

UK Visa options

This is for information purposes only and is not intended to be used for, or to form immigration advice.

	Global Talent	Skilled Worker	Graduate	High Potential Individual (HPI)
GOV.UK Link	Global Talent visa (www.gov.uk)	Skilled Worker visa (www.gov.uk)	Graduate visa (www.gov.uk)	High Potential Individual (HPI) visa (www.gov.uk)
Who is this for?	Individuals who are leaders or potential leaders in science, humanities, engineering, the arts (including film, fashion design and architecture) and digital technology.	Individuals who have or are offered an eligible job at a licenced sponsor.	Student visa holder who wants to work, or look for work, following successful completion of an eligible course of study at UK bachelor's degree-level or above, at a higher education provider with a track record of compliance.	Graduate of a top global university, who wants to work, or look for work in the UK, following the successful completion of an eligible course of study equivalent to UK bachelor's degree level or above, at an eligible Global University.
Does this route require a sponsor (Certificate of Sponsorship)?	No	Yes, and the University of Southampton is a licenced sponsor.	No	No
Do I need anything from the University of Southampton to apply?	This depends on the endorsement option you are eligible for. Please see our GTV guidance for details.	You will need a Certificate of Sponsorship (COS) from the University's HR department if you are a current employee or have been successful in securing an eligible contracted employment role at the University.	If you are University of Southampton student, you should wait to receive confirmation from the Student visa team (VISAS) that they have notified the Home Office you have successfully completed your course.	No
What is the maximum time I can spend on this visa?	No maximum. Visa period is up to 5 years per visa application. You decide on the visa length.	No maximum. Visa period is up to 5 years per visa application. Visa issued in line with the COS dates, which are based on the employment dates for your job.	Dependent on qualification awarded: see Graduate visa: Overview - GOV.UK for details.	Dependent on qualification awarded: see High Potential Individual (HPI) visa: Overview - GOV.UK for details.

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Can this visa be extended?	Yes, subject to eligibility criteria	Yes, subject to eligibility criteria	No	No
Does this lead to settlement in the UK?	Yes, see Indefinite leave to remain if you have a business, investor or talent visa: Overview - GOV.UK for details.	Yes, see Indefinite leave to remain if you have a Skilled Worker, Health and Care Worker, T2 or Tier 2 visa: Overview - GOV.UK for details.	No	No
Is there a salary threshold?	No	Yes, and both must be met: - General salary threshold - Going rate for the type of job See the Skilled Worker section for details.	No	No
Is a job offer required?	Not necessarily. See GTV guidance for details on each of the four endorsement options for the field of Academia and Research.	Yes and the job must be in an eligible occupation (SOC) code and at the required skill level.	No	No
Do I need to demonstrate English language abilities (English Language Requirement)?	No, unless you apply for settlement in the UK from this visa.	Yes, you must be able to demonstrate your English Language skills to at least level B1 (intermediate) on the CEFR scale	No	Yes, you must be able to demonstrate your English Language skills to at least level B1 (intermediate) on the CEFR scale
Can I bring dependants (partner and children)?	Yes, if eligible. See the gov.uk webpage for details.	This depends on the SOC code your job falls under and if you are an existing Skilled Worker visa holder since before 22 July 2025. Please see Skilled Worker visa: Your partner and children - GOV.UK for details.	Yes, if they joined you as dependants on your current Student/Tier 4 visa.	Yes, if eligible. See the gov.uk webpage for details.
How much is the visa application fee?	Check UK visa fees - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) for latest fee.			

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Do I have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge?	Yes. Check Pay for UK healthcare as part of your immigration application: Overview - GOV.UK for details.			
How long does it take for the visa application to be processed?	Two stages: Endorsement: 1 - 8 weeks Visa: 3 weeks outside the UK 8 weeks inside the UK	3 weeks outside the UK 8 weeks inside the UK	8 weeks inside the UK	3 weeks outside the UK 8 weeks inside the UK
Can I apply to switch into this visa from within the UK?	Yes, provided your current visa is eligible. If switching from a Student visa, you must have completed your course of study or have studied for a PhD for at least 24 months.	Yes, provided your current visa is eligible. If switching from a Student visa, you must have completed your course of study or have studied for a PhD for at least 24 months.	Yes, only from Student visa after successfully completing your course of study.	Yes, provided your current visa is eligible. If switching from a Student visa, you must have completed your course of study or have studied for a PhD for at least 24 months.

Document version control

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Author	Andie Jenkins	Owner	UKVI Compliance Manager

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