

# Health and Care Worker visa

## 1. Overview

A Health and Care Worker visa allows medical professionals to come to or stay in the UK to do an eligible job with the NHS, an NHS supplier or in adult social care.

## Eligibility

### Your job

To qualify for a Health and Care Worker visa, you must:

- be a qualified doctor, nurse, health professional or adult social care professional
- work in an eligible health or social care job
- work for a UK employer that's been approved by the Home Office
- have a 'certificate of sponsorship' from your employer with information about the role you've been offered in the UK
- be paid a minimum salary - how much depends on the type of work you do

[Check if your job is eligible \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-job\).](/health-care-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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/knowledge-of-english\)](/health-care-worker-visa/knowledge-of-english) when you apply.

**If you're not eligible for a Health and Care 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 \(/settle-in-the-uk/y/tier-2-general-visa-or-skilled-worker-visa\)](#) (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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/apply-from-outside-the-uk\)](#) and are coming to the UK
- inside the UK and [extending your current visa \(/health-care-worker-visa/extend-your-visa\)](#)
- inside the UK and [switching from a different visa \(/health-care-worker-visa/switch-to-this-visa\)](#)

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

[Your partner and children \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children\)](#) 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.

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

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
- prove you have enough personal savings

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

## Healthcare surcharge

You - and your partner or children - will not have to pay the healthcare surcharge.

You can start using the NHS for free from the date your visa starts.

You'll still need to pay for some services, such as prescriptions, dental treatment, eye tests and assisted conception.

## What you can and cannot do

You can:

- work in an eligible job

- take on additional work (</health-care-worker-visa/taking-a-second-job>) in certain circumstances
- study
- bring [your partner and children](#) (</health-care-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children>) with you as your 'dependants', if you meet the eligibility criteria
- 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 update your visa

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

## 2. Your job

You must meet all of the following requirements to be eligible for a Health and Care Worker visa:

- you're a qualified doctor, nurse, health professional or adult social care professional
- your job is eligible for this visa
- you'll be working for a UK health and care sector employer that's been approved by the Home Office
- you'll be paid the minimum salary or the 'going rate' for the type of work you'll be doing - whichever is higher

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 jobs in the same area of practice have different codes, for example dentists and dental hygiene therapists.

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

You can apply for a Health and Care Worker visa if your job is in one of the following occupation codes:

- 1171: health services and public health managers and directors
- 1232: residential, day and domiciliary care managers and proprietors
- 2113: biochemists and biomedical scientists
- 2114: physical scientists
- 2211: generalist medical practitioners
- 2212: specialist medical practitioners
- 2221: physiotherapists
- 2222: occupational therapists
- 2223: speech and language therapists
- 2224: psychotherapists and cognitive behaviour therapists
- 2225: clinical psychologists

- 2226: other psychologists
- 2229: therapy professionals not elsewhere classified
- 2231: midwifery nurses
- 2232: registered community nurses
- 2233: registered specialist nurses
- 2234: registered nurse practitioners
- 2235: registered mental health nurses
- 2236: registered children's nurses
- 2237: other registered nursing professionals
- 2251: pharmacists
- 2252: optometrists
- 2253: dental practitioners
- 2254: medical radiographers
- 2255: paramedics
- 2256: podiatrists
- 2259: other health professionals not elsewhere classified
- 2461: social workers
- 3111: laboratory technicians
- 3212: pharmaceutical technicians
- 6131: nursing auxiliaries and assistants

### **Check if an occupation code is eligible to extend, update or switch to this visa**

If you're extending, updating or switching to a Health and Care Worker visa, your job can also be in one of the following 'medium skilled' occupation codes:

- 6135: care workers and home carers
- 6136: senior care workers

If you're switching from a different visa, you must have been working legally in your job for your sponsor for at least 3 months.

If you're extending or updating your visa and you got your certificate of sponsorship before 22 July 2025, your job can also be in one of the following 'medium skilled' occupation codes:

- 1231: health care practice managers
- 3211: dispensing opticians
- 3213: medical and dental technicians
- 3219: health associate professionals not elsewhere classified
- 6132: ambulance staff (excluding paramedics)
- 6133: dental nurses

You must have continually held one or more Health and Care Worker visas or Skilled Worker visas since you got your certificate of sponsorship.

## Approved UK health and care sector employers

You must have a job offer from an approved UK employer before you apply for a Health and Care Worker visa. Approved employers are also known as sponsors, because they are sponsoring you to come to or stay in the UK.

You must have a job offer from:

- the NHS
- an organisation providing medical services to the NHS
- an organisation providing adult social care

[Read the guidance \(/government/publications/health-and-care-visa-guidance-for-applicants\)](/government/publications/health-and-care-visa-guidance-for-applicants) to see a full list of eligible employers.

If your employer is not currently approved, they can [apply for a sponsor licence \(/uk-visa-sponsorship-employers\)](/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 \(https://www.cqc.org.uk/\).](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' 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](#) ([/health-care-worker-visa/documents-you-must-provide](#)).

## Salary requirements

You'll usually need to be paid at least £25,000.

If the 'going rate' for your job is higher than £25,000, you'll usually need to be paid at least the going rate.

Each occupation code has its own annual going rate. How you find the going rate depends on your job.

## When you need to meet different salary requirements

You'll need to meet different salary requirements for this visa if your job is in one of the following occupation codes:

- 1171: health services and public health managers and directors
- 1231: health care practice managers
- 1232: residential, day and domiciliary care managers and proprietors
- 2113: biochemists and biomedical scientists
- 2114: physical scientists
- 3111: laboratory technicians
- 3211: dispensing opticians
- 3212: pharmaceutical technicians
- 6135: care workers and home carers
- 6136: senior care workers

[Find out the going rate if your job is in one of these occupation codes](#) ([/health-care-worker-visa/different-salary-requirements](#)) - including when your employer can pay you less.

## If you're doing any other health and care job

Check how much you need to be paid in the [table of national pay scales for eligible healthcare jobs \(/government/publications/national-pay-scales-for-eligible-healthcare-jobs\)](#).

Salaries are listed by NHS pay band and area of the UK you'll be working in. Ask your employer if you're not sure what your role or pay band will be.

## 3. If you'll need to meet different salary requirements

You'll need to meet different salary requirements for this visa if your job is in one of the following occupation codes:

- 1171: health services and public health managers and directors
- 1231: health care practice managers
- 1232: residential, day and domiciliary care managers and proprietors
- 2113: biochemists and biomedical scientists
- 2114: physical scientists
- 3111: laboratory technicians
- 3211: dispensing opticians
- 3212: pharmaceutical technicians
- 6135: care workers and home carers
- 6136: senior care workers

If your job is in any other occupation code that is eligible for this visa, you must meet the salary requirements described in '[Your job \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-job\)](#)'.

## Salary requirements

You'll usually need to be paid at least £31,300 per year, or the lower 'going rate' for your job, whichever is higher.

### Example

Your salary is £32,000 per year, but the annual lower going rate for the job you'll be doing is £33,000. You do not meet the usual salary

requirements for this visa.

Each occupation code has its own annual lower 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 might still be able to apply for a Health and Care Worker visa if your job is eligible but your salary is less than £31,300 or your job's lower 'going rate'.

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 a scientific role

You cannot get a discounted salary rate if your job is on the immigration salary list.

### 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 need to be paid at least £25,000 or your job's full going rate, whichever is higher.

View the [immigration salary list \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-immigration-salary-list\)](#) to see how much you'll need to be paid.

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

You can be paid 70% of your job's lower going rate if your salary will be at least £25,000 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 \(/browse/visas-immigration/tourist-short-stay-visas\)](/browse/visas-immigration/tourist-short-stay-visas) was your most recent visa

- you'll be working towards a recognised qualification in a [UK regulated profession \(/government/publications/professions-regulated-by-law-in-the-uk-and-their-regulators/uk-regulated-professions-and-their-regulators\)](/government/publications/professions-regulated-by-law-in-the-uk-and-their-regulators/uk-regulated-professions-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 \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-salary-if-youre-under-26-studying-training-or-in-a-postdoctoral-role\)](/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 Tier 2 (General) work visa.

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

You can be paid 80% or 90% of the job's lower 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 lower going rate, as long as you will still be paid at least £25,000 per year.

If you have a non-STEM qualification, you can be paid 90% of your job's lower going rate, as long as you will still be paid at least £28,200 a year.

In both situations, you must:

- have a UK PhD or an equivalent doctorate-level qualification from a university outside the UK - 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 \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-jobs-that-qualify-for-a-phd-salary-discount\)](/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-jobs-that-qualify-for-a-phd-salary-discount) to see 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 \(/global-talent-researcher-academic\)](/global-talent-researcher-academic). This visa

has no language or minimum salary requirements.

## You have a postdoctoral position in a scientific role

You can be paid 70% of your job's lower going rate if your salary will be at least £25,000 per year and you'll be working in a postdoctoral position in either of the following occupation codes:

- 2113: biochemists and biomedical scientists
- 2114: physical scientists

[Check how much you'll need to be paid \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-salary-if-youre-under-26-studying-training-or-in-a-postdoctoral-role\)](/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 lower going rate. This includes any time you've already spent in the UK on a Tier 2 (General) work visa.

## 4. Knowledge of English

You 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 level B1 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>).

## 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 or midwife

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.

## 5. How much it costs

When you apply for a Health and Care Worker visa, you'll need to have enough money to:

- pay the application fee
- 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.

## Application fees

The standard application fee depends on whether you'll be in the UK for:

- up to 3 years - £304 per person
- more than 3 years - £590 per person

The fee is the same whether you apply from inside or outside the UK.

## 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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/documents-you-must-provide\)](#), 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

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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children\)](#).

[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'.

## 6. 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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/knowledge-of-english\)](#)
- 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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs\)](#), for example bank statements (unless your certificate of sponsorship shows your employer can support you)
- proof of your relationship with [your partner or children \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children\)](#) 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
- 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, unless your job is in one of the following occupation codes:

- 2113: biochemists and biomedical scientists
- 2114: physical scientists
- 3111: laboratory technicians
- 6132: ambulance staff (excluding paramedics)

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

## 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.

## 7. Apply from outside the UK

You must apply online for a Health and Care Worker visa.

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

### 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 Health and Care Worker visa

Apply for a Skilled Worker visa. You'll be asked if you're applying for a Health and Care Worker visa as part of your application - make sure you choose 'yes'.

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

[Apply now](#)

[Continue your application](#)

You can sign back in to 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
- 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 \(/faster-decision-visa-settlement\)](#).

## 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.

## 8. Your partner and children

Your partner and children may be able to 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.

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 in the UK as a care worker or senior care worker and on a Health and Care Worker visa or 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 Health and Care Worker visa or 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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/documents-you-must-provide\)](#), 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

Each family member will have to pay the application fee. The fee depends on whether they'll be in the UK for:

- up to 3 years - £304 per person
- more than 3 years - £590 per person

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. 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.

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 \(/faster-decision-visa-settlement\)](#).

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 Health and Care Worker 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:

- 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 \(/faster-decision-visa-settlement\)](#).

## 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)

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

You must apply to add them to your 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.

## 9. Extend your visa

You can usually apply to extend your Health and Care Worker 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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-job\)](#) 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
- you still meet the [salary requirements \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-job\)](#)

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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children\)](#) when you extend your visa.

## If you have a Tier 2 Health and Care Worker visa

You'll have a Tier 2 Health and Care Worker visa if either:

- you applied for a Health and Care Worker visa before 1 December 2020
- you had a Tier 2 (General) work visa which you've extended as a Health and Care Worker visa

If you have this visa, you may be able to meet different eligibility requirements.

## 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 [salary requirements \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-job\)](#), but your salary may also include allowances, such as London weighting. Any allowances must be guaranteed for the length of your stay.

## If you're a physical scientist

If you were sponsored for your Tier 2 (General) or Health and Care Worker visa before 1 December 2020, the going rate for your job is different.

Occupation code	Going rate for Health and Care Worker visa	90% of going rate (for relevant STEM PhD)	80% of going rate (for relevant non-STEM PhD or immigration salary list occupation)	70% of going rate (for new entrants)
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)

# If you've changed job or employer

You'll need to [apply to update your visa \(/health-care-worker-visa/update-your-visa-if-you-change-job-or-employer\)](/health-care-worker-visa/update-your-visa-if-you-change-job-or-employer) instead.

## Fees

[Check how much it costs \(/health-care-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs\)](/health-care-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs) for your type of visa.

You'll 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 Health and Care Worker visa

Apply for a Skilled Worker visa. You'll be asked if you're applying for a Health and Care Worker visa as part of your application - make sure you choose 'yes'.

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

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
- 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 \(/faster-decision-visa-settlement\)](#).

## 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.

## 10. Update your visa if you change job or employer

You'll need to apply to update your Health and Care Worker 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](#) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-immigration-salary-list>) for a job that is not on the list

The same conditions apply to Tier 2 Health and Care visas issued before 1 December 2020.

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 update your visa if your new job is in a different [occupation code \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-job\)](#).

Your partner or child's visa will not automatically change if you update yours. If they do not update 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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children\)](#) when you update your visa.

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

If you change your employer and you're working in England, your new employer must be registered with the Care Quality Commission.

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

## Fees

[Check how much it costs \(/health-care-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs\)](#) for your type of visa.

You'll 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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-job\)](#) and you'll need a new certificate of sponsorship to prove this.

You'll only need to [provide other evidence \(/health-care-worker-visa/documents-you-must-provide\)](#) 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 additional work 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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-job\)](#) and you'll need a new certificate of sponsorship to prove this.

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 \(/health-care-worker-visa/taking-a-second-job\)](#) in an eligible occupation code and you'll be doing less than 20 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 for a Skilled Worker visa. You'll be asked if you're applying for a Health and Care Worker visa as part of your application - make sure you choose 'yes'.

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

[Apply now](#)

## Continue your application

You can sign back in to 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
- 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 \(/faster-decision-visa-settlement\)](#).

## 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. Switch to this visa

You might be able to apply to change ('switch') to a Health and Care 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 or senior care worker, your partner or children will not be able to switch as your dependants to this visa.

## Eligibility

You must meet the following requirements:

- [your job meets the eligibility requirements \(/health-care-worker-visa/your-job\)](#)
- you can [speak, read, write and understand English \(/health-care-worker-visa/knowledge-of-english\)](#)

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

### If you're switching to this visa as a care worker or senior care worker

You must have been working legally in your job for your sponsor for at least 3 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 Health and Care Worker visa from abroad \(/health-care-worker-visa/apply-from-outside-the-uk\)](#) if you're in one of these categories.

### How long you can stay

You can stay in the UK for as long as your employer is sponsoring you for, up to 5 years at a time. Your certificate of sponsorship will say how long your employer is sponsoring you for.

## Fees

[Check how much it costs \(/health-care-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs\)](#) for your type of visa.

You'll 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 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 Health and Care Worker visa

You must apply online before your current visa expires.

Apply for a Skilled Worker visa. You'll be asked if you're applying for a Health and Care Worker visa as part of your application - make sure you choose 'yes'.

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

[Apply now](#)

## Continue your application

You can sign back in to 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
- 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 \(/faster-decision-visa-settlement\)](#).

## 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.

## 12. Taking on additional work

You can do additional paid work on a Health and Care Worker visa as long as you're still doing the job you're being sponsored for.

If you complete your GP training, you can do 4 months of additional paid work.

You may need to apply to update your visa to do additional paid work. This will depend on the type of work you're doing and the hours you're going to 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.

You can also 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.

Your work must be either:

- an [eligible occupation code \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations\)](#) that is a 'higher skilled' job
- on the [immigration salary list \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-immigration-salary-list\)](#)
- in the same sector and at the same level as your main job

You can only do additional work in a job [listed as 'medium skilled' \(/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations\)](#) if both of the following apply:

- you got your certificate of sponsorship for your first Tier 2 or Health and Care Worker visa before 22 July 2025
- you have continually held one or more Health and Care Worker visas since then

You can also do voluntary work. This must be unpaid (except for reasonable expenses such as travel) 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)

## When you need to update your visa

You must update your visa if your additional job is more than 20 hours a week.

You do not need to update it if you're:

- working overtime in the job you're being sponsored for
- working 'bank shifts' for your NHS sponsor

## Apply to update your visa

To apply, 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

[Apply to update your visa \(/health-care-worker-visa/update-your-visa-if-you-change-job-or-employer\).](/health-care-worker-visa/update-your-visa-if-you-change-job-or-employer)

---



**OGL**

All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated



© Crown copyright