMT) 25 November 2025 for nationals of Botswana seeking to transit the UK airside to an onward destination. Botswana nationals who pre-booked to transit airside prior to 00:01hrs (BST) 15 October 2025 for arrival in the UK for transit before 23:59 (GMT) 25 November 2025 may travel without a Direct Airside Transit visa. ETAs are not currently required for airside transit.

#### Airside Transit (where available):

Airside transit passengers are those who do not need to change airports and do not need to pass through the UK border. Passengers cannot transit AIRSIDE to the Republic of Ireland or anywhere within the common travel area.

#### Transit without visa (TWOV)

**ALL** visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom AIRSIDE without a visa must:

- (i) arrive and depart by air; and
- (ii) have a confirmed onward flight departing the same day from the same airport; and
- (iii) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required)

#### Nationals of the countries shown in RED (underlined) above need a visa to transit AIRSIDE unless they hold one of the following:

- (i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA (whether or not the holder is travelling to or from these countries); or
- (ii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM the country in respect of which the visa is held and it is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid entry visa;
- (iii) a valid permanent residence permit issued by:
  - (a) Australia
  - (b) Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
  - (c) New Zealand
  - (d) USA issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid US Immigrant visa endorsed with a US arrival stamp (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or
- (iv) a valid common format residence permit issued by an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- (v) a valid common format category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- (vi) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS (in order to transit to a destination other than the Republic of Ireland or the Common Travel Area); or
- (vii) a valid Schengen Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) group tourism visa where the holder is travelling TO the country that issued it; or
- (viii) a valid airline ticket FROM the Schengen area; provided the holder can demonstrate they entered there no more than 30 days previously on the basis of a valid Schengen ADS visa.

**NB:** Other countries' e-visas or e-residence permits are not acceptable unless the airline is able to verify it with the issuing country.

#### Landside Transit:

Landside transit passengers are those who need or wish to pass through the UK border and enter the UK (e.g. to change airport, to collect baggage or arrive at airports where no airside transfer is possible)

#### Transit without visa (TWOV)

**ALL** visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom LANDSIDE without a visa must:

- (iv) arrive and depart by air; and
- (v) have a confirmed onward flight that departs before 23:59hrs the following day; and
- (vi) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required)

#### Nationals of ALL countries (RED [underlined] and BLACK above) need a visa to transit LANDSIDE unless they hold one of the following:

- (i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airline ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey TO that country; or
- (ii) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airline ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey FROM that country; or
- (iii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM the country in respect of which the visa is held and it is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid entry visa; or
- (iv) a valid permanent residence permit issued by:
  - (a) Australia
  - (b) Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
  - (c) New Zealand
  - (d) USA issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid US Immigrant visa endorsed with a US arrival stamp (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or
- (v) a valid common format residence permit issued by an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- (vi) a valid common format category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland; or
- (vii) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling TO the Republic of Ireland; or
- (viii) an Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling FROM the Republic of Ireland provided it is less than 3 months since the holder last entered there.

**NB:** Other countries' e-visas or e-residence permits are NOT acceptable for landside transit.

The decision to allow a passenger to transit without a visa (TWOV) under the scheme is decided by an immigration officer at the UK border

#### UK permanent residents

If a visa national is permanently resident in the UK they do not need a visa, as long as they return to the UK within two years of their last departure.

#### Passengers with the right of abode in the UK

If a visa national has a 'certificate of entitlement to the right of abode' label in their valid passport they do not need a visa.

#### Holders of non-national and refugee travel documents

If the passenger holds a refugee travel document issued by the UK they do not need a visa. If the passenger holds any other non-national or refugee travel document they need a visa to enter the UK. Whether holders of non-national and refugee travel documents require a direct airside transit visa (DATV) depends on their original nationality, and whether they qualify for one of the exemptions listed above. Persons recognised as stateless under the 1954 UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons are not required to hold a DATV and may transit airside without a visa.

#### Seafarer

A seafarer travelling on duty, who is a visa national (including those in transit through the UK) does not need a visa if they hold a valid seafarer's book issued by one of these countries which also contains a statement that it is issued under ILO108 (or convention of 1958) or ILO185, having previously ratified ILO108 (or convention of 2003): Algeria, Anguilla, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bermuda, Brazil, British Virgin Isles, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova (Republic of), Montserrat, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Seychelles, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom (including the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar), Uruguay. The seafarer does not need to be a national of the country that issued the document.

Carriers and operators can seek advice about a passenger's permission to travel, by calling the UK Border Force Carrier Support Hub

Carrier Support Hub lines are for use by carriers and operators only. "Check if a passenger needs a UK visa service" to determine if a passenger requires a visa, here:

[Check if you need a UK visa - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://Check if you need a UK visa - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))



Part of

## Apply for a Parent of a Child Student visa: step by step (/apply-parent-child-student-visa)

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# Parent of a Child Student visa

## 1. Who can apply

You can only apply for a Parent of a Child Student visa if your child has or is applying for a Child Student visa (/child-study-visa). Or if they currently have a Tier 4 (Child) visa.

Your child must be aged between 4 and 11 when you apply, and be attending an independent school in the UK.

You must also:

- be the only parent accompanying your child in the UK
- have enough money to support yourself and your child in the UK (/parent-of-a-child-at-school-visa/money-you-need)
- maintain your main home outside the UK
- plan to leave the UK when your visa expires

## Bringing family members with you

To be eligible for a Parent of a Child Student visa you must be the only parent accompanying your child in the UK. The child's other parent must live abroad, and cannot apply to join you in the UK.

You can bring your other children with you if they also have or are applying for a Child Student visa.

You cannot bring other family members with you on this visa. They may be able to apply to come to the UK on a short-term visit visa (/browse/visas-immigration/tourist-short-stay-visas).

## How long you can stay

You can stay in the UK until your child's visa expires or they turn 12, whichever happens first.

You can extend your visa while in the UK ([/parent-of-a-child-at-school-visa/extend-your-visa](#)) as long as you meet the eligibility requirements.

## If you leave the UK

If your child is staying in education in the UK without you, you must make arrangements for their ongoing care. For example, if your child turns 12 and their visa is still valid, they may be able to start boarding at their current school, or live with other family members in the UK.

## What you cannot do

While you're in the UK on a Parent of a Child Student visa, you cannot:

- do paid work
- study
- start a business
- make the UK your main home
- apply for benefits (public funds) ([/government/publications/public-funds--2](#)), or the State Pension
- bring other family members with you
- switch to a different type of visa

## 2. Money you need

When you apply for a Parent of a Child Student visa, you must:

- pay the application fee
- pay the healthcare surcharge for each year of your stay
- prove that you have enough money to support yourself and your child while you're in the UK

## Visa application fee

A Parent of a Child Student visa costs £682.

## Healthcare surcharge

You'll also have to pay the healthcare surcharge ([/healthcare-immigration-application](#)) as part of your online application. It usually costs £1,035 per year.

This is so you can use the National Health Service (NHS) in the UK.

You pay the surcharge as part of your online visa application.

## Money to support yourself and your child

You'll need to show that you have enough money to support yourself and your child in the UK.

You'll need £1,560 for each month of your stay up to a maximum of 9 months. This amount is to support both you and your child.

For example, if you're staying for 9 months or longer you'll need to prove you have £14,040 (9 months × £1,560).

### If you want to bring your other children

You'll need an extra £625 per month, up to a maximum of 9 months, for each additional child that accompanies you to the UK. They must be a sibling of your other child and also have a Child Student visa.

### If you're extending your visa

If you've been in the UK for at least 12 months on a valid visa, you do not need to prove you have money to support yourself and your child for your visa application.

## 3. Documents you'll need to apply

When you apply you'll need to provide:

- a current passport or other valid travel document
- proof that you have enough money to support yourself and your child ([/parent-of-a-child-at-school-visa/money-you-need](#)) - unless you've been in the UK for at least 12 months on a valid visa

- evidence that you have a permanent home outside the UK

Depending on your circumstances, you might also need to provide:

- your tuberculosis (TB) test results if you're from [a country where you have to take the TB test \(/tb-test-visa\)](#)
- [a certified translation \(/certifying-a-document\)](#) of any documents that are not in English or Welsh

## 4. Apply from outside the UK

You must apply online for a Parent of a Child Student visa before you travel to the UK.

The earliest you can apply is 6 months before you travel to the UK.

[Check what documents you'll need to apply \(/parent-of-a-child-at-school-visa/documents-you-must-provide\).](#)

### Apply online

As part of your online application, you will need to book an appointment at a [visa application centre \(/find-a-visa-application-centre\)](#) to prove your identity. You'll have your fingerprints and photograph (known as 'biometric information') taken at your appointment.

You'll need to take your passport with you to the visa application centre (you'll be able to collect it on the day).

You'll be told what you need to do when you apply.

Once you've started your application, you can save your form and complete it later.

**Apply online**

### Continue your application

You can sign back into your application if you've saved it.

[Find out how to sign in to your account \(/sign-in-visa\).](#)

## How long it takes to get a decision

Once you've applied online, proved your identity and provided your documents, you'll usually get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks.

You may be able to pay to get a faster decision ([/faster-decision-visa-settlement](#)).

## After you apply

You'll be contacted if your application is complex and will take longer, for example because:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- of your personal circumstances (for example if you have a criminal conviction)

## If you need to change or cancel your application

If you need to change something in your application after you've sent it, contact UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) ([/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk](#)).

You can ask to cancel your application ([/cancel-visa](#)) by contacting UKVI. Your fee will only be refunded if UKVI has not started processing your application.

## After you get a decision

You'll get an email containing the decision on your application ([/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/getting-a-decision-on-your-application](#)). This will explain what you need to do next.

## 5. Extend your visa

You can apply to extend your visa while in the UK as long as you and your child meet the eligibility requirements ([/parent-of-a-child-at-school-visa](#)). This includes if your child currently has a Tier 4 (Child) student visa.

## How long you can stay

When you extend your visa you can stay in the UK until the date your child's student visa expires or they turn 12, whichever happens first.

## When to apply to extend your visa

You must apply before your current visa expires.

You can stay in the UK until you get a decision on your visa application.

## Fees

You'll need to pay:

- £1,321 to extend this visa
- the healthcare surcharge (</healthcare-immigration-application>)

## Apply to extend your visa

You must apply online.

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) (</ukvcas>) service point.

At the appointment you must provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo) - there's no fee for this.

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

Once you've started your application, you can save your form and complete it later.

**Apply to extend**

## Continue your application

You can sign back into your application if you've saved it.

Find out how to sign in to your account (</sign-in-visa>).

## Get help to apply online

You can get help with completing the online form (/assisted-digital-help-online-applications) if you:

- do not feel confident using a computer or mobile device
- do not have internet access

You can only use this service if you're applying to extend your visa in the UK.

You cannot get immigration advice through this service.

## How long it takes to get a decision

Once you've applied online, proved your identity and provided your documents, you'll usually get a decision on your visa within 8 weeks.

You may be able to pay to get a faster decision (/faster-decision-visa-settlement).

You can stay in the UK until you've been given a decision, as long as you applied before your last visa expired.

 You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

## After you apply

You'll be contacted if your application is complex and will take longer, for example because:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- of your personal circumstances (for example if you have a criminal conviction)

## If you need to change or cancel your application

If you need to change something in your application after you've sent it, contact UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) (/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk).

You can ask to withdraw your application (/cancel-visa) by contacting UKVI. Your fee will only be refunded if UKVI has not started processing your application.

## After you get a decision

You'll get a letter or an email containing the decision on your application. This will explain what you need to do next.

Find out what happens after you get your decision (/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/getting-a-decision-on-your-application).

If you applied for an administrative review (/ask-for-a-visa-administrative-review/if-you're-in-the-uk) because your application was refused, you can stay in the UK until you get your review decision.



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# Visit the UK as a Standard Visitor

## 1. Overview

You can visit the UK as a Standard Visitor for tourism, business, study (courses up to 6 months) and other permitted activities.

You can usually stay in the UK for up to 6 months. You might be able to apply to stay for longer in certain circumstances, for example to get medical treatment.

Depending on your nationality, you may not need a visa to visit the UK. You should check if you need a visa before you apply.

## What you need to do

- 1 Check if what you plan to do in the UK is allowed as a Standard Visitor.
- 2 Check you meet the eligibility requirements.
- 3 Check if you need to apply for a visa to visit the UK.
- 4 Apply for a Standard Visitor visa online - if you need one.

## What you can and cannot do ('permitted activities')

You can visit the UK as a Standard Visitor:

- for tourism, for example on a holiday or vacation
- to see your family or friends

- to volunteer for up to 30 days with a registered charity
- to pass through the UK to another country ('in transit')
- for certain business activities (/standard-visitor/visit-on-business), for example attending a meeting or interview
- for certain paid engagements or events (a 'permitted paid engagement') (/standard-visitor/paid-engagement-event) as an expert in your profession, for example to give lectures or perform
- to take part in a school exchange programme
- to do a recreational course of up to 30 days, for example a dance course
- to study, do a placement or take an exam (/standard-visitor/visit-to-study)
- as an academic, senior doctor or dentist (/standard-visitor/visit-as-an-academic)
- for medical reasons (/standard-visitor/visit-for-medical-reasons)

You cannot:

- do paid or unpaid work for a UK company or as a self-employed person, unless you're doing a permitted paid engagement or event
- claim public funds (benefits)
- live in the UK for long periods of time through frequent or successive visits
- marry or register a civil partnership, or give notice of marriage or civil partnership - you'll need to apply for a Marriage Visitor visa (/marriage-visa)

## Check you meet the eligibility requirements

You must have a passport or travel document to enter the UK. It should be valid for the whole of your stay.

You must be able to show that:

- you'll leave the UK at the end of your visit
- you're able to support yourself and your dependants during your trip (or have funding from someone else to support you)
- you're able to pay for your return or onward journey (or have funding from someone else to pay for the journey)
- you'll not live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits, or make the UK your main home

You may need to meet extra eligibility requirements if you're visiting the UK:

- to study, do a placement or take an exam ([/standard-visitor/visit-to-study](#))
- as an academic, senior doctor or dentist ([/standard-visitor/visit-as-an-academic](#))
- for a permitted paid engagement ([/standard-visitor/paid-engagement-event](#))
- for medical reasons ([/standard-visitor/visit-for-medical-reasons](#))

The rules on what you'll need to enter the UK may be different if you're travelling from Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man ([/guidance/travelling-between-the-uk-and-ireland-isle-of-man-guernsey-or-jersey](#)).

## Check if you need a visa to visit the UK

Depending on your nationality, you'll either:

- have to apply for a Standard Visitor visa before you travel to the UK
- have to apply for an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) ([/eta](#)), which allows you to visit the UK for up to 6 months without needing a visa
- be able to visit the UK for up to 6 months without needing a visa or an ETA

You can check if you need a visa ([/check-uk-visa](#)) before you apply.

If you do not need a visa, you must still meet the Standard Visitor eligibility requirements to visit the UK. You may be asked questions at the UK border about your eligibility and the activities you plan to do.

If you've previously been refused entry to the UK or have a criminal record, you may want to apply for a Standard Visitor visa (even if you do not need one).

## If you have to apply for a Standard Visitor visa

You must apply for a Standard Visitor visa ([/standard-visitor/apply-standard-visitor-visa](#)) online before you travel to the UK.

A Standard Visitor visa costs £127 for up to 6 months. The earliest you can apply is 3 months before you travel.

If you visit the UK regularly, you can choose to apply for a long-term Standard Visitor visa instead.

You can pass through the UK to another country on a Standard Visitor visa. If transiting is your only reason for coming to the UK, you can [apply for a Visitor in Transit visa \(/transit-visa/visitor-in-transit-visa\)](#) instead for £70.

## 2. Visit on business

You can visit the UK for up to 6 months to do the following business activities:

- attend interviews, meetings, conferences and seminars
- negotiate and sign deals and contracts
- attend trade fairs to promote your business (you cannot sell things)
- get work-related training if you're employed overseas and the training is not available in your home country
- give a one-off or short series of talks as long as they're not for profit or a commercial event - you can only be paid for speaking at [certain engagements or events \(a 'permitted paid engagement'\)](#) (/standard-visitor/paid-engagement-event)
- carry out site visits and inspections
- oversee the delivery of goods and services provided by a UK company to your overseas company or organisation
- deliver training or share knowledge on internal projects with UK employees of the company you work for overseas
- install, dismantle, repair, service or advise on equipment, computer software and hardware, if your overseas company has a contract with a UK company or organisation

You should:

- check you meet the [basic eligibility requirements for a Standard Visitor \(/standard-visitor/overview\)](#)
- [check if you need a visa to visit the UK \(/check-uk-visa\)](#)
- [apply for a Standard Visitor visa \(/standard-visitor/apply-standard-visitor-visa\)](#) online - if you need one

As a visitor, you cannot work for a UK company or as a self-employed person unless you're coming to the UK for a [permitted paid engagement \(/standard-visitor/paid-engagement-event\)](#). You'll need to [apply for a work visa \(/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas\)](#) if you want to do any other paid or unpaid work that's not included in the business activities on this page.

## Doing activities as part of an overseas job role

You can do certain additional activities in the UK as a Standard Visitor, if you're employed overseas as:

- an archaeologist
- an artist, entertainer or musician
- a bodyguard
- a camera operator
- a driver
- an internal auditor
- a journalist or correspondent
- a lawyer or expert witness
- a market researcher or analyst
- a personal assistant
- a pilot or cabin crew member coming to work in the UK under a 'Wet Lease Agreement' approved by the Civil Aviation Authority
- a professor from an overseas academic institution
- a religious worker
- a scientist or researcher
- a seafarer (someone whose normal place of work is on board a ship)
- a sports person or sports official
- a tour group courier
- a translator or interpreter
- a member of a film crew, including actors, producers, directors or technicians
- a member of the production team supporting an artist, entertainer or musician
- a member of technical staff supporting an artist, entertainer, musician or sports person

[Check the Visitor Rules \(/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-permitted-activities\)](/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-permitted-activities) for details of what you can do as a Standard Visitor in these job roles.

## 3. Visit to study

You can visit the UK for up to 6 months to:

- study at an accredited institution (this includes English language courses)
- do a short piece of research that's relevant to your course overseas
- do an 'elective' - an optional additional placement, if you're studying medicine, veterinary medicine and science, nursing, midwifery or dentistry
- sit an entrance exam, retake an exam or course module, or do a PhD oral exam (a viva)
- do an unpaid clinical attachment if you're a graduate from a medical, dental or nursing school
- take the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) test or the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test

You should:

- check you meet the basic eligibility requirements for a Standard Visitor ([/standard-visitor/overview](#)) and any relevant extra eligibility requirements listed below
- prepare any required documents that prove your eligibility
- check if you need a visa to visit the UK ([/check-uk-visa](#))
- apply for a Standard Visitor visa ([/standard-visitor/apply-standard-visitor-visa](#)) online - if you need one

To study or research certain subjects at postgraduate level or above, you may need to get an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate ([/guidance/find-out-if-you-require-an-atas-certificate](#)) before you start your course or research.

## If you're visiting to study at an accredited institution

You must prove that:

- you've been accepted onto a course provided by an accredited UK institution ([/visa-to-study-english/your-course](#))
- the course is no more than 6 months long (unless it's a distance learning course)

The accredited UK institution cannot be an academy or state-funded school.

## Distance learning courses

If you're doing a distance learning course, your course can last longer than 6 months. This is because most of your study will happen outside of the UK.

You can visit the UK to do certain activities as part of your course, for example:

- attend induction weeks
- do face-to-face intensive learning
- have progress checks
- sit exams or assessments

## If you want to study for more than 6 months

You'll need to apply for either a:

- Short-term study visa ([/study-visit-visa](#)) - for English Language courses up to 11 months
- Student visa ([/student-visa](#)) - for courses run by licensed student sponsors
- Child Student visa ([/child-study-visa](#)) - to study at an independent school if you're between 4 and 17 years old

## If you're visiting to do a short piece of research

You must prove that:

- you're at least 16 years old
- you're already enrolled on a course overseas that is the equivalent of a UK degree
- you've been accepted by a UK higher education institution to take part in research that's relevant to the course you're studying overseas

You can visit for up to 6 months to do your research.

## Documents you must provide

You'll need to provide confirmation from your overseas course provider that the research or research tuition is part of, or relevant to, the course you're doing overseas.

## If you're visiting to do an elective

You must prove that you're:

- at least 16 years old
- already enrolled on a course overseas that is the equivalent of a UK degree
  - the course must be in medicine, veterinary medicine and science, nursing, midwifery or dentistry
- doing an elective at a UK higher education institution as part of your course

You can visit for up to 6 months to do your elective.

### Documents you must provide

Your UK higher education provider will need to give written confirmation that you will not be treating patients or being paid for the elective.

## If you're visiting to do an unpaid clinical attachment or dental observer post

If you're an overseas graduate from a medical, dental or nursing school you can do an unpaid clinical attachment or dental observer post for up to 6 months.

If you want to stay longer than 6 months, you will need to pass the PLAB test and apply to stay in the UK ([/standard-visitor/extend-your-stay](#)).

You must not treat patients.

### Documents you must provide

You must provide written confirmation:

- of your clinical attachment or dental observer post offer
- that you've not done a clinical attachment or dental observer post in the UK before

## If you're taking the OSCE or PLAB test

You can visit for up to 6 months to take the OSCE or PLAB test.

If you do not pass the PLAB test, you can [apply to stay in the UK \(/standard-visitor/extend-your-stay\)](#) for a further 6 months to retake the test.

If you pass the PLAB test, you can [apply to stay in the UK \(/standard-visitor/extend-your-stay\)](#) to do an unpaid clinical attachment or dental observer post. You can stay in the UK for up to 18 months in total.

### Documents you must provide

You must provide a letter from the Nursing and Midwifery Council confirming your OSCE test registration.

You'll need a letter from the General Medical Council confirming your PLAB test registration.

## 4. Visit as an academic

If you're a scientist, researcher or academic you can:

- take part in formal exchange arrangements with UK counterparts
- carry out research, either as part of your job or independently

If you're a senior doctor or dentist you can also:

- take part in research
- teach (as long as it's not a permanent teaching post)
- undertake clinical practice (as long as it's not a permanent position)

To research certain subjects at postgraduate level or above, you may need to get an [Academic Technology Approval Scheme \(ATAS\) certificate \(/guidance/find-out-if-you-require-an-atas-certificate\)](#) before you start your research.

You can also visit if you're invited for certain paid engagements or events (a 'permitted paid engagement') ([/standard-visitor/paid-engagement-event](#)) - for example, to give a lecture or be an academic assessor. You'll need to show you're an expert in your profession.

## If you want to visit for up to 6 months

You should:

- check you meet the [basic eligibility requirements for a Standard Visitor \(/standard-visitor/overview\)](#)
- [check if you need a visa to visit the UK \(/check-uk-visa\)](#)
- [apply for a Standard Visitor visa \(/standard-visitor/apply-standard-visitor-visa\) online](#) - if you need one

## If you want to visit for more than 6 months

All academic visits lasting longer than 6 months require a Standard Visitor visa regardless of your nationality.

You can:

- [apply for a Standard Visitor visa \(/standard-visitor/apply\) before you travel to the UK that lasts for up to 12 months and costs £220](#)
- visit for up to 6 months and [apply to stay longer when you're in the UK \(/standard-visitor/extend-your-stay\)](#) for a fee of £1,100 (you can stay up to 12 months in total)

You must meet the [basic eligibility requirements for a Standard Visitor \(/standard-visitor/eligibility\)](#) and the additional eligibility requirements for academics. You must provide any required documents that show your eligibility.

Your partner and children can apply to stay with you for up to 12 months. They can apply for a Standard Visitor visa in advance or visit for 6 months and extend their stay once in the UK.

### Eligibility requirements if you want to stay longer than 6 months

You must prove you're:

- highly qualified in your field of expertise - this will usually mean you have a PhD or higher
- currently working in that field of expertise at an academic institution overseas

- not filling a permanent teaching post

If you're an academic, but not a senior doctor or dentist, you must also prove you're visiting to do research or a formal exchange.

If you're a senior doctor or dentist, you must also prove you're visiting to do research, clinical practice, a formal exchange or to teach.

## Documents you may need

You need to show you meet the eligibility requirements, for example by providing a letter from:

- your employer outlining the dates of your sabbatical or exchange
- your employer outlining the research to be undertaken
- the UK host organisation confirming the arrangements for your research, exchange or clinical practice

Depending on where you come from, you may need a certificate that proves you do not have tuberculosis (TB). [Check if you'll need to take a TB test \(/tb-test-visa\)](#).

## 5. Visit for a paid engagement or event

You can visit the UK for certain paid engagements or events (a 'permitted paid engagement') if you:

- have a written invitation from a UK-based organisation or client for a pre-arranged event or other permitted engagement
- can show you're an expert in your profession
- are 18 or over

The engagement must be relevant to your expertise, qualifications and main job in your home country.

You can come to the UK for up to 6 months, but you must do the engagement in the first month.

You can be invited:

- as a professional artist, entertainer or musician
- as a professional sportsperson
- as a qualified lawyer - to represent a client

- to give a lecture or series of lectures
- to speak at a conference
- as an academic - to be a student examiner or assessor
- as an air pilot examiner

You should:

- check you meet the basic eligibility requirements for a Standard Visitor ([/standard-visitor/overview](#))
- check if you need a visa to visit the UK ([/check-uk-visa](#))
- apply for a Standard Visitor visa ([/standard-visitor/apply-standard-visitor-visa](#)) online - if you need one

Who can invite you and what you can use to show you're an expert depends on your profession.

## Professional artists, entertainers or musicians

You can be paid to do an activity that relates directly to your profession including:

- performing
- talking about, presenting or launching your work to other professionals or the public
- giving lectures
- joining judging panels or debate panels
- taking part in professional conferences

A 'professional artist' can be anyone working in the performing or creative arts. For example, poets, make-up artists, stylists, set designers, photographers and fashion models.

## Your invitation

You must have an invitation from a UK-based:

- creative organisation, such as a gallery, university arts faculty, school or events venue

- agent or agency
- broadcaster

## Your expertise and employment

The event or engagement must relate directly to your full-time profession.

You must be able to show you're an established artist, entertainer or musician in your home country, for example:

- your published work
- publicity material for recent performances, screenings, concerts, talks, readings or exhibitions
- media coverage and reviews
- awards you've received

## Professional sportspeople

You can be paid to do an activity that relates directly to your sporting profession. For example, taking part in a sporting event.

## Your invitation

You must have an invitation from a UK-based:

- sports organisation that organises or hosts sporting events or matches
- agent or agency
- broadcaster

## Your expertise and employment

The event or engagement must relate directly to your full-time profession.

You must be able to show you're an established sportsperson in your home country, for example:

- proof of recent performances, awards and media coverage
- media coverage

- awards you've received

## Qualified lawyers

You can be paid by a client to represent them in the UK at a court or tribunal hearing, arbitration or other form of legal dispute resolution.

You can also be paid to visit the UK to prepare for the hearing.

### Your invitation

You must have an invitation from your client, showing you've been asked to represent them in the UK.

You must provide confirmation of your right of audience or 'temporary call'.

### Your expertise and employment

You may need to show that you're a qualified lawyer, such as a practising certificate or certificate of good standing.

## Lecturers

You can be paid to give a lecture or series of lectures about your area of expertise.

You cannot take a full-time or part-time teaching post for your host organisation.

### Your invitation

You must have an invitation from a UK-based:

- higher education institution
- research organisation
- arts organisation, such as a museum, theatre, art gallery, arts festival or other arts venue

### Your expertise and employment

Your work overseas must be relevant to the lecture or lectures that you're giving.

You must be able to show you're highly qualified in your area of expertise. For example, you can provide:

- a letter from your employer confirming where you work and your area of expertise
- examples of your published work
- evidence of lectures you've already given

If you want to give a lecture on a subject not relevant to your current role, you may need to provide evidence of:

- any previous employment or posts held in this area
- publications on the subject
- other recognised qualifications

You can visit for a permitted paid event or engagement, if you're semi-retired and earning an income from giving regular lectures. You cannot do this if you're retired.

## Speakers at conferences

You can be paid to speak at a conference or seminar.

### Your invitation

You must have an invitation to speak from the organiser of a conference or seminar in the UK.

### Your expertise and employment

You must be able to show that the conference or seminar is relevant to your area of expertise and profession in your home country.

## Academic examiners or assessors

## You can be paid to:

- examine or assess students
- chair or take part in selection panels

## Your invitation

You must have an invitation from a UK higher education institution or a UK-based research or arts organisation.

## Your expertise and employment

Your work overseas must be relevant to the role you've been invited to do.

You must be able to show you're highly qualified in your area of expertise. For example, you can provide:

- a letter from your employer confirming where you work and your area of expertise
- examples of your published work
- evidence of lectures you've already given

You can visit for a permitted paid event or engagement if you're semi-retired and earning an income from regular examination work. You cannot do this if you're retired.

## Air pilot examiners

You can be paid to examine UK-based air pilots, so they meet the national aviation regulatory requirements of your country.

## Your invitation

You must have an invitation from a UK-based approved training organisation regulated by the UK Civil Aviation Authority.

## Your expertise and employment

You must be able to show that you're in full-time employment overseas with your country's national aviation authority.

## 6. Visit for medical reasons

You can visit the UK for up to 6 months to:

- have private medical treatment at a hospital or other medical facility
- have treatment at an NHS hospital, as long as the care is paid for by your own government under a reciprocal healthcare arrangement
- donate an organ to a family member or close friend - this includes being assessed for suitability as a donor match

You should:

- check you meet the [basic eligibility requirements for a Standard Visitor \(/standard-visitor/overview\)](#) and any relevant extra eligibility requirements listed below
- prepare any required documents that prove your eligibility
- [check if you need a visa to visit the UK \(/check-uk-visa\)](#)
- [apply for a Standard Visitor visa \(/standard-visitor/apply-standard-visitor-visa\)](#) online - if you need one

### If you're visiting for private medical treatment

You must prove that you:

- have a medical condition that needs private consultation or treatment in the UK
- have made arrangements for consultations or treatment
- have enough money or funding to pay for your treatment
- will leave the UK once your treatment is completed, or when your visa expires
- are not a danger to public health if you have an infectious disease, such as leprosy

### Documents you must provide

You'll need a letter written by a [doctor or consultant \(https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/the-medical-register/a-guide-to-the-medical-register\)](#), that confirms:

- the condition you have that needs consultation or treatment
- the estimated cost and likely duration of any treatment
- where the consultation and treatment will take place

## If you're visiting for treatment at an NHS hospital

You can visit the UK for treatment at an NHS hospital. Your treatment must be paid for by your own government under a reciprocal healthcare arrangement.

### Documents you must provide

You must provide an authorisation form, issued by the government of your country, saying they will pay for your treatment.

## If you're visiting as an organ donor

You can only visit the UK to donate organs to:

- a family member who you're genetically related to (for example your sibling or parent)
- someone you have a close personal relationship with (for example your partner or friend)

You must prove that the person you're donating an organ to is legally allowed to be in the UK.

### Documents you must provide

You'll need a letter from the lead nurse of the transplant team, a General Medical Council registered specialist (<https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/the-medical-register#searchTheRegister>) or a registered NHS consultant that confirms:

- you're a donor match to the recipient, or you're being tested to see if you're a potential donor
- the recipient is genetically related to you, or in a close personal relationship with you
- when and where the transplant or tests will take place

The letter should be dated no more than 3 months before you intend to arrive in the UK.

If the recipient is not legally resident in the UK, you must provide their name, nationality and date of birth in your application.

The recipient should check if they need to apply for a Standard Visitor visa (/check-uk-visa) and that they meet the eligibility requirements for medical treatment.

## If your treatment will last longer than 6 months

All visits for medical treatment lasting longer than 6 months require a Standard Visitor visa regardless of your nationality.

You can:

- apply for a Standard Visitor visa (/standard-visitor/apply) before you come to the UK - this lasts for up to 11 months and costs £220
- visit for up to 6 months and apply to stay for a further 6 months when you're in the UK (/standard-visitor/extend-your-stay) for a fee of £1,100

There is no limit on how many times you can extend your stay. It costs £1,100 each time you do.

Depending on where you come from, you may also need a certificate that proves you do not have tuberculosis (TB). Check if you'll need to take a TB test (/tb-test-visa).

## 7. If you're under 18

You may visit the UK if you're under 18 and:

- you've made suitable arrangements for your travel and stay in the UK
- you have written consent from your parent or guardian to travel to the UK (if travelling alone)
- you're able to pay for your return or onward journey
- you have enough money to support yourself without working or getting help from public funds, or you have family and friends that can support you

## Travelling alone

You can travel to the UK without an adult (someone over the age of 18).

Your parent or guardian will need to provide their:

- written consent for you to travel to the UK
- full contact details

They'll also need to provide proof that you have somewhere suitable to live during your stay in the UK, including:

- the name and date of birth of the person that you will be staying with
- an address where you will be living
- details of your relationship to the person who'll be looking after you
- their written consent for you to stay with that person while you're in the UK

### If you're not staying with a close relative

Your parent, guardian or school must tell the relevant local authority about your visit if you're both of the following:

- under 16 (or under 18 if you have a disability)
- going to be looked after for more than 28 days by someone who is not a close relative (called 'private foster care')

You should provide a reply from the local authority if you have one.

The same rules apply to education exchange visits that last for more than 28 days, unless:

- you're part of a group that is travelling and staying together, for example a school group
- you're accompanied by an adult, for example a teacher

There are different rules in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Read the guidance for more information ([/government/publications/visit-guidance](#)).

### Travelling with an adult

You'll need to show that your parent or guardian consents to your travel and accommodation arrangements. If you do not need a visa to travel, you'll need

to prove this at the border.

If you do have to apply for a Standard Visitor visa, you'll need to identify the adult travelling with you in your visa application.

If the person you're travelling with is not your parent, you'll need to provide specific information about them in your application.

You can identify up to 2 adults in your visa application. Their names will appear on your visa. The adult can apply for a visa at the same time, but you must each complete separate applications.

## 8. Apply for a Standard Visitor visa

If you need a Standard Visitor visa, you must apply online before you travel to the UK and attend an appointment at a visa application centre.

The earliest you can apply is 3 months before you travel.

You must meet the eligibility requirements and only do permitted activities ([/standard-visitor/overview](#)).

Depending on your nationality, you may not need a visa to visit the UK. If you do not need a visa, you'll either:

- have to apply for an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) ([/eta](#)), which allows you to visit the UK for up to 6 months
- be able to visit the UK for up to 6 months without needing a visa or an ETA

You can check if you need a visa ([/check-uk-visa](#)) before you apply.

## Visa fees

You can apply for a Standard Visitor visa, or if you visit the UK regularly you can choose to apply for a long-term Standard Visitor visa instead.

	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Maximum length of stay</b>
<b>Standard Visitor visa</b>	£127	6 months
<b>Standard Visitor visa for medical reasons</b>	£220	11 months
<b>Standard Visitor visa for academics</b>	£220	12 months

	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Maximum length of stay</b>
<b>2 year long-term Standard Visitor visa</b>	£475	6 months per visit
<b>5 year long-term Standard Visitor visa</b>	£848	6 months per visit
<b>10 year long-term Standard Visitor visa</b>	£1,059	6 months per visit

## Apply online

Once you've started your application you can save your form and complete it later.

If you're applying with family members, each person must have their own application and pay the fee. They need to attend their own appointment at a visa application centre.

You can apply on behalf of your partner and child, if they cannot apply for themselves.

**Apply now**

**!** Your application will not be accepted and you will not get a refund if you have the right of abode in the UK ([/right-of-abode](#)) (for example you're a British citizen). You need to apply for a certificate of entitlement ([/right-of-abode/apply-for-a-certificate-of-entitlement](#)) instead.

## Continue your application

You can sign back into your application if you've saved it.

Find out how to sign in to your account ([/sign-in-visa](#)).

## Long-term Standard Visitor visas

You can choose to apply for a long-term Standard Visitor visa if you visit the UK regularly. This visa lasts 2, 5 or 10 years. You can stay for a maximum of 6

months on each visit.

If you're under 18 years old when you apply (/standard-visitor/if-youre-under-18), your long-term Standard Visitor visa will only be valid for up to 6 months after you turn 18. You cannot get a refund on the fee.

You may be given a shorter visa than requested if UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) believe you cannot meet the eligibility requirements for the duration of the visa you applied for.

You will not get a refund of the application fee if you get a shorter visa or if your application is refused.

Your visa may be cancelled if your travel history shows you are repeatedly living in the UK for extended periods.

## Documents and information you'll need to apply

You must have a passport or travel document that is valid for the whole of your stay in the UK. There must be a blank page in your passport for your Standard Visitor visa.

You'll need to provide the following information in your online application:

- the dates you're planning to travel to the UK
- where you'll be staying during your visit
- how much you think your trip will cost
- your current home address and how long you've lived there
- your parents' names and dates of birth (if known)
- how much you earn in a year (if you have an income)
- details of any criminal, civil or immigration offences you may have committed

Depending on your circumstances, you might also need to provide:

- details of your travel history for the past 10 years
- your employer's address and telephone number
- your partner's name, date of birth and passport number
- the name and address of anyone paying for your trip

- the name, address and passport number of any family members you have in the UK
- a certificate proving that you've had a tuberculosis (TB) test ([/tb-test-visa](#)) if you're visiting for more than 6 months

You need to provide additional documents if you're visiting the UK:

- to study ([/standard-visitor/visit-to-study](#))
- as an academic ([/standard-visitor/visit-as-an-academic](#))
- for certain paid engagements or events (a 'permitted paid engagement') ([/standard-visitor/paid-engagement-event](#))
- for medical reasons ([/standard-visitor/visit-for-medical-reasons](#))

You must provide certified translations of any documents that are not in English or Welsh.

## Proving your identity and providing your documents

As part of your online application, you need to book an appointment at a visa application centre. Allow time to attend your appointment, as the visa application centre ([/find-a-visa-application-centre](#)) could be in another country.

At your appointment, you'll need to:

- prove your identity with your passport or travel document
- have your fingerprints and a photo (biometric information) taken
- provide the required documents that show you're eligible for a Standard Visitor visa

The visa application centre may keep your passport and documents while processing your application.

## How long it takes to get a decision

Once you've applied online, proved your identity and provided your documents, you'll usually get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks.

You can check to see if you can get your visa decision faster (/faster-decision-visa-settlement).

You'll get an email when the Home Office has made a decision on your application (/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/getting-a-decision-on-your-application). This will explain what you need to do next.

## If you need to change or cancel your application

If you need to change something in your application after you've sent it, contact UKVI (/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk).

You can ask to cancel your application (/cancel-visa). You'll only get your fee refunded if the application has not been processed yet.

## 9. When you can extend your stay

You may be able to extend your stay if you have permission to be in the UK for less than 6 months. You can extend your stay up to a total of 6 months.

You can only apply to stay in the UK for longer than 6 months if you're:

- a patient receiving medical treatment
- an academic and you still meet the eligibility requirements
- a graduate retaking the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test or doing a clinical attachment

You must apply to extend your stay and pay the £1,100 fee regardless of your nationality.

You need to apply while you're still in the UK and before your current visa or permission expires.

## Fees

It costs:

- £1,100 to extend your stay as a Standard Visitor
- an extra £1,000 if you use the super priority service

You'll also need to have your fingerprints and a photo (biometric information) taken - there's no fee for this.

## If you have permission to be in the UK for less than 6 months

You may be able to extend your stay as long as the total time you spend in the UK is no more than 6 months. You must meet the [eligibility requirements \(/standard-visitor/overview\)](#) and pay the £1,100 fee.

For example, if you have been in the UK for 3 months, you can apply to extend your stay for 3 more months. This applies if you needed a visa to visit the UK and also if you did not need one.

## If you need to stay longer for medical treatment

If you're already in the UK, you can apply to stay for a further 6 months if you:

- have paid for any treatment you've already had in the UK
- can and will pay the further costs of your treatment
- continue to meet the [medical treatment eligibility requirements \(/standard-visitor/visit-for-medical-reasons\)](#)

There is no limit on how many times you can extend your stay. It costs £1,100 each time you extend.

### Documents you must provide

You must get a medical practitioner or NHS consultant who's registered in the UK to provide details of your medical condition that needs further treatment.

If you're having treatment at an NHS hospital under a reciprocal healthcare arrangement, you will need to provide another authorisation form from your country's government saying they will pay for your treatment.

## If you need to stay longer as an academic

If you're already in the UK and have permission to visit for less than 12 months, you can apply to stay for up to 12 months in total.

Your partner and children can apply to stay for up to 12 months too. They must have their own application and each pay the £1,100 fee.

## You must prove you:

- are highly qualified in your field of expertise, for example you have a PhD or higher
- were working in that field of expertise at an academic institution overseas prior to your arrival in the UK
- are not filling a permanent teaching post

If you're an academic, but not a senior doctor or dentist, you must also prove you're visiting to do research or a formal exchange.

If you're a senior doctor or dentist, you must also prove you're visiting to do research, clinical practice, a formal exchange or to teach.

Before you extend your stay, [check if you need an Academic Technology Approval Scheme \(ATAS\) certificate](#) (/guidance/find-out-if-you-require-an-atas-certificate). You may need one if you're researching certain subjects at postgraduate level or above.

## If you need to stay longer to retake the PLAB test

If you're already in the UK, you can apply to extend your stay for up to 6 months to retake the PLAB test.

You must provide written confirmation from the General Medical Council that you're retaking the test.

## If you want to do a clinical attachment or dental observer post

If you pass the PLAB test, you can apply to stay longer to do an unpaid clinical attachment or dental observer post.

You can stay in the UK for up to 18 months in total.

You must provide written confirmation:

- of your clinical attachment offer
- that you've not done a clinical attachment in the UK before

You must not treat patients.

## Proving your identity and providing your documents

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a [UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services \(UKVCAS\) \(/ukvcas\)](#) service point to provide your fingerprints and a photo (biometric information).

You'll also need to submit the supporting documents that prove your eligibility. You can:

- upload your documents into the online service
- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

## Apply to extend your stay as a Standard Visitor

Once you've started your application you can save your form and complete it later.

**Apply now**

## Continue your application

You can sign back into your application if you've saved it.

[Find out how to sign in to your account \(/sign-in-visa\).](#)

## Get help to apply online

You can [get help with completing the online form \(/assisted-digital-help-online-applications\)](#) if you:

- do not feel confident using a computer or mobile device

- do not have internet access

You can only use this service if you're applying to extend your stay in the UK.

You cannot get immigration advice through this service.

## How long it takes to get a decision

If you use the standard service, a decision will usually be made within 8 weeks of providing your supporting documents and proving your identity.

If you use the super priority service a decision will be made:

- by the end of the next working day after your [UKVCAS appointment \(/ukvcas\)](#) if your appointment is on a weekday
- 2 working days after your UKVCAS appointment if your appointment is at the weekend

Working days are Monday to Friday, not including bank holidays.

You'll be contacted if your application is complex and will take longer, for example:

- if your supporting documents need to be verified
- if you need to attend an interview
- because of your personal circumstances (for example if you have a criminal conviction)

Once you've applied you can stay in the UK until you've been given a decision, as long as you applied before your permission to be in the UK ended.

## If your application is successful

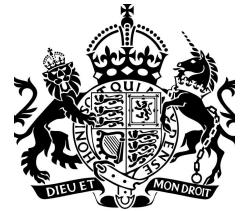
You'll get an eVisa (a digital record of your identity and immigration status).

Your decision email or letter will tell you how to [get access to your eVisa \(/get-access-evisa\)](#). You'll need to create a UKVI account.



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# Skilled Worker visa

## 1. Overview

A Skilled Worker visa allows you to come to or stay in the UK to do an eligible job with an approved employer.

This visa has replaced the Tier 2 (General) work visa.

It also allows you to work in UK waters.

## Eligibility

### Your job

To qualify for a Skilled Worker visa, you must:

- work for a UK employer that's been approved by the Home Office
- have a 'certificate of sponsorship' (CoS) from your employer with information about the role you've been offered in the UK
- do a job that's on the list of eligible occupations
- be paid a minimum salary - how much depends on the type of work you do and the date you got your CoS

The specific eligibility depends on your job (</skilled-worker-visa/your-job>).

You must have a confirmed job offer before you apply for your visa.

### Knowledge of English

You must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. You'll usually need to prove your knowledge of English (</skilled-worker-visa/knowledge-of-english>) when you apply.

## If you're not eligible for a Skilled Worker visa

You may be eligible for [another type of visa to work in the UK \(/check-uk-visa\)](#).

## How long you can stay

Your visa can last for up to 5 years before you need to extend it. You'll need to apply to extend or update your visa when it expires or if you change jobs or employer.

### If you want to stay longer in the UK

You can apply to extend your visa as many times as you like as long as you still meet the eligibility requirements.

After 5 years, you may be able to [apply to settle permanently in the UK \(/settle-in-the-uk/y/you-have-a-work-visa/tier-2-general-visa\)](#) (also known as 'indefinite leave to remain'). This gives you the right to live, work and study here for as long as you like, and apply for benefits if you're eligible.

## How to apply

You must apply online.

How you apply depends on whether you're:

- [outside the UK \(/skilled-worker-visa/apply-from-outside-the-uk\)](#) and are coming to the UK
- inside the UK and [extending your current visa \(/skilled-worker-visa/extend-your-visa\)](#)
- inside the UK and [switching from a different visa \(/skilled-worker-visa/switch-to-this-visa\)](#)

If you want to change your job or employer, you must [apply to update your visa \(/skilled-worker-visa/update-your-visa-if-you-change-job-or-employer\)](#).

[Your partner and children \(/skilled-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children\)](#) may be able to apply to join you or stay in the UK as your 'dependants'.

## How long it takes

You can apply for a visa up to 3 months before the day you are due to start work in the UK. This date is listed on your certificate of sponsorship.

As part of your application, you'll need to prove your identity and provide your documents.

You may need to allow extra time if you need an appointment to do this. You'll find out if you need one when you start your application.

## Getting a decision

Once you've applied online, proved your identity and provided your documents, you'll usually get a decision on your visa within:

- 3 weeks, if you're outside the UK
- 8 weeks, if you're inside the UK

You may be able to pay to get a faster decision ([/faster-decision-visa-settlement](#)) - you'll be told if you can when you apply.

If your application is successful, your decision email ([/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/getting-a-decision-on-your-application](#)) will tell you what you'll get to prove your immigration status and what you need to do next.

## How much it costs

You, your partner or children will each need to:

- pay the application fee
- pay the healthcare surcharge for each year of your stay
- prove you have enough personal savings

Check how much money you'll need ([/skilled-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs](#)).

## If you work in public sector healthcare

If you're a doctor or nurse, or you work in health or adult social care, check if you're eligible to apply for the Health and Care Worker visa ([/health-care-worker-visa](#)) instead. It's cheaper to apply for and you do not need to pay the annual immigration health surcharge.

## What you can and cannot do

With a Skilled Worker visa you can:

- work in an eligible job
- study
- bring your partner and children (</skilled-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children>) with you as your ‘dependants’, if you meet the eligibility requirements
- take on additional work (</skilled-worker-visa/second-job>) in certain circumstances
- travel abroad and return to the UK
- apply to settle permanently in the UK (also known as ‘indefinite leave to remain’) if you’ve lived in the UK for 5 years and meet the other eligibility requirements
- do voluntary work

Any voluntary work you do must be unpaid and for one of the following:

- a registered charity (</find-charity-information>)
- a voluntary organisation
- an associated fundraising body (an organisation that raises money for a charity or voluntary organisation)
- a statutory body (a government-appointed body, for example Historic England)

You cannot:

- apply for most benefits (public funds (</government/publications/public-funds--2>)), or the State Pension)
- change jobs or employer unless you apply to update your visa

If your application is successful, you’ll get a full list of what you can and cannot do with a Skilled Worker visa.

## 2. Your job

You must meet all the following requirements to be eligible for a Skilled Worker visa:

- your job is eligible for this visa

- you'll be working for a UK employer that's been approved by the Home Office
- you'll be paid at least the minimum salary rate for the type of work you'll be doing

The minimum salary for the type of work you'll be doing is whichever is the highest of:

- £41,700 per year
- the 'going rate' for the type of work you'll be doing

The minimum salary may be lower if you're [extending your Skilled Worker visa \(/skilled-worker-visa/extend-your-visa\)](#) or [updating it because you have a new job or employer \(/skilled-worker-visa/update-your-visa-if-you-change-job-or-employer\)](#).

Your employer must make sure your job pays at least [the minimum wage \(/national-minimum-wage-rates\)](#) and follows the UK rules for how many hours a week you work. If your employer does not do this, your application will be refused.

## Check if your job is eligible

Before you can find out if your job is eligible, you need to know its 4-digit occupation code.

If you already have a job offer, ask your employer for your occupation code.

## Look up your job's occupation code

If you do not know your code, you can search for your job in the [CASCOT occupation coding tool \(<https://cascotweb.warwick.ac.uk/#/classification/soc2020>\)](#).

Not every job title is included. If you cannot find your exact job title, try searching for similar jobs.

Make sure the job description matches what you'll be doing. Some similar jobs have different codes, for example in construction. Bricklayers, roofers and

carpenters are eligible for a Skilled Worker visa, but construction labourers are not.

## Check if an occupation code is eligible for this visa

When you know your occupation code, view the table of eligible jobs (</government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations>) to see if it's included.

The table is very large. It's sorted in order of occupation code, with the smallest numbers at the top. You may be able to use your web browser to search for your code on the page.

If your occupation code is listed as a 'higher skilled' job, you can apply for this visa.

If your occupation code is listed as 'medium skilled', you can only apply for this visa if your job is on either:

- the [immigration salary list](#) (</government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-immigration-salary-list>)
- the [temporary shortage list](#) (</government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-temporary-shortage-list>)

## Salary requirements

You'll usually need to be paid the 'standard' salary rate of at least £41,700 per year, or the 'going rate' for your job, whichever is higher.

### Example

Your salary is £42,000 per year, but the annual going rate for the job you'll be doing is £45,000. You do not meet the usual salary requirements for this visa.

Each occupation code has its own annual going rate. Check the going rate for your job in the [going rates table](#) (</government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-going-rates-for-eligible-occupations>).

## If you work in healthcare or education

There are different salary rules if you work in some healthcare or education jobs (/skilled-worker-visa/if-you-work-in-healthcare-or-education), where the going rate is based on national pay scales.

## When you can be paid less

If you do not meet the usual salary requirements, and you do not work in healthcare or education, you might still be eligible if your salary will be at least £33,400 per year.

Check when you can be paid less (/skilled-worker-visa/when-you-can-be-paid-less).

You may also be able to meet lower salary requirements if you're:

- extending your Skilled Worker visa (/skilled-worker-visa/extend-your-visa)
- updating your Skilled Worker visa (/skilled-worker-visa/update-your-visa-if-you-change-job-or-employer) - for example if you have a new job or employer

## Approved UK employers

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, because they are sponsoring you to come to or stay in the UK.

View the list of approved UK employers (/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers).

If your employer is not currently approved, they can apply for a sponsor licence (/uk-visa-sponsorship-employers) if they're eligible.

They'll need to pay a fee - £574 for small businesses and charities or £1,579 for medium and large organisations. It usually takes around 8 weeks to process a licence application.

## If you're a care worker or senior care worker

Your employer must be registered with the Care Quality Commission if you're a care worker (code 6135) or senior care worker (code 6136) working in England.

Check if your employer is registered with the Care Quality Commission (<https://www.cqc.org.uk/>).

## If you already have a job offer from an approved employer

Your employer - also known as your sponsor - will check that you meet the eligibility requirements. They'll give you a 'certificate of sponsorship' (CoS) to prove this.

The certificate of sponsorship is an electronic record, not a physical document. It will have a reference number, which you'll need for your visa application.

You must apply for your visa within 3 months of getting your certificate of sponsorship.

Check which [documents you'll need to apply](#) ([/skilled-worker-visa/documents-you-must-provide](#)).

## 3. When you can be paid less

You might still be able to apply for a Skilled Worker visa if your job is eligible but your salary is less than the standard salary requirement of £41,700 or your job's standard 'going rate'.

You can be paid between 70% and 90% of the standard going rate for your job if your salary is at least £33,400 per year and you meet one of the following criteria:

- you're under 26, studying or a recent graduate, or in professional training
- you have a science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) PhD level qualification that's relevant to your job (if you have a relevant PhD level qualification in any other subject your salary must be at least £37,500)
- you have a postdoctoral position in science or higher education

There are different salary rules if you work in some [healthcare or education jobs](#) ([/skilled-worker-visa/if-you-work-in-healthcare-or-education](#)) or you're [extending your visa](#) ([/skilled-worker-visa/extend-your-visa](#)) or [updating your visa](#) ([/skilled-worker-visa/extend-your-visa](#)).

## Your job is on the immigration salary list

The immigration salary list is a list of skilled jobs which have lower salary requirements.

If your job is on the immigration salary list you also pay a lower fee to apply for your visa.

You must be paid at least £33,400 per year if you are being sponsored for a job on the immigration salary list.

You must still be paid at least the standard going rate for your job. Check the standard going rate for your job in the going rates table (/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-going-rates-for-eligible-occupations).

View the immigration salary list (/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-immigration-salary-list) to see if your job is included and how much you'll need to be paid.

Make sure you check whether your job is listed in the part of the UK you'll be working in – UK-wide, or only in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

## You're under 26, studying or a recent graduate, or in professional training

You can be paid 70% of your job's standard going rate if your salary will be at least £33,400 per year and one of the following applies:

- you're under 26 on the date you apply
- you're currently in the UK on a Student visa (/student-visa) studying at bachelor's degree level or above - or you have been in the last 2 years, and a Student or visit visa (/browse/visas-immigration/tourist-short-stay-visas) was your most recent visa
- you're currently in the UK on a Graduate visa, or you have been in the last 2 years
- you'll be working towards a recognised qualification in a UK regulated profession (/government/publications/professions-regulated-by-law-in-the-uk-and-their-regulators)
- you'll be working towards full registration or chartered status in the job you're being sponsored for

If this applies to you, check how much you'll need to be paid (/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-salary-if-youre-under-26-studying-training-or-in-a-postdoctoral-role) to qualify for this visa.

Your total stay in the UK cannot be more than 4 years if you apply for one of these reasons. This includes any time you've already spent in the UK on

a Graduate visa.

## You have a PhD level qualification that's relevant to your job

If your job is eligible for a PhD salary discount, you can be paid 80% or 90% of the job's standard going rate, depending on which subject you are qualified in.

If you have a science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) qualification, you can be paid 80% of your job's standard going rate, as long as you will still be paid at least £33,400 a year.

If you have a non-STEM qualification, you can be paid 90% of your job's standard going rate, as long as you will still be paid at least £37,500 a year.

In both situations, you must:

- have a UK PhD or an equivalent doctorate-level overseas qualification - you'll need to [apply through Ecctis](https://qls.ecctis.com/) (<https://qls.ecctis.com/>) to check if an overseas qualification is equivalent to a UK PhD
- be able to prove your qualification is relevant to the job you'll be doing in the UK - your employer can confirm this

[View the list of jobs that qualify for a PhD salary discount](#) ([/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-jobs-that-qualify-for-a-phd-salary-discount](#)) to see if your job is included and how much you need to be paid.

If you're a research or academic leader, you may also be eligible to [apply for the Global Talent visa](#) ([/global-talent-researcher-academic](#)). This visa has no language or minimum salary requirements.

## You have a postdoctoral position in science or higher education

You can be paid 70% of your job's standard going rate if you'll be working in a postdoctoral position in certain science or higher education roles.

Your job must be in one of the following occupation codes to qualify for this salary discount:

- 2111: chemical scientists
- 2112: biological scientists
- 2113: biochemists and biomedical scientists
- 2114: physical scientists
- 2115: social and humanities scientists
- 2119: natural and social science professionals not elsewhere classified
- 2162: other researchers, unspecified discipline
- 2311: higher education teaching professionals

If this applies to you, check how much you'll need to be paid (</government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-salary-if-youre-under-26-studying-training-or-in-a-postdoctoral-role>) to qualify for this visa.

Your total stay in the UK cannot be more than 4 years if you apply to work in a postdoctoral position at 70% of the standard going rate. This includes any time you've already spent in the UK on a Graduate visa.

## 4. If you work in healthcare or education

There are different salary rules if you work in some healthcare or education jobs. Your salary must be at least £25,000 - or more if your job's 'going rate' is higher.

The going rates for these jobs are based on the national pay scales set by the relevant independent body, for example the NHS.

View the list of eligible healthcare and education jobs (</government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-healthcare-and-education-jobs>) to see if your job is included.

## National pay scales tables

If your job is on the list, your salary must be at least the national pay scale rate for the job you'll be doing.

These going rates apply whether you'll be working in the public or private sector.

Check how much you'll need to be paid in the:

- table of national pay scales for eligible healthcare jobs (</government/publications/national-pay-scales-for-eligible-healthcare-jobs>) - listed by NHS pay band and area of the UK
- table of national pay scales for eligible teaching and education leadership jobs (</government/publications/national-pay-scales-for-eligible-teaching-and-education-jobs>) - listed by role and area of the UK

Ask your employer if you're not sure what your role or pay band will be.

## 5. Knowledge of English

You'll usually need to prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply. You can prove it in one of the following ways, by:

- having a UK school qualification
- having a degree from a UK institution
- having a degree from an institution that was outside the UK and taught in English
- passing an English test from an approved provider

If you have already proved your knowledge of English in a previous successful visa application, you may not have to prove it again.

### If you have a UK school qualification

You can prove your knowledge of English if you have a qualification from a UK school that you began when you were under 18. You must have one of the following qualifications:

- a GCSE
- an A Level
- Scottish National Qualification level 4 or 5
- Scottish Higher or Advanced Higher in English

### If you have a degree from a UK institution

You can prove your knowledge of English if you have a degree-level qualification that was both:

- taught in English
- awarded by a UK institution, even if you studied outside the UK

## If you have a degree from an institution outside the UK

If your degree was taught in English and was not awarded by a UK institution, you'll need to apply for an assessment from Ecctis (<https://qls.ecctis.com/>).

Ecctis will give you a code to confirm that your qualification is equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree or higher and was taught in English.

## Passing an English test

If you do not have any qualifications that prove your knowledge of English, you will need to pass a Secure English Language Test (SELT) (/guidance/prove-your-english-language-abilities-with-a-secure-english-language-test-selt) with an approved provider.

You must prove you can read, write, speak and understand English to at least B1 level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) scale (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-1-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-global-scale>).

From 8 January 2026, the level of English requirement is changing. If this is your first application for a Skilled Worker visa, you'll have to prove that you can read, write, speak and understand English to at least level B2.

## Who does not need to prove their knowledge of English

You do not need to prove your knowledge of English if you're a national of one of the following countries or territories:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- the Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- the British overseas territories
- Canada
- Dominica

- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Malta
- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- USA

### If you're a doctor, dentist, nurse, midwife or vet

You do not need to prove your knowledge of English if you've already passed an English Language assessment that is accepted by the relevant regulated professional body.

If you're a vet, you may need to prove that you passed an English Language assessment with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

## 6. How much it 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 £769 to £1,751 depending on your circumstances
- pay the healthcare surcharge (</healthcare-immigration-application>) - this is usually £1,035 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)

You'll pay a lower application fee if your job is on the immigration salary list.

You'll be told how much you need to pay when you apply.

### Example

You're applying to come to the UK from Argentina for 2 years on a Skilled Worker visa.

Your job is not on the immigration salary list so your visa will cost £769, plus £1,035 for each year of your stay for the healthcare surcharge. This means you'll pay a total of £2,839 when you apply for your visa.

You'll also need to prove you have £1,270 available to support yourself in the UK if your employer cannot cover these costs.

## Application fees

If you're applying from outside the UK, the standard fee depends on whether you'll be in the UK for:

- up to 3 years - £769 per person
- more than 3 years - £1,519 per person

If you're applying from inside the UK to extend, switch or update your visa, the standard fee depends on whether you'll be in the UK for:

- up to 3 years - £885 per person
- more than 3 years - £1,751 per person

If your partner or child applies to join you in the UK, they'll pay the fee for the same length of time as you even if they apply after your visa has been granted.

### Example

If your 5-year certificate of sponsorship expires in 2027 and your child applies to join you in 2025, they'll need to pay the application fee for more than 3 years.

## If your job is on the immigration salary list

You and your family will pay a lower application fee if your job is on the [immigration salary list \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-immigration-salary-list\)](#).

The fee for each person applying is:

- £590 if you're staying for up to 3 years

- £1,160 if you're staying for more than 3 years

The fee is the same whether you're applying from inside or outside the UK.

If your partner or child applies to join you in the UK as your 'dependant', they'll pay the fee for the same length of time as you.

## Money to support yourself

You must have at least £1,270 in your bank account to show you can support yourself in the UK.

You will need to have had the money available for at least 28 days in a row. Day 28 must be within 31 days of applying for this visa.

You'll usually need to show proof of this when you apply (/skilled-worker-visa/documents-you-must-provide), unless either:

- you've been in the UK with a valid visa for at least 12 months
- your employer can cover your costs during your first month in the UK, up to £1,270

Your partner and children will also need to prove they can support themselves while they're in the UK. Check how much money your dependants will need to support themselves (/skilled-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children).

Read the guidance on financial evidence (/guidance/financial-evidence-for-sponsored-or-endorsed-work-routes) for more information about the money you need and how to prove it.

## If your employer can support you instead

Your certificate of sponsorship must confirm this. Your employer will need to complete the 'sponsor certifies maintenance' section on your certificate. This is under 'Additional data'.

## 7. Documents you'll need to apply

When you apply you'll need to provide:

- your certificate of sponsorship reference number - your employer will give you this
- proof of your knowledge of English (/skilled-worker-visa/knowledge-of-english)
- a valid passport or other document that shows your identity and nationality

- your job title and annual salary
- your job's occupation code
- the name of your employer and their sponsor licence number - this will be on your certificate of sponsorship

Ask your employer for a copy of your certificate of sponsorship if you do not have one.

## Other documents you might need

Depending on your circumstances, you might be asked to provide:

- evidence that you have enough [personal savings to support yourself in the UK](#) ([/skilled-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs](#)), for example bank statements (unless your certificate of sponsorship shows your employer can support you)
- proof of your relationship with [your partner or children](#) ([/skilled-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children](#)) if they're applying with you
- your [tuberculosis test results](#) if you're from a listed country ([/tb-test-visa/countries-where-you-need-a-tb-test-to-enter-the-uk](#))
- a criminal record certificate - if you're working in certain jobs
- a [valid ATAS certificate](#) ([/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme](#)) if your employer tells you that you need one because your job involves researching a sensitive subject at PhD level or higher
- your UK PhD certificate, or your unique Ecctis reference number if your qualification is from outside the UK - you'll need to [apply through Ecctis](#) (<https://qls.ecctis.com/>)

If your documents are not in English or Welsh you'll also need to provide a [certified translation](#) ([/certifying-a-document](#)).

## Criminal record certificate

You'll need to provide a criminal record certificate if you're applying from outside the UK and you work in:

- education, for example teachers, education advisers and school inspectors, childminders, teaching assistants

- healthcare, for example nurses, doctors, paramedics, managers, pharmacists, dentists and dental nurses, ophthalmic opticians
- therapy, for example psychologists, speech and language therapists, counsellors
- social services, for example social workers, managers, probation officers, welfare and housing officers

Check how to apply for criminal records checks  
(/government/publications/criminal-records-checks-for-overseas-applicants).

If you work in healthcare, you might be able to apply for the Health and Care Worker visa (/health-care-worker-visa) instead.

## If you've lived in more than one country

You might need to provide a certificate from each country you've lived in, depending on your age and how long you stayed in each country.

If you're under 28, you'll need a certificate from any country you've stayed in for a total of 12 months or more since you turned 18.

If you're 28 or over, you'll need a certificate from any country you've stayed in over the last 10 years.

## When you've got your documents ready

You can apply online once your documents are ready.

How you apply depends on whether you're:

- outside the UK (/skilled-worker-visa/apply-from-outside-the-uk) and are coming to the UK
- inside the UK and extending your current visa (/skilled-worker-visa/extend-your-visa)
- inside the UK and switching from a different visa (/skilled-worker-visa/switch-to-this-visa)

## 8. Apply from outside the UK

You must apply online for a Skilled Worker visa.

Check which documents you'll need to apply (</skilled-worker-visa/documents-you-must-provide>).

## Proving your identity and providing supporting documents

As part of your application, you'll need to prove your identity. How you do this depends on where you're from and what type of passport you have.

You'll either:

- use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to scan your identity document - you'll also create or sign into your UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- have your fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken at a visa application centre (</find-a-visa-application-centre>)

You'll be told what you need to do when you apply.

If you do need an appointment:

- you'll need to take your passport with you to the visa application centre (you'll be able to collect it on the day)
- you may have to travel to get to your nearest centre (this could be in another country)

## Apply for a Skilled Worker visa

Once you've started your application, you can save your form and complete it later.

**Start now**

## Continue your application

Find out how to sign in to your account (</sign-in-visa>).

## How long it takes to get a decision

Once you've applied online, proved your identity and provided your documents, you'll usually get a decision within 3 weeks.

You'll be contacted if your application will take longer, for example because:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- of your personal circumstances, for example if you have a criminal conviction

You may be able to pay to get a faster decision ([/faster-decision-visa-settlement/applying-outside-the-uk](#)) - you'll be told if you can when you apply.

## After you apply

You can ask to cancel your application ([/cancel-visa](#)). You'll only get your fee refunded if UKVI has not started processing your application.

You'll get an email containing the decision on your application ([/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/getting-a-decision-on-your-application](#)). This will explain what you need to do next.

## 9. Your partner and children

Your partner and children may also be able to apply to join you or stay in the UK as your 'dependants'. They'll need to complete separate applications.

If your partner or child's application is successful, their visa will usually end on the same date as yours. If a child's parents have visas with different expiry dates, the child's visa will end on the earlier date.

A dependant partner or child is any of the following:

- your husband, wife, civil partner or unmarried partner
- your child under 18 - including if they were born in the UK during your stay
- your child over 18 if they currently have permission ('leave to enter' or 'leave to remain') to be in the UK as your dependant

You'll need to provide evidence of your relationship to your dependant when you apply.

If you're the first person in your family to apply, you can get a 'family linking code' to connect your applications together. Your family members can enter

the same code when they apply.

## If you're a care worker or senior care worker

Your partner and children may be able to apply to join you or stay in the UK as your dependants. One of the following must be true:

- you have been continually employed as a care worker or senior care worker in the UK and on a Skilled Worker visa since before 11 March 2024
- you're applying for a child born in the UK
- you're the only living parent responsible for your child and you're applying for permission for your child to stay in the UK
- your child's other parent is also sponsored as a care worker or senior care worker and you're applying for permission for your child to stay in the UK

## If your occupation code is a 'medium skilled' job (not care worker or senior care worker)

If your job is listed as 'medium skilled' ([/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations](#)), your partner and children may be able to apply to join you or stay in the UK as your dependants. One of the following must be true:

- you have been continually employed in the UK on a Skilled worker visa and in a 'medium skilled' job since before 22 July 2025
- you're applying for a child born in the UK
- you're the only living parent responsible for your child and you're applying for permission for your child to stay in the UK
- your child's other parent is also sponsored for a job listed as 'medium skilled' and you're applying for permission for your child to stay in the UK

## Your partner

You must be able to prove one of the following:

- you're in a civil partnership or marriage that's recognised in the UK
- you've been living together in a relationship for at least 2 years when you apply

- you've been in a relationship for at least 2 years when you apply but you cannot live together, for example because you're working or studying in different places, or it's not accepted in your culture

If you're not living together, you'll need to prove that you have an ongoing commitment to each other, for example by providing evidence that you:

- communicate regularly with each other
- support each other financially
- care for any children you have together
- spend time together as a couple, for example on holiday or at events

## Your child

They must:

- live with you, unless they're living away from home in full-time education - for example, at boarding school or university
- not be married or in a civil partnership

You'll need to provide evidence of their address, such as:

- a bank statement
- credit card bills
- driving licence
- NHS registration document
- an official letter from their university or college

## Money they need to support themselves

Your partner and children must have a certain amount of money available to support themselves while they're in the UK.

You - or your partner or child - will need:

- £285 for your partner
- £315 for one child
- £200 for each additional child

## Example

You - or your partner or child - would need to have £600 to bring your partner and one child with you to the UK (£285 for your partner and £315 for your child).

You would also need to have £1,270 available to support yourself for your own application.

You - or your partner or child - will need to have had the money available for at least 28 days in a row. Day 28 must be within 31 days of you or them applying for this visa.

You'll usually need to show proof of this when they apply ([/skilled-worker-visa/documents-you-must-provide](#)), unless either:

- you have all been in the UK with a valid visa for at least 12 months
- your employer can cover your family's costs during your first month in the UK - this must be confirmed on your certificate of sponsorship

If your partner or child is applying at a different time to you, they'll only need to prove they have enough money to support themselves if they have been in the UK for less than 1 year.

## Apply from outside the UK

Your partner and children must either:

- apply online as your partner outside the UK ([https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs\\_dependant\\_partner\\_out\\_uk](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs_dependant_partner_out_uk))
- apply online as your child outside the UK ([https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs\\_dependant\\_child\\_out\\_uk](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs_dependant_child_out_uk))

Each family member will need to complete a separate application and pay the visa fee ([/skilled-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs](#)). They must apply before they travel to the UK.

They'll need your application number - you'll get this when you apply. This number is called a Global Web Form (GWF) or a Unique Application Number (UAN). You'll find it on emails and letters from the Home Office about your application.

They can also enter a ‘family linking code’ if you got one when you applied. This will connect your applications.

## Proving their identity

As part of an application, your partner and children will need to prove their identity.

They'll either:

- use the ‘UK Immigration: ID Check’ app to scan their identity document - they'll also create or sign into their UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- have their fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken at a [visa application centre](#) ([/find-a-visa-application-centre](#))

They'll be told what they need to do when they apply.

If they need an appointment:

- they'll need to take their passport with them to the visa application centre (they'll be able to collect it on the day)
- they may have to travel to get to their nearest centre (this could be in another country)

## Getting a decision

Once they've applied online, proved their identity and provided their documents, they'll usually get a decision within 3 weeks.

They may be able to pay to [get a faster decision](#) ([/faster-decision-visa-settlement/applying-outside-the-uk](#)) - they'll be told if they can when they apply.

If their application is successful, their [decision email](#) ([/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/getting-a-decision-on-your-application](#)) will tell them what they'll get to prove their immigration status and what they need to do next.

## Apply from inside the UK (extend or switch their visa)

If you extend or switch your visa, your partner or child's current visa will still be valid until its original end date. Your partner or child need to apply to extend or switch their visa, either:

- at the same time as you
- at any time before their current visa expires

This includes children who have turned 18 during your stay.

Your partner or children cannot apply to switch to your Skilled Worker visa as dependants if they are currently in the UK:

- on a visit visa
- on a short-term student visa
- on a Parent of a Child Student visa
- on a seasonal worker visa
- on a domestic worker in a private household visa
- on immigration bail ([/bail-immigration-detainees](#))
- because they were given permission to stay outside the immigration rules ([/government/publications/chapter-1-section-14-leave-outside-the-immigration-rules](#)), for example on compassionate grounds

If your partner or child is currently in the UK on a Student visa, they can only switch if they have either:

- completed the course they were sponsored to study
- studied for a PhD for at least 24 months

## How to apply

The application form will tell you if you can include your partner and children in your application or whether they need to apply separately.

If your partner or child apply separately, they'll need to either:

- apply online as your partner inside the UK ([https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/brp\\_reuse\\_pbs\\_dependant\\_partner\\_in\\_uk](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/brp_reuse_pbs_dependant_partner_in_uk))
- apply online as your child inside the UK ([https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/brp\\_reuse\\_pbs\\_dependant\\_child\\_in\\_uk](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/brp_reuse_pbs_dependant_child_in_uk))

They'll need your application number - you'll get this when you apply. This number is called a Global Web Form (GWF) or a Unique Application Number (UAN). You'll find it on emails and letters from the Home Office about your application.

They can also enter a ‘family linking code’ if you got one when you applied. This will connect your applications.

## Proving their identity

As part of their application, your partner and children will need to prove their identity. They'll either:

- use the ‘UK Immigration: ID Check’ app to scan their identity document - they'll also create or sign into their UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- have their fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) (/ukvcas) service point

They'll be told what they need to do when they apply.

They must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until they get a decision. Their application will be withdrawn if they do.

## How long it takes to get a decision

Once they've applied online, proved their identity and provided their documents, they'll usually get a decision within 8 weeks.

They may be able to pay to get a faster decision (/faster-decision-visa-settlement) - they'll be told if they can when they apply.

## Children born in the UK

If you have a child while you're in the UK, they do not automatically become a British citizen (/british-citizenship).

You must apply for your child's dependant visa if you want to travel in and out of the UK with them.

The form you fill in depends on whether your child is inside or outside the UK. Your child must either:

- apply online as your child inside the UK ([https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/brp\\_reuse\\_pbs\\_dependant\\_child\\_in\\_uk](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/brp_reuse_pbs_dependant_child_in_uk))

- [apply online as your child outside the UK \(\[https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs\\\_dependant\\\_child\\\_out\\\_uk\]\(https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs\_dependant\_child\_out\_uk\)\)](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs_dependant_child_out_uk)

You'll need to provide a full UK birth certificate for each child, showing the names of both parents.

You must apply for their dependant visa before they turn 18 if they want to stay in the UK.

## What your partner or child can and cannot do

Your partner or child can:

- work, except as a sportsperson or coach
- study
- travel abroad and return to the UK
- apply to settle permanently in the UK (also known as ‘indefinite leave to remain’) if they’ve lived in the UK for 5 years and meet the other eligibility requirements

They cannot apply for most benefits (public funds), or the State Pension.

If their application is successful, they’ll get a full list of what they can and cannot do.

## 10. Extend your visa

You can usually apply to extend a Skilled Worker visa or a Tier 2 (General) work visa if all of the following are true:

- you have the same job as when you were given your previous permission to enter or stay in the UK
- your job is in the same [occupation code \(/skilled-worker-visa/your-job\)](/skilled-worker-visa/your-job) as when you were given your previous permission to enter or stay in the UK
- you’re still working for the employer who gave you your current certificate of sponsorship

## If your occupation code is a ‘medium skilled’ job

If your job is [listed as ‘medium skilled’ \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations\)](#), you can only extend your Skilled Worker visa if both of

the following are true:

- you got your first certificate of sponsorship before 22 July 2025
- you have continually held one or more Skilled Worker visas since you got your first certificate of sponsorship

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

## Your partner and children

Your partner or child's visa will not automatically extend if you extend yours. If they do not extend their visa, it will be valid until its original end date.

They can either apply at the same time as you, or at any time before their current visa expires.

[Check if your partner and children can stay in the UK as your dependants \(/skilled-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children\)](#) when you extend your visa.

## If you have a Skilled Worker visa

If you got your first certificate of sponsorship (CoS) before 4 April 2024 you may be able to meet lower [salary requirements \(/skilled-worker-visa/certificate-of-sponsorship-before-4-april-2024\)](#).

## If you have a Tier 2 (General) work visa

You may be able to meet different eligibility requirements, depending on:

- whether you got the certificate of sponsorship for your first Tier 2 visa before or after 24 November 2016
- your occupation code - some have different going rates

The requirements will apply if you either:

- have a Tier 2 (General) work visa

- had a Tier 2 (General) work visa which you've extended as a Skilled Worker visa

## If you got your certificate of sponsorship on or after 24 November 2016

If you apply to extend before 1 December 2026, you will still need to meet the [lower salary requirements \(/skilled-worker-visa/certificate-of-sponsorship-before-4-april-2024\)](#), but your salary may also include allowances, such as London weighting. Any allowances must be guaranteed for the length of your stay.

## Jobs with different going rates

For some jobs, the going rate for the Skilled Worker visa is different if you had a Tier 2 (General) visa. These going rates are based on a 37.5-hour working week.

Occupation code for your Tier 2 (General) application	Occupation code for your current application	Going rate	90% of going rate	80% of going rate	70% of going rate
2113 Physical scientists	2114 Physical scientists	£27,190 (£13.94 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)
2119 Natural and social science professionals not classified elsewhere	2119 Natural and social science professionals not classified elsewhere	£27,190 (£13.94 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)
2119 Natural and social science professionals not classified elsewhere	2162 Other researchers, unspecified discipline	£27,190 (£13.94 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)
2311 Higher education	2162 Other researchers,	£30,940 (£15.87	£27,840 (£14.28	£25,000 (£12.82	£25,000 (£12.82

<b>Occupation code for your Tier 2 (General) application</b>	<b>Occupation code for your current application</b>	<b>Going rate</b>	<b>90% of going rate</b>	<b>80% of going rate</b>	<b>70% of going rate</b>
teaching professionals	unspecified discipline	per hour)	per hour)	per hour)	per hour)
2311 Higher education teaching professionals	2311 Higher education teaching professionals	£30,940 (£15.87 per hour)	£27,840 (£14.28 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)
2311 Higher education teaching professionals	2322 Education managers	£30,940 (£15.87 per hour)	£27,840 (£14.28 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)	£25,000 (£12.82 per hour)

## If you've changed job or employer

You'll need to [apply to update your visa \(/skilled-worker-visa/update-your-visa-if-you-change-job-or-employer\)](#) instead.

## Fees

Check how much it costs ([/skilled-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs](#)) for your type of visa.

You'll also need to have your fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken - there's no fee for this.

## Proving your identity and providing supporting documents

As part of your application you'll need to prove your identity. How you do this depends on where you're from and the type of passport or resident permit you have.

You'll either:

- use the ‘UK Immigration: ID Check’ app to scan your identity document - you’ll also create or sign into your UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- have your fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) (/ukvcas) service point

You'll be told what you need to do when you apply.

## Apply to extend your Skilled Worker visa

You must apply online before your current visa expires.

Once you've started your application, you can save your form and complete it later.

**Apply now**

## Continue your application

Find out how to sign in to your account (/sign-in-visa).

## How long it takes to get a decision

You'll usually get a decision within 8 weeks of your application date.

You'll be contacted if your application will take longer, for example because:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- of your personal circumstances, for example if you have a criminal conviction

You may be able to pay to get a faster decision (/faster-decision-visa-settlement) - you'll be told if you can when you apply.

## After you apply

If you need to change something in your application after you've sent it [contact UK Visas and Immigration \(UKVI\) \(/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk\)](#).

You can ask to [cancel your application \(/cancel-visa\)](#). You'll only get your fee refunded if UKVI has not started processing your application.

You'll get an email or a letter containing the [decision on your application \(/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/getting-a-decision-on-your-application\)](#). This will explain what you need to do next.

## 11. If you got your first certificate of sponsorship before 4 April 2024

There are lower salary requirements if both of the following apply:

- you got your certificate of sponsorship for your first Tier 2 or Skilled Worker visa before 4 April 2024
- you have continually held one or more Skilled Worker visas since then

You can be paid whichever is higher of £31,300 or the lower going rate for your occupation if you make an application to:

- extend your visa
- update your visa

Lower salary requirements will only be in place for applications made before 4 April 2030. These salary requirements will be updated regularly and your salary will still need to rise in line with the updated going rates each time you apply.

Each occupation code has its own annual going rate. Check the lower going rate for your job in the [going rates table \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-going-rates-for-eligible-occupations\)](#).

## When you can be paid less

You can be paid between 70% and 90% of the lower going rate for your job if your salary is at least £25,000 per year and you meet one of the following criteria:

- you're under 26, studying or a recent graduate, or in professional training
- you have a science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) PhD level qualification that's relevant to your job (if you have a relevant PhD level qualification in any other subject your salary must be at least £28,200)

- you have a postdoctoral position in science or higher education

Check how much you will need to be paid for these jobs in the [going rates table](#) (/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-going-rates-for-eligible-occupations).

There are different salary rules if you work in some [healthcare or education jobs](#) (/skilled-worker-visa/if-you-work-in-healthcare-or-education).

## If your job is on the immigration salary list

If your job is on the [immigration salary list](#) (/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-immigration-salary-list), you need to be paid at least £25,000 or your job's full going rate, whichever is higher.

## If you're under 26, studying or a recent graduate, or in professional training

You can be paid at least 70% of your job's lower going rate if your salary will be at least £25,000 per year.

Your total stay in the UK cannot be more than 4 years. This includes any time you've already spent in the UK on a Tier 2 (General) or Graduate visa.

## If you have a PhD level qualification that's relevant to your job

If you have a science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) PhD level qualification, you can be paid at least 80% of the lower going rate if your salary will be at least £25,000 per year.

If you have a relevant PhD level qualification in any other subject, you can be paid at least 90% of the lower going rate if your salary will be at least £28,200 per year.

## If you have a postdoctoral position in science or higher education

You can be paid at least 70% of the lower going rate if your salary will be at least £25,000 per year.

Your total stay in the UK cannot be more than 4 years. This includes any time you've already spent in the UK on a Tier 2 (General) or Graduate visa.

## 12. Update your visa if you change job or employer

You'll need to apply to update your Skilled Worker or Tier 2 (General) work visa if:

- you want to change your job and your new job is with a different employer
- your job changes to a different occupation code, and you're not in a graduate training programme
- you leave a job that's on the immigration salary list for a job that is not on the list

You do not need to apply again if you stay in the same job, but your job is taken off the immigration salary list.

If you'll be doing a different job for your current employer, you only need to apply to update your visa if your new job is in a different occupation code (/skilled-worker-visa/your-job).

If your new occupation code is listed as 'medium skilled' (/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations), you can update your visa if both of the following apply:

- you got your certificate of sponsorship for your first Tier 2 or Skilled Worker visa before 22 July 2025
- you have continually held one or more Skilled Worker visas since then

Your partner or children (/skilled-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children) will need to apply separately to update their visa. They can either apply at the same time as you, or at any time before their current visa expires.

## Fees

Check how much it costs (/skilled-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs) for your type of visa.

You'll also need to have your fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken - there's no fee for this.

## Eligibility and documents you'll need to apply

Your new job must meet the [eligibility requirements \(/skilled-worker-visa/your-job\)](#) and you'll need a new certificate of sponsorship to prove this.

You may be able to meet lower [salary requirements \(/skilled-worker-visa/certificate-of-sponsorship-before-4-april-2024\)](#) if both of the following apply:

- you got your certificate of sponsorship for your first Tier 2 or Skilled Worker visa before 4 April 2024
- you have continually held one or more Skilled Worker visas since then

You'll only need to provide other evidence [\(/skilled-worker-visa/documents-you-must-provide\)](#) again if you've been in the UK for less than one year.

### If you're applying to add a second job to your current visa

You must apply to update your visa if you take on a second job that is more than 20 paid hours a week in addition to the job you're being sponsored for.

Your second job must meet the [eligibility requirements \(/skilled-worker-visa/your-job\)](#) and you'll need a new certificate of sponsorship to prove this.

If your second job occupation code is listed as 'medium skilled' you can add it if both of the following apply:

- you got your certificate of sponsorship for your first Tier 2 or Skilled Worker visa before 22 July 2025
- you have continually held one or more Skilled Worker visas since then

You'll also need to include a letter with your application explaining that you want to change your current permission to stay.

Your letter must state:

- your name
- your date of birth
- your current certificate of sponsorship reference number
- the date when your current permission to stay runs out

If your application is successful, you'll get a new visa giving you permission to do both jobs.

You do not need to apply to update your visa if you're taking on additional work that has an [eligible occupation code \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations\)](#) or you'll be doing less than 20 paid hours a week.

## When to apply to update your visa

You can apply to update your visa up to 3 months before the start date of your new job.

You can continue working in your current job while your new application is being considered, or to work out your notice period - as long as you apply before your current visa expires.

You should not start your new job until you've got confirmation of your new permission.

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

## Proving your identity and providing supporting documents

As part of your application you'll need to prove your identity. How you do this depends on where you're from and the type of passport you have.

You'll either:

- use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to scan your identity document - you'll also create or sign into your UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- have your fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken at a [UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services \(UKVCAS\) \(/ukvcas\)](#) service point

You'll be told what you need to do when you apply. You'll also be told how to provide your supporting documents if you need to.

## Apply to update your visa

You must apply online.

Once you've started your application, you can save your form and complete it later.

**Apply now**

## Continue your application

Find out how to sign in to your account ([/sign-in-visa](#)).

## How long it takes to get a decision

You'll usually get a decision within 8 weeks of your application date.

You'll be contacted if your application will take longer, for example because:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- of your personal circumstances, for example if you have a criminal conviction

You may be able to pay to get a faster decision ([/faster-decision-visa-settlement](#)) - you'll be told if you can when you apply.

## After you apply

If you need to change something in your application after you've sent it contact UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) ([/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk](#)).

You can ask to cancel your application ([/cancel-visa](#)). You'll only get your fee refunded if UKVI has not started processing your application.

You'll get an email or a letter containing the decision on your application ([/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/getting-a-decision-on-your-application](#)). This will explain what you need to do next.

## 13. Switch to this visa

You might be able to apply to change ('switch') to a Skilled Worker visa if you're already in the UK on a different type of visa.

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

## Your partner and children

Your partner or child's visa will not automatically switch to this visa if you switch yours. If they do not switch their visa, it will be valid until its original end date.

They can either apply at the same time as you, or at any time before their current visa expires.

If you're switching to this visa as a care worker, senior care worker or someone with a job listed as 'medium skilled' (</government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations>), your partner or child will not be able to switch to this visa as your dependant.

## Eligibility

You must meet the following requirements:

- your job meets the eligibility requirements (</skilled-worker-visa/your-job>)
- you can speak, read, write and understand English (</skilled-worker-visa/knowledge-of-english>)

If you're currently in the UK on a Student visa, you must also meet one of the following requirements:

- you have completed the course you were sponsored to study
- your job start date is after your course has finished
- you're studying for a PhD full time, and have been for at least 24 months

## Who cannot apply to switch to this visa

You cannot apply to switch to this visa if you're currently in the UK:

- on a visit visa
- on a short-term student visa
- on a Parent of a Child Student visa
- on a seasonal worker visa
- on a domestic worker in a private household visa
- on immigration bail ([/bail-immigration-detainees](#))
- because you were given permission to stay outside the immigration rules ([/government/publications/chapter-1-section-14-leave-outside-the-immigration-rules](#)), for example on compassionate grounds

You must leave the UK and apply for a Skilled Worker visa from abroad ([/skilled-worker-visa/apply-from-outside-the-uk](#)) if you're in one of these categories.

## Fees

Each person applying will need to pay:

- the visa application fee ([/skilled-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs](#))
- the healthcare surcharge ([/healthcare-immigration-application](#)) for each year of their stay

You'll also need to have your fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken - there's no fee for this.

If you've been in the UK for less than 1 year, you'll also need to prove you have enough money to support yourself ([/skilled-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs](#)).

## Proving your identity and providing supporting documents

As part of your application you'll need to prove your identity.

How you do this depends on where you're from and the type of passport you have.

You'll either:

- use the ‘UK Immigration: ID Check’ app to scan your identity document - you’ll also create or sign into your UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- have your fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken at a [UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services \(UKVCAS\) \(/ukvcas\)](#) service point

You'll be told what you need to do when you apply.

## Apply to switch to a Skilled Worker visa

You must apply online before your current visa expires.

Once you've started your application, you can save your form and complete it later.

[Apply now](#)

## Continue your application

[Find out how to sign in to your account \(/sign-in-visa\).](#)

## How long it takes to get a decision

You'll usually get a decision within 8 weeks of your application date.

You'll be contacted if your application will take longer, for example because:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- of your personal circumstances, for example if you have a criminal conviction

You may be able to [pay to get a faster decision \(/faster-decision-visa-settlement\)](#) - you'll be told if you can when you apply.

## After you apply

If you need to change something in your application after you've sent it [contact UK Visas and Immigration \(UKVI\) \(/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk\)](#).

You can ask to [cancel your application \(/cancel-visa\)](#). You'll only get your fee refunded if UKVI has not started processing your application.

You'll get an email or a letter containing the [decision on your application \(/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/getting-a-decision-on-your-application\)](#). This will explain what you need to do next.

## 14. Taking on additional work

If you work overtime in the job you're being sponsored for, you do not need to update your visa.

There's no limit to how many hours of overtime you can do.

## Working in another job or for your own business

You can work up to 20 hours a week in another job or for your own business as long as you're still doing the job you're being sponsored for.

The work you do must meet one of the following conditions:

- it has an [eligible occupation code \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations\)](#) listed as 'higher skilled'
- it is on the [immigration salary list \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-immigration-salary-list\)](#)
- it is in the same sector and at the same level as your main job

You can only do additional work in a job with an [eligible occupation code \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations\)](#) listed as 'medium skilled' if both of the following apply:

- you got your certificate of sponsorship for your first Tier 2 or Skilled Worker visa before 22 July 2025
- you have continually held one or more Skilled Worker visas since then

## If you work more than 20 hours a week in another job

You'll need to [apply to update your visa \(/skilled-worker-visa/update-your-visa-if-you-change-job-or-employer\)](#) so that you're being sponsored to do both jobs.

You'll need to:

- get a new certificate of sponsorship from your second employer
- include a letter with your application explaining that you want to change your current permission to stay

## Running your own business

There are various ways to set up a business ([/set-up-business](#)) including registering as a sole trader.

Any business administration that you do, such as preparing invoices, counts as part of the 20 hours.

## Voluntary work

You can do voluntary work while on the Skilled Worker visa. This must be unpaid (except for reasonable expenses such as travel) and for one of the following:

- a registered charity
- a voluntary organisation
- an associated fundraising body (an organisation that raises money for a charity or voluntary organisation)
- a statutory body (a government-appointed body, for example Historic England)



**OGL**

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# High Potential Individual (HPI) visa

## 1. Overview

A High Potential Individual (HPI) visa gives you permission to stay in the UK for 2 years. To apply, you must have been awarded a qualification by an [eligible university](#) ([/high-potential-individual-visa/eligibility](#)) in the last 5 years.

There is a yearly limit on applications for this visa. The application year runs between 1 November and 31 October. If the limit has been reached, you'll be told when you apply online.

## How long you can stay

An HPI visa lasts for 2 years. If you have a PhD or other doctoral qualification, it will last for 3 years.

## If you want to stay longer in the UK

You cannot extend your HPI visa.

However, you may be able to switch to a different visa, for example a [Skilled Worker visa](#) ([/skilled-worker-visa](#)). You can switch to a different visa before your HPI visa expires.

Your time on an HPI visa will not count as time spent in the UK if you apply to settle in the UK.

Check you can apply for [another type of visa to stay in the UK](#) ([/check-uk-visa](#)).

## How to apply

You must apply online.

How you apply depends on whether you're:

- outside the UK ([high-potential-individual-visa/apply-from-outside-the-uk](#)) and are coming to the UK
- inside the UK and switching from a different visa ([high-potential-individual-visa/switch-to-this-visa](#))

Your partner and children ([high-potential-individual-visa/your-partner-and-children](#)) can apply to join you or stay in the UK as your ‘dependants’ if they’re eligible.

## How long it takes

As part of your application, you’ll need to prove your identity and provide your documents.

You may need to allow extra time if you need an appointment to do this. You’ll find out if you need one when you start your application.

## Getting a decision

Once you’ve applied online, proved your identity and provided your documents, you’ll usually get a decision on your visa within:

- 3 weeks, if you’re outside the UK
- 8 weeks, if you’re inside the UK

## How much it costs

You, your partner or children will each need to:

- pay the application fee
- pay the healthcare surcharge for each year of your stay
- prove you have enough personal savings

Check how much money you’ll need ([high-potential-individual-visa/how-much-it-costs](#)).

## What you can and cannot do

With an HPI visa you can:

- work in most jobs

- look for work
- be self-employed
- live in the UK with your partner and children ([/high-potential-individual-visa/your-partner-and-children](#)), if they're eligible
- do voluntary work
- travel abroad and return to the UK

You cannot:

- apply for most benefits ('[public funds \(/government/publications/public-funds-2\)](#)')
- work as a professional sportsperson
- extend this visa
- apply to settle permanently in the UK

If your application is successful, you'll get a full list of what you can and cannot do with an HPI visa.

## Studying with an HPI visa

You can only study with an HPI visa if your chosen course is [not eligible for a Student visa \(/student-visa/course\)](#). If your course is eligible for a Student visa, you can [apply for a Student visa \(/student-visa\)](#) instead, or extend your Student visa if you already have one.

You may need an [Academic Technology Approval Scheme \(ATAS\) certificate \(/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme\)](#) if you're studying or researching sensitive topics.

## 2. Eligibility

To be eligible for a High Potential Individual (HPI) visa, you must have been awarded a qualification by an eligible university.

## Where you studied

The list of eligible universities is based on rankings of universities from around the world.

Check the list of eligible universities for the month and year you were awarded your qualification:

- 1 November 2025 to 31 October 2026 (/government/publications/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list-2025)
- 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025 (/government/publications/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list-2024)
- 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024 (/government/publications/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list-2023)
- 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023 (/government/publications/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list-2022)
- 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022 (/government/publications/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list-2021)
- 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021 (/government/publications/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list/high-potential-individual-visa-global-universities-list-2020)

UK universities are not eligible. If you're already in the UK on a student visa you may be able to apply for a Graduate visa (/graduate-visa).

## Your qualification

Your qualification must be at the same level as:

- a UK bachelor's degree
- a UK postgraduate degree
- a UK PhD or doctorate

You must have been awarded your qualification in the last 5 years.

You'll need to apply to Ecctis (<https://qls.ecctis.com>) to check your qualification is valid and at the right level. Ecctis will not check if your university is eligible.

If you have already been assessed by Ecctis, you do not need to reapply and can use the certificate from your previous assessment instead.

## Other eligibility criteria

To apply for an HPI visa you must also:

- prove your knowledge of English ([/high-potential-individual-visa/knowledge-of-english](#))
- prove that you have enough personal savings to support yourself in the UK ([/high-potential-individual-visa/how-much-it-costs](#)), unless you've been in the UK with a valid visa for at least 12 months

You do not need to have a job offer to apply.

You can apply for an HPI visa from inside the UK ([/high-potential-individual-visa/switch-to-this-visa](#)) or outside the UK ([/high-potential-individual-visa/apply-from-outside-the-uk](#)).

You can only apply for an HPI visa once.

You cannot apply for an HPI visa if:

- you have already been given a Graduate visa ([/graduate-visa](#))
- you have already come to the UK as a Doctorate Extension Scheme student

### 3. Knowledge of English

You'll usually need to prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply. You can prove it in one of the following ways, by:

- having a UK school qualification
- having a degree from a UK institution
- having a degree from an institution that was outside the UK and taught in English
- passing an English test from an approved provider

If you have already proved your knowledge of English in a previous successful visa application, you may not have to prove it again.

### If you have a UK school qualification

You can prove your knowledge of English if you have a qualification from a UK school that you began when you were under 18. You must have one of the following qualifications:

- a GCSE
- an A Level

- Scottish National Qualification level 4 or 5
- Scottish Higher or Advanced Higher in English

## If you have a degree from a UK institution

You can prove your knowledge of English if you have a degree-level qualification that was both:

- taught in English
- awarded by a UK institution, even if you studied outside the UK

## If you have a degree from an institution outside the UK

If your degree was taught in English and was not awarded by a UK institution, you'll need to apply for an assessment from Ecctis (<https://qls.ecctis.com/>).

Ecctis will give you a code to confirm that your qualification is equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree or higher and was taught in English.

## Passing an English test

If you do not have any qualifications that prove your knowledge of English, you will need to pass a Secure English Language Test (SELT) (/guidance/prove-your-english-language-abilities-with-a-secure-english-language-test-selt) with an approved provider.

You must prove you can read, write, speak and understand English to at least B1 level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) scale (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/table-1-cefr-3.3-common-reference-levels-global-scale>).

From 8 January 2026, the level of English requirement is changing. If this is your first application for a High Potential Individual (HPI) visa, you'll have to prove that you can read, write, speak and understand English to at least level B2.

## Who does not need to prove their knowledge of English

You do not need to prove your knowledge of English if you're a national of one of the following countries or territories:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- the Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- the British overseas territories
- Canada
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Malta
- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- USA

## 4. How much it costs

When you apply for a High Potential Individual (HPI) visa, you'll need to have enough money to:

- pay £252 for Ecctis to check your qualification is valid (this includes VAT)
- pay the £880 application fee
- pay the healthcare surcharge - this is usually £1,035 for each year you'll be in the UK
- support yourself when you arrive in the UK - you'll usually need to have at least £1,270 available (unless you're exempt)

You'll be told how much you need to pay when you apply.

## Healthcare surcharge

You'll have to pay [the healthcare surcharge \(/healthcare-immigration-application\)](#) when you apply.

If you're eligible for an HPI visa for:

- 2 years - it will cost £2,070
- 3 years - it will cost £3,105

### If you work in public sector healthcare

If you get a job in public sector healthcare after you have paid the healthcare surcharge, you may be able to [get a refund \(/apply-immigration-health-surcharge-refund\)](#).

## Money to support yourself

You must have at least £1,270 in your bank account to show you can support yourself in the UK.

You will need to have had the money available for at least 28 days in a row. Day 28 must be within 31 days of applying for this visa.

You'll usually need to [show proof of this when you apply \(/high-potential-individual-visa/documents-you-must-provide\)](#), unless you've been in the UK with a valid visa for at least 12 months.

Your partner and children will also need to prove they can support themselves while they're in the UK. [Check how much they'll need \(/high-potential-individual-visa/your-partner-and-children\)](#).

[Read the guidance on financial evidence \(/guidance/financial-evidence-for-sponsored-or-endorsed-work-routes\)](#) for more information about the money you need and how to prove it.

## 5. Documents you'll need to apply

Before you apply, you must [pay for Ecctis to check your qualification is valid \(<https://qls.ecctis.com>\)](#) unless you've already been assessed by Ecctis.

When you apply you'll need to provide:

- a valid passport or other travel document that shows your identity and nationality
- proof of your [knowledge of English](#) ([/high-potential-individual-visa/knowledge-of-english](#))
- your unique person identifier number or certificate that was given to you by Ecctis when they checked your qualification

## Other documents you might need

Depending on your circumstances, you might be asked to provide:

- proof you have enough [personal savings to support yourself in the UK](#) ([/high-potential-individual-visa/how-much-it-costs](#)), for example bank statements (unless you've been in the UK with a valid visa for at least 12 months)
- proof of your relationship with [your partner or children](#) ([/high-potential-individual-visa/your-partner-and-children](#)) if they're applying with you
- [your tuberculosis test results if you're from a listed country](#) ([/tb-test-visa/countries-where-you-need-a-tb-test-to-enter-the-uk](#))

If you're switching to this visa from another visa, you'll also need to provide either:

- your biometric residence permit (BRP) - you can use it for 18 months after the expiry date printed on the card
- online proof of your immigration status if you have an eVisa - you'll need to [get a share code](#) ([/view-prove-immigration-status](#))

If your documents are not in English or Welsh you'll also need to provide a [certified translation](#) ([/certifying-a-document](#)).

## 6. Apply from outside the UK

You must apply online for a High Potential Individual (HPI) visa.

Check which [documents you'll need to apply](#) ([/high-potential-individual-visa/documents-you-must-provide](#)).

There's a different process if you are already in the UK and are [switching to the HPI visa from another visa](#) ([/high-potential-individual-visa/switch-to-this-visa](#)).

## When to apply

You must apply within 5 years of being awarded a qualification from an [eligible university](#) (/high-potential-individual-visa/eligibility).

There is a yearly limit on applications for this visa. The application year runs between 1 November and 31 October. If the limit has been reached, you'll be told when you apply online.

## Proving your identity and providing supporting documents

As part of your application, you'll need to prove your identity. How you do this depends on where you're from and what type of passport you have.

You'll either:

- use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to scan your identity document - you'll also create or sign into your UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- have your fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken at a [visa application centre](#) (/find-a-visa-application-centre)

You'll be told what you need to do when you apply.

If you need an appointment:

- you'll need to take your passport with you to the visa application centre (you'll be able to collect it on the day)
- you may have to travel to get to your nearest centre (this could be in another country)

## Apply for an HPI visa

Once you've started your application, you can save your form and complete it later.

**Start now**

## Continue your application

You can sign back into your application if you've saved it.

[Find out how to sign in to your account \(/sign-in-visa\).](#)

## How long it takes to get a decision

Once you've applied online, proved your identity and provided your documents, you'll usually get a decision within 3 weeks.

You'll be contacted if your application will take longer, for example because:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- of your personal circumstances, for example if you have a criminal conviction

## After you apply

You can ask to [cancel your application \(/cancel-visa\)](#). You'll only get your fee refunded if UKVI has not started processing your application.

You'll get an email containing the [decision on your application \(/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/getting-a-decision-on-your-application\)](#). This will explain what you need to do next.

## 7. Your partner and children

Your partner and children can also apply to join you or stay in the UK as your 'dependants' if they're eligible.

If your partner or child's application is successful, their visa will usually end on the same date as yours. If a child's parents have visas with different expiry dates, the child's visa will end on the earlier date.

A dependant partner or child is any of the following:

- your husband, wife, civil partner or unmarried partner
- your child under 18 - including if they were born in the UK during your stay
- your child over 18 if they currently have permission ('leave to enter' or 'leave to remain') to be in the UK as your dependant

You'll need to provide evidence of your relationship to your dependant when you apply.

## Your partner

You must be able to prove one of the following:

- you're in a civil partnership or marriage that's recognised in the UK
- you've been living together in a relationship for at least 2 years when you apply
- you've been in a relationship for at least 2 years when you apply but you cannot live together, for example because you're working or studying in different places, or it's not accepted in your culture

If you're not living together, you'll need to prove that you have an ongoing commitment to each other, for example by providing evidence that you:

- communicate regularly with each other
- support each other financially
- care for any children you have together
- spend time together as a couple, for example on holiday or at events

## Your child

They must:

- live with you, unless they're living away from home in full-time education - for example, at boarding school or university
- not be married or in a civil partnership

You'll need to provide evidence of their address, such as:

- a bank statement
- credit card bills
- driving licence
- NHS registration document
- an official letter from their university or college

## Money they need to support themselves

Your partner and children must have a certain amount of money available to support themselves while they're in the UK.

You - or your partner or child - will need:

- £285 for your partner
- £315 for one child
- £200 for each additional child

### Example

You - or your partner or child - would need to have £600 to bring your partner and one child with you to the UK (£285 for your partner and £315 for your child).

You would also need to have £1,270 available to support yourself for your own application.

You - or your partner or child - will need to have had the money available for at least 28 days in a row. Day 28 must be within 31 days of you or them applying for this visa.

You'll usually need to show proof of this when they apply (/high-potential-individual-visa/documents-you-must-provide), unless either:

- you have all been in the UK with a valid visa for at least 12 months
- your employer can cover your family's costs during your first month in the UK - this must be confirmed on your certificate of sponsorship

If your partner or child is applying at a different time to you, they'll only need to prove they have enough money to support themselves if they have been in the UK for less than 1 year.

## Healthcare surcharge

Each family member will have to pay the healthcare surcharge (/healthcare-immigration-application) when they apply.

If you're eligible for a High Potential Individual (HPI) visa for 2 years, it will cost:

- £2,070 for each adult family member
- £1,552 for each child aged under 18 at the time you apply

If you're eligible for a HPI visa for 3 years, it will cost:

- £3,105 for each adult family member
- £2,328 for each child aged under 18 at the time you apply

### If one of your family members works in public sector healthcare

If one of your family members gets a job in public sector healthcare after they have paid the healthcare surcharge, they may be able to [get a refund \(/apply-immigration-health-surcharge-refund\)](#).

## Apply from outside the UK

Your partner and children must either:

- [apply online as your partner](#) ([https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs\\_dependant\\_partner\\_out\\_uk](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs_dependant_partner_out_uk))
- [apply online as your child](#) ([https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs\\_dependant\\_child\\_out\\_uk](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs_dependant_child_out_uk))

Each family member will need to complete a separate application and pay the [visa fee \(/high-potential-individual-visa/how-much-it-costs\)](#). They must apply before they travel to the UK.

They'll also need your application number - you'll get this when you apply. This number is called a Global Web Form (GWF) or a Unique Application Number (UAN). You'll find it on emails and letters from the Home Office about your application.

### Proving their identity

As part of an application, your partner and children will need to prove their identity.

They'll either:

- use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to scan their identity document - they'll also create or sign in to their UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- have their fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken at a [visa application centre \(/find-a-visa-application-centre\)](#)

They'll be told what they need to do when they apply.

If they need an appointment:

- they'll need to take their passport with them to the visa application centre (they'll be able to collect it on the day)
- they may have to travel to get to their nearest centre (this could be in another country)

## How long it takes to get a decision

Once they've applied online, proved their identity and provided their documents, they'll usually get a decision within 3 weeks.

## Apply from inside the UK (switch their visa)

If you switch your visa, your partner or child's current visa will still be valid until its original end date. Your partner or child need to apply to switch their visa, either:

- at the same time as you
- at any time before their current visa expires

This includes children who have turned 18 during your stay.

Your partner or children cannot apply to switch to your HPI visa as your dependants if they are currently in the UK:

- on a visit visa
- on a short-term student visa
- on a Parent of a Child Student visa
- on a seasonal worker visa
- on a domestic worker in a private household visa
- [on immigration bail \(/bail-immigration-detainees\)](#)

- because they were given permission to stay outside the immigration rules (</government/publications/chapter-1-section-14-leave-outside-the-immigration-rules>), for example on compassionate grounds

If your partner or child is currently in the UK on a Student visa, they can only switch if they have either:

- completed the course they were sponsored to study
- studied for a PhD for at least 24 months

## How to apply

The application form will tell you if you can include your partner and children in your application or whether they need to apply separately.

If your partner or child apply separately, they'll need to either:

- switch to your HPI visa as your partner ([https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/brp\\_reuse\\_pbs\\_dependant\\_partner\\_in\\_uk](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/brp_reuse_pbs_dependant_partner_in_uk))
- switch to your HPI visa as your child ([https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs\\_dependant\\_child\\_in\\_uk](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs_dependant_child_in_uk))

They'll need your application number - you'll get this when you apply. This number is called a Global Web Form (GWF) or a Unique Application Number (UAN). You'll find it on emails and letters from the Home Office about your application.

## Proving their identity

As part of their application, your partner and children will need to prove their identity.

They'll either:

- use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to scan their identity document - they'll also create or sign in to their UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- have their fingerprints and photo (biometric information) taken at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) (</ukvcas>) service point

They'll be told what they need to do when they apply.

They must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until they get a decision. Their application will be withdrawn if they do.

## How long it takes to get a decision

Once they've applied online, proved their identity and provided their documents, they'll usually get a decision within 8 weeks.

## Children born in the UK

If you have a child while you're in the UK, they do not automatically become a British citizen ([/british-citizenship](#)).

You must apply for your child's dependant visa if you want to travel in and out of the UK with them.

The form you fill in depends on if:

- your child is inside the UK ([https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs\\_dependant\\_child\\_in\\_uk](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs_dependant_child_in_uk))
- your child is outside the UK ([https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs\\_dependant\\_child\\_out\\_uk](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/sort/start/pbs_dependant_child_out_uk))

You'll need to provide a full UK birth certificate for each child, showing the names of both parents.

You must apply for their dependant visa before they turn 18 if they want to stay in the UK.

## What your partner or child can and cannot do

Your partner or child can:

- work, except as a sportsperson or coach
- study
- travel abroad and return to the UK

They cannot apply for most benefits (public funds), or the State Pension.

If their application is successful, they'll get a full list of what they can and cannot do.

## 8. Switch to this visa

You might be able to apply to change ('switch') to a High Potential Individual (HPI) visa if you're already in the UK on a different type of visa.

Your partner or child's visa will not automatically switch to this visa if you switch yours. They can either apply at the same time as you, or at any time before their current visa expires.

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

## When to apply

You must apply within 5 years of being awarded a qualification from an [eligible university](#) (/high-potential-individual-visa/eligibility).

If you're currently in the UK on a Student visa, one of the following must also apply:

- you've completed the course you were sponsored to study
- you're studying for a PhD full time, and have been for at least 24 months

There is a yearly limit on applications for this visa. The application year runs between 1 November and 31 October. If the limit has been reached, you'll be told when you apply to switch to this visa.

## Who cannot apply to switch to this visa

You cannot apply to switch to this visa if you're currently in the UK:

- on a visit visa
- on a short-term student visa
- on a Parent or a Child Student visa
- on a seasonal worker visa

- on a domestic worker in a private household visa
- on immigration bail ([/bail-immigration-detainees](#))
- because you were given permission to stay outside the immigration rules ([/government/publications/chapter-1-section-14-leave-outside-the-immigration-rules](#)), for example on compassionate grounds

You must leave the UK and apply for an HPI visa from abroad ([/high-potential-individual-visa/apply-outside-the-uk](#)) if you're in one of these categories.

You cannot switch to this visa if you're on a Graduate visa.

## Fees

Each person applying will need to pay:

- the visa application fee ([/high-potential-individual-visa/how-much-it-costs](#))
- the healthcare surcharge ([/healthcare-immigration-application](#)) for each year of their stay

You'll also need to have your biometric information (fingerprints and a photo) taken. There's no fee for this.

If you've been in the UK for less than 1 year, you'll also need to prove you have enough money to support yourself ([/high-potential-individual-visa/how-much-it-costs](#)).

## Proving your identity and providing supporting documents

As part of your application you'll need to prove your identity.

How you do this depends on where you're from and the type of passport you have.

You'll either:

- use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to scan your identity document - you'll also create or sign in to your UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- give your fingerprints and a photo (biometric information) at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) ([/ukvcas](#)) service point

You'll be told what you need to do when you apply.

## Apply to switch to an HPI visa

You must apply online before your current visa expires.

Once you've started your application, you can save your form and complete it later.

**Start now**

## Continue your application

You can sign back into your application if you've saved it.

[Find out how to sign in to your account \(/sign-in-visa\).](#)

## How long it takes to get a decision

You'll usually get a decision within 8 weeks of your application date.

You'll be contacted if your application will take longer, for example because:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- of your personal circumstances, for example if you have a criminal conviction

## After you apply

If you need to change something in your application after you've sent it [contact UK Visas and Immigration \(UKVI\) \(/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk\)](#).

You can ask to [cancel your application \(/cancel-visa\)](#). You'll only get your fee refunded if UKVI has not started processing your application.

You'll get an email or a letter containing the [decision on your application \(/apply-to-come-to-the-uk/getting-a-decision-on-your-application\)](#). This will explain

what you need to do next.

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**OGL**

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## UK VISA SCREENING – DOCUMENT CHECKLIST AND GUIDANCE (2025)

Source basis: This guide is based primarily on the official UK government guidance for the Student visa “Documents you’ll need to apply” and related pages (tuberculosis testing, English language evidence, ATAS) together with checklists published by UK universities and advisory organisations. It is written in simplified language for learning and “visa screening” purposes and is not a legal document. Always cross-check with the latest guidance on GOV.UK before applying.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

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When you apply for a UK Student visa, the decision maker (UK Visas and Immigration – UKVI) checks that you:

- are a genuine student with an unconditional offer;
- will study an approved course at a licensed sponsor;
- can support yourself financially and pay your tuition fees;
- meet health and character requirements; and
- have provided all mandatory supporting documents.

This checking process is often called visa “screening”. If any required evidence is missing or does not meet the format rules, UKVI can refuse the application even if you are otherwise eligible. This document is designed as a training resource for building a UK visa-screening system: it expands the official document list into a detailed, structured checklist that a system can use to verify whether the applicant has collected the correct evidence.

The guide focuses on the standard Student visa route (for courses longer than 6 months) made from outside the UK. Many of the requirements are also relevant to applications made within the UK, but some details differ.

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## **2. CORE MANDATORY DOCUMENTS**

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### **2.1 Current passport or travel document**

Every applicant must provide a valid passport or other travel document.

Key screening points:

- The document must be valid on the date you submit the application and when you travel to the UK.
- It should contain at least one blank page (front and back) so the visa vignette can be placed in it if an eVisa is not used.
- The personal details page must be clearly readable and not damaged.
- If the passport will expire very soon after arrival, applicants are strongly advised to renew it before applying, because replacing a passport from abroad can be difficult.

Evidence format:

- Original physical passport (for in-person biometrics) or electronic copy if applying using the UK Immigration ID Check app.
- If you hold more than one nationality, you may need to declare and provide details of all passports.

### **2.2 Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)**

The second mandatory document is a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) issued by a licensed Student sponsor (usually your university or college). The CAS is an electronic record, not a paper letter, but universities often provide a CAS statement for your reference.

Key screening points:

- CAS reference number: you must enter this correctly in the online application form.
- The CAS must be issued by a sponsor with a valid Student sponsor licence.
- The CAS must be for the course you intend to study and must not have been used in a previous visa application that was granted or is still pending.
- The CAS will contain key details such as course title, level, start and end dates, tuition fees for the first year or whole course, and any fees already paid.

System-level checks for visa screening:

- Validate that a CAS number has been entered.
  - Confirm that the course level meets the Student visa rules (for example, RQF level 3 or above for further education, or degree-level study).
  - Confirm that the course start date is within the permitted timeframe for applying.
  - Record the tuition fee amount and any pre-paid tuition/accommodation fees because these affect the financial requirement.
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### **3. FINANCIAL EVIDENCE (MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENT)**

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Official guidance says you may need to provide proof that you have enough money to support yourself and pay your tuition fees. The exact amount depends on course location, length and how long you have already lived in the UK.

#### **3.1 What you usually need to show**

For most first-time applications made outside the UK, the applicant must show:

- Remaining tuition fees for the first year of the course (or for the full course if it lasts 12 months or less), minus any fees already paid to the university and confirmed on the CAS.
- Living costs (also called “maintenance funds”) for up to 9 months, calculated using Home Office rates, e.g.:
  - a monthly amount for London;
  - a slightly lower monthly amount for cities outside London.

(Exact monetary values change over time and should be taken from the current guidance.)

### **3.2 Types of acceptable financial documents**

Common types of evidence include:

a) Personal bank statements

- Must show the required funds held for a continuous period (often 28 days) ending no more than 31 days before the application date.
- Statement must include: account holder's name, account number, financial institution name and logo, and all transactions/balances for the period.
- Screenshots or online print-outs are acceptable only if they contain all required details and are clearly from a regulated bank.

b) Fixed-deposit certificates or savings accounts

- Must be in an account that allows the funds to be withdrawn.
- Evidence should show that the deposit can be accessed immediately, not locked beyond the application date.

c) Parents' or legal guardians' finances

- Allowed if you are using a parent's or guardian's bank account.
- Must provide:
  - Bank statements in the parent/guardian's name; and

- Proof of relationship (for example, birth certificate, adoption certificate or court document); and
- A signed letter from the parent/guardian confirming that the funds will be used to support your study and living costs in the UK.

d) Official financial sponsorship

- A letter from a government body, international scholarship agency, university, or international company confirming that they will cover some or all of your tuition fees and living costs.
- The letter must be on official letterhead, dated, signed and include:
  - Sponsor's name and contact details;
  - Applicant's name;
  - Duration of sponsorship; and
  - Amount or full coverage of costs.

### **3.3 Screening rules for financial documents**

A visa-screening system should check:

- Is financial evidence required for this applicant?
  - Applicants extending their visa from inside the UK after 12 continuous months of lawful residence may not need to show funds.
- Are documents dated within the permitted period?
- Does the total balance meet or exceed the calculated requirement (tuition + maintenance minus allowed deductions)?
- Do the documents cover a full continuous 28-day period (or other period stated in current rules)?
- Are funds in a permitted currency and held in an acceptable financial institution?
- If using parents' funds, is relationship evidence and consent letter present?

- If the applicant received official sponsorship within the last 12 months and that sponsorship has ended, do they have written consent from the previous sponsor allowing them to remain and re-enter the UK?

### **3.4 Common financial refusal reasons**

- Funds held for fewer than 28 continuous days.
- Evidence older than 31 days on the date of application.
- Using an account belonging to someone else without showing relationship and consent.
- Submitting financial documents from an unregulated or banned financial institution.
- Miscalculating the required amount, especially for dependants or London vs outside London.

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## **4. ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ATAS EVIDENCE**

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### **4.1 Proving knowledge of English**

For most Student visa applications, you must show that you can speak, read, write and understand English to a certain level. Evidence may include:

- An academic qualification taught in English and accepted by UKVI as meeting the requirement; or
- An approved English language test (for example IELTS for UKVI, PTE Academic UKVI or similar) at the level appropriate for your course; or
- Being a national of a majority English-speaking country listed by the Home Office; or
- Having completed a degree-level qualification in the UK previously.

Screening checks:

- Does the course require English evidence based on its level and whether it is below degree level?
- If a test certificate is used:
  - Is the test provider on the list of approved Secure English Language Test (SELT) providers?
  - Is the test still valid on the date of application?
  - Are the scores at or above the minimum for the CAS/course level?

## 4.2 Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

For certain postgraduate courses in sensitive subjects (mainly science, engineering and technology fields), students of specific nationalities must obtain an ATAS certificate before applying for a visa.

Key points:

- The CAS will normally state whether ATAS is required and include the relevant subject code.
- The ATAS certificate is issued as a digital letter. It must be valid (usually 6 months) when the visa application is submitted.
- If ATAS is required and not provided, the visa will be refused.

Screening checks:

- Check CAS to see if ATAS is required.
- Confirm that an ATAS certificate is attached and that:
  - The course details and institution match the CAS; and
  - The applicant's personal details match the rest of the application; and
  - The decision date on the certificate is within the allowed period.

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## 5. TUBERCULOSIS (TB) TEST CERTIFICATE

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Students coming to the UK for more than 6 months from certain listed countries must provide a tuberculosis (TB) test certificate from a Home Office-approved clinic.

Key information from the TB guidance:

- You need a TB test if:
  - You are coming to the UK for more than 6 months; and
  - You have lived in one of the listed countries for 6 months or more; and
  - You were living in that country (or another listed country) within the last 6 months.
- The test is usually a chest x-ray. If the x-ray is unclear, you may need a sputum (phlegm) test.
- If the test shows you do not have TB, you receive a certificate that is valid for 6 months from the date of the x-ray.
- Children must attend an approved clinic. Children under 11 usually do not need a chest x-ray, but a medical practitioner must complete a questionnaire and issue a certificate if the child is TB-free.
- There are separate options for pregnant applicants (shielded x-ray, sputum test, or postponing the test until after delivery).

Screening checks:

- Is the applicant applying from a TB-listed country, or have they recently lived there?
- Is the course longer than 6 months (Student visa normally is)?
- If yes, has the applicant provided a TB certificate issued by an approved clinic?
- Is the certificate:
  - Less than 6 months old on the date of application?
  - Clearly matching the applicant's identity details?

- For dependants applying with the student, each dependant from a TB-listed country must also provide a TB certificate.
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## **6. APPLICANTS UNDER 18 – PARENTAL CONSENT AND RELATIONSHIP EVIDENCE**

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If you are under 18 at the time of application, you must provide extra documents to show that your parents or legal guardians consent to your study and living arrangements in the UK.

### **6.1 Parental or guardian consent**

You normally need written consent from both parents, or the one parent who has sole legal responsibility, or your legal guardian(s). The consent letter must:

- State that they consent to your Student visa application;
- Confirm that they agree with your living and care arrangements in the UK; and
- Confirm that they consent to your travel to and from the UK.

For screening, check that:

- The letter is signed and dated.
- The names in the letter match the names on your birth certificate or guardianship documents.
- The letter clearly mentions all three areas of consent (application, living/care arrangements, and travel).

### **6.2 Proof of relationship**

You must also provide evidence of your relationship to your parent(s) or guardian(s). Typical documents include:

- Birth certificate showing the names of both parents;
- Adoption certificate;
- Court order or legal document confirming guardianship.

These documents must be original or properly certified copies. If they are not in English or Welsh, an official translated version must also be provided.

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## **7. PREVIOUS SPONSORSHIP CONSENT**

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If, in the last 12 months, you were financially sponsored by a government or an international scholarship agency for both tuition fees and living costs, and that sponsorship has ended, you must provide a letter from that sponsor giving you unconditional consent to remain or re-enter the UK for further study.

The consent letter should:

- Be on official letterhead;
- Include your full name and, ideally, your date of birth or passport number;
- Confirm that the sponsor supports your new course in the UK and has no objection to your visa application; and
- Be signed, dated and include contact information of an authorised official.

Screening rule:

- If an applicant declares previous full sponsorship, the file must contain this consent letter. Without it, the visa can be refused even if financial funds are otherwise sufficient.

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## **8. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

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Depending on your level of study and nationality, you may be required to submit academic qualifications listed on your CAS.

### **8.1 When qualifications are required**

- If you are studying below degree level and are not from a “differential evidence” country, you must normally submit the qualification documents used to obtain your offer (for example, school certificates, college transcripts).
- If you are from a differential evidence country or studying at degree level or above, you may not have to upload documents with your application, but you must keep them ready because UKVI can request them during screening.

Common types of academic evidence:

- Certificates of qualification (for example, 12th grade mark sheet, bachelor’s degree certificate);
- Official transcripts of results, stamped or sealed by the institution;
- Printouts of results from an awarding body’s secure online verification system.

Screening checks:

- Do the qualification names and grades match the details in the CAS?
  - Are documents genuine-looking (correct logos, spelling, signatures, seals)?
  - If any document is not in English or Welsh, is a certified translation attached?
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## **9. TRANSLATIONS AND DOCUMENT FORMAT**

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Any supporting document that is not in English or Welsh must be accompanied by a fully certified translation. The translation must:

- Be done by a professional translator or translation company;
- Include confirmation that it is an accurate translation of the original document;
- Include the date of translation;
- Include the translator's or translation company's full name and contact details; and
- Bear the translator's signature.

Screening checks:

- For every non-English/Welsh document, confirm that a corresponding translation is present and meets the above requirements.
- Verify that the information in the translation matches the original document (names, dates, numbers).

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## **10. DEPENDANT FAMILY MEMBERS**

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Some students are allowed to bring dependants (partner and children) to the UK. The current Student visa rules restrict who can bring dependants, and these rules change over time, so they must always be checked against the latest official guidance.

Typical evidence for dependants includes:

- Marriage or civil partnership certificate (for partners);
- Birth certificate for each child;

- Evidence that the relationship is genuine and subsisting (for example, joint bank accounts, joint tenancy agreements, photos, communication history), if requested;
- Additional financial evidence to show that you have enough money to support each dependant for the required number of months, on top of your own maintenance requirement;
- TB test certificates for dependants from listed countries.

A visa-screening system should be able to:

- Detect when an application includes dependants;
  - Calculate extra maintenance funds required for each dependant; and
  - Verify that relationship documents and TB certificates are present for each dependant, if relevant.
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## **11. IDENTITY VERIFICATION, BIOMETRICS AND INTERVIEW**

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Although not “documents” in the traditional sense, identity verification steps are part of the screening process.

### **11.1 Biometrics appointment or ID Check app**

Most applicants must either:

- Attend a visa application centre, where fingerprints and a digital photograph are taken; or
- Use the UK Immigration ID Check app to scan their passport chip and upload a selfie.

The data collected is used to:

- Confirm your identity;
- Produce a visa vignette or eVisa record; and

- Cross-check against immigration and security databases.

## 11.2 Credibility interviews

In some cases, UKVI may invite you to a short interview, often via video link. You may be asked about:

- Your course choice and knowledge of the university;
- How you will fund your studies and living costs;
- Your previous academic background; and
- Your plans after completing the course.

While these are not documents, they are part of the overall “screening” of a Student visa application. Your answers should be consistent with the documents you provided.

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## 12. HIGH-LEVEL CHECKLIST FOR A UK STUDENT VISA SCREENING SYSTEM

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Below is an example of how an automated or semi-automated screening checklist might be structured. Each item corresponds to one or more documents and rules described earlier.

A. Identity and course details

- 1. Valid passport or travel document uploaded and readable.**
- 2. CAS reference number provided and valid.**
- 3. Course level and start date meet Student visa requirements.**

B. Financial requirement

- 4. Tuition fee amount and any pre-payments recorded from CAS.**
- 5. Living-cost requirement calculated according to location and duration.**
- 6. Financial documents provided in an acceptable format (bank statements, sponsor letters, etc.).**
- 7. Funds held for at least the required continuous period and are recent enough.**
- 8. If using parent/guardian funds: relationship evidence and consent letter present.**
- 9. If previously officially sponsored within the last 12 months: sponsor consent letter attached.**

C. English language and ATAS

- 10. Appropriate English language evidence provided where required.**

- 11. If course requires ATAS: ATAS certificate attached and valid.**

D. Health requirements

- 12. TB certificate provided if applicant or dependants meet the criteria.**

- 13. Certificate issued by a Home Office-approved clinic and still within validity.**

E. Age and parental consent

- 14. Applicant's age verified.**

15. If under 18: parental/guardian consent letter(s) attached.

16. Relationship evidence (birth/adoption certificate, court order) attached.

F. Academic and course-related evidence

17. Academic qualification documents provided where required by CAS and rules.

18. All non-English/Welsh documents accompanied by certified translations.

G. Dependents (if applicable)

19. For each dependant:

- Relationship evidence attached (marriage/birth certificate);
- TB certificate attached if required;
- Extra funds included in financial calculations.

H. Process completion

20. Biometrics or ID Check app process scheduled/completed.

21. Application form submitted with consistent information across all sections.

22. Application fee and Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) paid.

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### **13. CONCLUSION AND BEST PRACTICES**

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The UK Student visa process is rule-based and document-heavy. Many refusals arise from missing, inconsistent or incorrectly formatted documents rather than from ineligibility. A robust visa-screening system should therefore:

- Mirror the official GOV.UK structure: “Check if this visa is right for you”, “Prepare the evidence you need”, “Apply”, and so on.
- Provide dynamic checklists based on the applicant’s circumstances (age, nationality, where they apply from, dependants, previous sponsorship).
- Guide applicants step by step to upload each required document in the correct format.
- Highlight high-risk areas, such as financial evidence and TB certificates, where refusals are common.
- Store structured metadata (for example, document type, issue date, issuing authority, currency, balance) so that automated validation rules can be applied.

For real visa applications, applicants must always rely on the most recent Home Office guidance and, where necessary, professional immigration advice. However, this document gives a comprehensive, structured view of the evidence typically needed for UK Student visa screening and can be used both as a learning aid and as source material inside a Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) system for query answering.