

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 on each of the four endorsement options for the field of Academia and Research, and what you might need.	You will need a Certificate of Sponsorship (COS) from the University's HR department. You must either be 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.	Dependant on qualification you were awarded: - 3 years for PhD or other doctoral level qualification - 2 years for all other degree qualifications	Dependent on qualification you were awarded: - 3 years for PhD or other doctoral level qualification - 2 years for all other degree qualifications

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Can this visa be extended?	Yes	Yes	No	No
Does this lead to settlement in the UK?	Yes, after three years	Yes, after five years	No	No
Is there a salary threshold?	No	Yes, both salary thresholds 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. Please see our 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 .	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.	Yes, if eligible. See the gov.uk webpage 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?	As at 14 May 2024: £716 Check UK visa fees - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) for latest fee.	Variable. As at 14 May 2024: £719 - £1,636 Check UK visa fees - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) for latest fee.	As at 14 May 2024: £822 Check UK visa fees - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) for latest fee.	As at 14 May 2024: £822 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	Yes	Yes	Yes
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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