

Other Visas Guidance and Information

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Other Visas

Dependant visa

Your partner and children can apply to join you or to stay in the UK as your 'dependents' if they're eligible. If their application is successful, their visa will end on the same date as yours. Your dependents can apply at the same time as you to enter the UK. Alternatively, they can wait until you have entered the UK and started work before they apply.

Under immigration legislation, the spouse of a sponsored Skilled Worker is permitted to undertake paid employment. They may only be employed while their spouse is residing and working within the UK, and holds a valid visa.

A dependent 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're currently in the UK as your dependent
- You will need to provide evidence of your relationship when you apply.

Your partner

You must be able to prove that either:

- You are in a civil partnership or marriage that is recognised in the UK
- You have been living together in a relationship for at least 2 years when you apply

If your child is 16 or over

They must:

- Live with you (unless they are in full-time education at boarding school, college or university)
- Not be married, in a civil partnership or have any children
- Be financially supported by you

If your child lives with you, you will need to provide evidence of their address such as:

- A bank statement
- Credit card bills
- Driving license
- NHS registration document

- An official letter from their university or college

For further information on obtaining a Skilled Worker Dependent visa please click [here](#).

Global Talent Visa

The Global Talent Visa is available for talented and promising individuals in the fields of science, engineering, medicine and humanities, digital technology and arts and culture who wish to pursue their career in the UK.

The Global Talent visa is part of the government's commitment to put science, research and innovation at the top of its agenda allowing researchers, academics and other specialists to work and live in the UK. Global Talent replaced the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa on the 20 February 2020.

The application process consists of two separate stages:

Stage 1: Firstly, applying for, and obtaining, endorsement from one of the six endorsing bodies engaged by the Home Office

Stage 2: Visa application

Academic & research criteria - Stage 1

There are five ways to obtain Stage 1 endorsement. Once submitted a decision is normally received within 1 week for fast-track applications and 5 weeks for standard.

Academic and research appointments (fast-track) - endorsement for individuals who have accepted a job in which they will have responsibility for academic, research or innovation leadership, or are an emerging leader. This includes but is not limited to Professor, Associate Professor and Senior Group Leaders appointments. The appointment must be [at an approved UK higher education institution or research institute](#). Certain recruitment requirements must also be met. This route is administered by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and Royal Society.

Individual fellowships (fast-track) – endorsement for individuals who have been awarded an [individual fellowship on the list](#) approved by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and Royal Society. The fellowship must be held currently or within the last 5 years.

Endorsed funders (fast-track) – endorsement for researchers and specialists, employed or hosted by a department, faculty or college, whose name or job title is specified in a successful grant application from an [endorsed funder](#) approved by UKRI.

Peer-reviewed application (standard) – endorsement application for individuals who meet all eligibility criteria and demonstrate they are proven

leader within their field of expertise (Exceptional Talent) or have the potential to become a leader within their field of expertise (Exceptional Promise). The application is assessed by fellows at the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering or Royal Society.

Hold a named prize (stage 2 visa application only) - Individuals who hold a [prestigious prize](#) are eligible to apply for a Global Talent visa without the need to obtain the Stage 1 endorsement.

Indefinite Leave to Remain application for Global Talent Visa Users

The time you must have been in the UK depends on how you were endorsed.

You can apply after 3 years if you were endorsed by either:

- the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Royal Society or UK Research and Innovation
- Arts Council England or Tech Nation - this must be as a recognised leader ('exceptional talent'); or
- if you were endorsed by Arts Council England or Tech Nation as an emerging leader ('exceptional promise'), you can apply after 5 years.

If you did not need an endorsement for your visa because you had won an eligible award, you can apply after 3 years.

Application form for GTV under University of Greenwich – create a form to be completed by anyone willing to apply for a Global Talent Visa.

For further information on this visa type, please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Visa

If you are from Hong Kong and are a British national (overseas) you and your family members can apply for a British National (Overseas) visa. This is known as a BNO visa. It allows you to live, work and study in the UK.

You can apply for the BNO visa from overseas, but you should wait for a decision on your application before you travel to the UK.

You can apply for a BNO visa if you are:

- A British national (overseas)
- 18 or older

Your permanent home must be:

- In Hong Kong, if you are applying from outside the UK

- In the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Hong Kong if you are applying in the UK

Your family members

Your family members can apply for a BNO visa if they are eligible. They must usually apply at the same time as you, unless they are your partner or your child under the age of 18.

Check if your family members can apply here:

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa/your-family-members>

How long you can stay

You can apply to stay for either:

- 2 years and 6 months
- 5 years

You will be able to extend your visa if you want to stay longer. You can apply to extend your visa as many times as you want.

After you have lived in the UK for 5 years, you can apply to live in the UK permanently.

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- Work (except you cannot work as a professional sportsperson or sports coach)
- Study (including at school, college or university)

You cannot:

- Usually apply for most benefits (public funds).

Once you have a BNO visa, you might be able to apply for access to benefits. You will be eligible for this in certain financial circumstances, for example if you:

- Do not have a place to live and cannot afford one
- Have a place to live but cannot afford essential living costs like food or heating
- Are at risk of losing your place to live or being unable to afford essential living costs

- Have a very low income, and not having access to benefits would harm your child's wellbeing

For further information on this visa type, please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)

Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) is a form of settlement available to overseas nationals.

Typically, you must have spent at least five years in the UK before you can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain, though in certain circumstances you can apply after three years of residence in the UK, or even two.

Many different types of immigration visas can lead to ILR including Spouse Visas, Innovator Visas and the Skilled Worker Visa.

Indefinite Leave to Remain enables a person to live in the UK without any restrictions, and is the first step towards naturalisation and full citizenship.

The specific requirements differ depending on the particular circumstances of the applicant, including the type of visa they hold.

The most basic requirement for ILR is to have been lawfully living in the UK for a certain period of time. However, there are other requirements which must be fulfilled too.

The general requirements to become eligible to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain are based on:

- Lawful living in the UK for a certain period of time.
- No breach of immigration laws during your stay in the UK and no criminal record
- A period of time spent outside the UK which doesn't exceed 180 days in a 12-month period during the qualifying period.
- A pass in the Life in the UK test, which is a test based on British culture, history and traditions
- Ability to prove that you meet the B1 level of English as set out by the Common European Framework of Languages.

Under certain circumstances you could be eligible for ILR status with less than five years of residence in the UK, including those residing in the UK under:

- Innovator Visa. Eligible after three years, depending on business achievements

- Global Talent Visa. Eligible after three years if last endorsement was given under “exceptional talent” or “exceptional promise” criteria or under UK Research and Innovation fast track criteria
- Investor Visa (Tier 1). Eligible after two or three years depending on business activities

What do I need to know about the English language test?

As part of the Indefinite Leave to Remain application, you must be able to prove that you meet the English language requirement of B1 in speaking and listening as specified by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

Most applicants will need to hold a certificate from an approved test provider to include in their Indefinite Leave to Remain application or, alternatively, be able to show the results online.

However, some people will not need to fulfil this requirement. For example, citizens of Commonwealth countries or majority English-speaking countries will usually be exempt. Please find the full list of Nationalities that are exempt [here](#).

Also, the following applicants will be exempt from the English language requirement:

- Those aged 65 or over
- Holders of a degree or higher qualification at an accredited educational establishment which was taught in English
- Those under humanitarian protection
- Victims of domestic abuse
- A partner or spouse of a person who has died who was a British citizen or person with settled status

Indefinite Leave to Remain fee

The current fee for an Indefinite Leave to Remain application is £2,404. If you are applying with your family, your dependents will need to pay the full fee of £2,404.

An expedited service is also available if you need a quick decision on your application. The priority service processes your application within five working days and costs a further £500, and the super-priority will process your application within one working day, costing an additional £800.

How long does it take to process an Indefinite Leave to Remain application?

There is no specific timescale, but a standard Indefinite Leave to Remain application will be processed within six months.

Student Visa

You can apply for a Student visa to study in the UK if you are 16 or over and you:

- Have been offered a place on [a course by a licensed student sponsor](#)
- Have enough [money to support yourself and pay for your course](#) - the amount will vary depending on your circumstances
- Can [speak, read, write and understand English](#)
- Have consent from your parents if you are 16 or 17 - you will need evidence of this when you apply

When to apply

When you can apply depends on whether you are applying from inside or outside the UK.

Applying from outside the UK

The earliest you can apply for a visa is 6 months before you start your course. You will usually get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks.

Applying from inside the UK

The earliest you can apply is 3 months before your course starts. You must apply before your current visa expires. Your new course must begin within 28 days of your current visa expiring. You will usually get a decision within 8 weeks.

How long you can stay

How long you can stay depends on the length of your course and what study you have already completed in the UK.

If you are 18 or over and your course is at degree level, you can usually stay in the UK for up to 5 years. If it is below degree level, you can usually stay in the UK for up to 2 years.

[Read the guidance to find out exactly how long you can stay.](#)

Staying longer in the UK

You may be able to:

- [Extend your visa](#) if you are eligible, for example to continue your studies in the UK
- [Switch to a Student visa](#) from another visa if you are already in the UK
- [Switch to a Graduate visa](#) to stay in the UK for at least 2 years after successfully completing your course

When you can travel to the UK

You can arrive before your course starts. This can be either:

- Up to 1 week before, if your course lasts 6 months or less
- Up to 1 month before, if your course lasts more than 6 months

You must not travel to the UK before the start date given on your visa, no matter when your course starts.

It costs:

- £363 to apply for a Student visa from outside the UK
- £490 to extend or switch to a Student visa from inside the UK

You must pay the visa fee for each person that joins you.

Healthcare surcharge

You will also have to [pay the healthcare surcharge](#) as part of your application.

How much you pay depends on how long your visa lasts. [Check how much you will have to pay](#) before you apply.

Your partner and children

You may be able to [bring your partner and children \('dependants'\)](#).

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- Study
- Work as a student union sabbatical officer
- You may be able to work - how much depends on what you are studying and whether you are working in or out of term-time.

You cannot:

- Claim public funds (benefits) and pensions

- Work in certain jobs, for example as a professional sportsperson or sports coach
- Be self-employed
- Study at an academy or a local authority-funded school (also known as a maintained school)
- If your application is successful, you will be told what you can and cannot do on a Student visa.

Graduate Visa

A Graduate visa gives you permission to stay in the UK for at least 2 years after successfully completing a course in the UK.

You must be in the UK when you apply.

Eligibility

You can apply for a Graduate visa if all of the following are true:

- You are in the UK
- Your current visa is a [Student visa or Tier 4 \(General\) student visa](#)
- You studied a UK bachelor's degree, postgraduate degree or other eligible course for a minimum period of time with your Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa
- Your education provider (such as your university or college) has told the Home Office you have successfully completed your course

You can ask your education provider if you are not sure whether they've told the Home Office you've successfully completed your course.

[Check if your course is eligible and how long you need to have studied in the UK.](#)

How long you can stay

A Graduate visa lasts for 2 years. If you have a PHD or other doctoral qualification, it will last for 3 years.

Your visa will start from the day your application is approved.

If you want to stay longer in the UK

You cannot extend your Graduate visa. However, you may be able to switch to a different visa, for example a [Skilled Worker visa](#)

How to apply

You must [apply online](#).

[Your partner and children](#) can also apply to stay in the UK if they are eligible.

When to apply

You must apply before your Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa expires.

You can apply after your education provider (such as your university or college) has told the Home Office that you've successfully completed the course you took with your Student or Tier 4 (General) student visa. You do not have to wait until you have graduated or have been given a certificate.

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

Your application may take longer if you need an appointment to do this. You will find out if you need one when you start your application.

Getting a decision

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

You can stay in the UK while you wait for a decision.

How much it costs

When you apply for a Graduate visa, you will need to:

- Pay the £715 application fee
- Pay the healthcare surcharge - this is usually £624 for each year you will be in the UK

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- Work in most jobs
- Look for work
- Be self-employed
- [Continue living in the UK with your partner and children](#), if they are eligible
- Do voluntary work
- Travel abroad and return to the UK

You cannot:

- Apply for most benefits ([public funds](#)), or the State Pension

- Work as a professional sportsperson

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

Studying with a Graduate visa

You can only study with a Graduate visa if your chosen course is [not eligible for a Student visa](#). If your course is eligible for a Student visa, you can [extend your Student visa](#) instead.

You may need an [Academic Technology Approval Scheme \(ATAS\) certificate](#) if you are studying or researching sensitive topics.

For further information on this visa type, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/graduate-visa>

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](#).

Depending on your nationality, you may not need a visa to visit the UK. You can [check if you need a visa](#) before you apply.

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.

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](#), 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.

Regarding this visa fees and documents required to apply, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor/apply-standard-visitor-visa>

PPE (Permitted Paid Engagement)

You may be able to visit the UK for a paid engagement if you have been invited as an expert in your profession by a UK-based organisation or client.

You can visit the UK for up to 1 month. You **cannot** extend your stay in the UK.

What you need to do?

1. Check if what you plan to do in the UK is allowed.
2. Check you meet the eligibility requirements.
3. Prepare your invitation and other documents.
4. Check if you need to apply for a visa to visit the UK
5. Apply for a Permitted Paid Engagement Visitor visa online - if you need one.

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- Be invited and paid by a UK-based organisation or client as:
 - a professional artist, entertainer or musician
 - a professional sportsperson
 - a qualified lawyer - to represent a client
 - to give a lecture or series of lectures
 - an academic - to be a student examiner or assessor
 - an air pilot examiner

Check if what [you are being paid to do](#) in the UK is allowed.

You cannot:

- Do paid work unrelated to your main overseas job or area of expertise study
- Live in the UK for extended periods
- Claim public funds (benefits)
- Pass through the UK to another country ('in transit')
- Marry or register a civil partnership, or give notice of marriage or civil partnership - you will need to apply for a Marriage Visitor visa

Check you meet the eligibility requirements

You must be able to show that:

- You have been formally invited by a UK-based organisation to attend a pre-arranged event or other permitted engagement
- The event or engagement relates directly to your expertise, qualifications and main job in your home country
- You are 18 or over
- You are visiting the UK for no more than 1 month
- You will leave the UK at the end of your visit
- You are able to support yourself during your trip (or have funding from someone else to support you)
- You are able to pay for your return or onward journey (or have funding from someone else to pay for the journey)
- You will not live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits, or make the UK your main home

BREXIT – EU Settlement Scheme – Advice for EU, EEA and Swiss Staff

The UK introduced [new immigration rules](#) on 1 January 2021 which affect EU and non-EU citizens' right to work in the UK requirements. Irish citizens are able to enter and live in the UK as previously.

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen who lived in the UK before 31 December 2020, you and your family can apply to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) to continue living in the UK.

If you are from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein, you and your family might be able to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK. You might also be able to apply if you are the family member of an eligible person of Northern Ireland.

The deadline for most people to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme was 30 June 2021.

If you or your family are from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein, you can still apply if you or a family member were living in the UK by 31 December 2020. You must also either:

- Meet one of the criteria for a later deadline to apply
- Have 'reasonable grounds' for not applying by 30 June 2021

You can also apply if you already have pre-settled status, and you are applying for settled status. You may be able to stay in the UK without applying - for example, if you are an Irish citizen, or you already have indefinite leave to enter or remain.

If your application is successful, you will get either settled or pre-settled status.

Criteria for later deadlines and 'reasonable grounds' for not applying by the deadline. In some cases, you can still apply after 30 June 2021. For example, if you are joining a family member who was living in the UK by 31 December 2020, your deadline will be based on when you arrive in the UK, as long as:

- You were their family member by 31 December 2020 (this does not apply to children born or adopted after this date)
- The family relationship still exists when you apply

You can also apply if you can show 'reasonable grounds' (such as medical reasons or being the victim of domestic abuse) for why you did not apply by 30 June 2021.

[Check if you can still apply to the EU Settlement Scheme](#), including further examples of what counts as reasonable grounds for not applying by the deadline.