



Overview of the Global Talent Visa

The Global Talent Visa is available for people who are internationally recognised as world leaders or potential world-leading talent in the fields of science and the arts, and who require a visa to work in the UK. The visa comes with many benefits over its counterpart, the Tier 2 or ‘skilled worker’ visa:

- ❖ Greater flexibility in your employment. With a Global Talent Visa you can freely move between institutions, locations, jobs/roles. By contrast, a Tier 2 or skilled worker visa ‘ties’ you to a particular employer and job role, requiring you in most cases to apply for a new visa if you move jobs.
- ❖ A low cost, flat-rate visa (typically half the cost of an equivalent skilled worker visa).
- ❖ Greater flexibility to undertake collaborations within the UK.
- ❖ Your choice in visa length (from one year to five years) with the option to retain this visa category indefinitely.
- ❖ An application for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)/ settlement can be made after 3 years, which will exempt you from the requirement to hold a visa to work in the UK.
- ❖ No cap on visa numbers

Applying for a Global Talent visa is a two stage process:

For the first stage, you must apply to be endorsed by one of the Designated Competent Bodies who have been given authority by the Home Office to determine who meets the visa criteria:

The Royal Society	Arts Council England
The British Academy	UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
The Royal Academy of Engineering	Tech City UK

In all cases, the endorsement costs £456 and is non-refundable.

After gaining an endorsement, you are then able to proceed to the second stage, which is the visa application itself. If you gain an endorsement, you are guaranteed a Global Talent visa (subject to normal immigration checks).

Applying for an Endorsement (stage 1)

It is possible to apply for the endorsement from either inside or outside the UK, regardless of your visa status. However, for the visa application (stage 2), there are certain restrictions on where and how this can be submitted. Further guidance on this can be found in the [‘Applying for the visa’ section](#) of this guidance.

1. Has the applicant accepted the offer of an academic or research appointment with responsibility for innovation leadership and development or for directing or leading an individual or team in a research or innovation project or programme of work.

No

Individual can obtain a Global Talent VISA via “fast track endorsement”. Requires a letter from the HR [recruitment team](#) confirming the appointment.

2. Has the applicant been awarded an Individual Fellowship from the list:

<https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/global-talent-visa/route-2-individual-fellowships/>

No

Individual can obtain a Global Talent VISA via “fast track endorsement”. They must submit a copy of their award letter as part of the endorsement application.

3. Has the individual name or Job title been listed as a “directly incurred cost” on an eligible grant or award at the University?

UKRI endorsement: Endorsed funders

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukri-endorsement-endorsed-funders-global-talent-visa>

No

Individual can obtain a Global Talent VISA via “fast track endorsement”. This requires a letter from the Recruitment team confirming appointment, and must submit a copy of the grant award letter(s) that support their work.

4. The individual may be able to secure and endorsement via a peer review of their career via the Royal Society, British Academy or Royal Academy of Engineering. Further information on this route can be found here <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/global-talent-visa/route-4-peer-review/>

Each path has specific application criteria and eligibility. Please see the following guidance for each path:

1. [Appointed to Professorial or Reader position](#)
2. [Awarded an eligible individual Fellowship](#)
3. [Name or job title listed as 'directly incurred cost' on eligible grant application](#)
4. ['Standard' peer review path](#)

Path 1 – Appointed to a Professorial or Reader position

Any individual who has accepted the offer of an academic or research appointment with responsibility for innovation leadership and development **or** for directing or leading an individual or team in a research or innovation project or programme of work.

Steps to apply:

1. Upon acceptance of a job offer for position at the University (that meets the criteria above), if you wish to apply for the Global Talent VISA contact the [recruitment team](#) in the first instance.
2. The Recruitment team will raise a letter for you, which will form the basis of your application for an endorsement for Global Talent. A signed copy of this letter will be provided to you by email. You will not need to submit the original.
3. Once you have the letter, you can apply for endorsement online:
<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/global-talent-endorsement>
4. Once you have done this the Home Office will forward the application to the Royal Society/British Academy/Royal Academy of Engineering (as applicable). Within seven days of this referral, you will receive your Global Talent endorsement confirmation via email.
5. You can then apply for stage 2, which is the visa application itself. You must do so within 3 months of receipt of the endorsement confirmation. Further guidance on this can be found in the [‘Applying for the visa’ section](#) of this guidance.

Path 2 – Awarded an eligible Individual Fellowship

Any individual awarded a specific Individual Fellowship from the list (see link below) is automatically eligible to obtain a Global Talent visa.

<https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/global-talent-visa/route-2-individual-fellowships/>

Steps to apply:

1. You are eligible for this path as soon as you are awarded an Individual Fellowship from the above list. You can be a current or prospective employee/visitor at the University.

2. You will require a copy of your Fellowship award letter. You will not need to submit the original.

3. Once you have the letter, you can apply for endorsement online:

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

4. After you submit the application, you can submit the Fellowship award letter (no other documents required) to the Home Office using the address on the checklist you are provided.

5. The Home Office will forward the application to the Royal Society/British Academy/Royal Academy of Engineering (as applicable). Within seven days of this referral, you will receive your Global Talent endorsement confirmation via email.

6. You can then apply for stage 2, which is the visa application itself. You must do so within 3 months of receipt of the endorsement confirmation. Further guidance on this can be found in the [‘Applying for the visa’ section](#) of this guidance.

Path 3 – Job title listed as ‘directly incurred cost’ on grant/award

This path is open to any individual who is or who has been offered a Research Assistant/Research Associate/Senior Research Associate or specialist technician at the University who meet the following criteria:

- Hold, or have been offered, a contract of employment/hosting agreement of at least twelve months in length; and
- Where their name or job title (as above) as listed as a ‘directly incurred cost’ on a grant/award from the list below, where the grant/award is worth a minimum of £30,000 and covers a minimum period of two years; and
- Where they are working at least 50% of time on the eligible grant/award (not 50% FTE – part time working is allowed and there are no minimum salary requirements).

A list of eligible grant/awards can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukri-endorsement-endorsed-funders-global-talent-visa/uk-research-and-innovation-endorsed-funders>

Steps to apply:

1. To be eligible for this path, you can be a current or prospective employee/visitor at the University. You must meet the eligibility requirements as set out above.
2. For documentation, you will require:
 - a. A letter issued by [recruitment team](#) which confirms your eligibility for the route; and
 - b. Written confirmation of the award from the grant/award funder that confirms eligibility.
3. Once you have the required letters, you can apply for endorsement online: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent-researcher-academic/academic-or-researcher>
4. After you submit the application, you can submit the HR Director letter and the grant award letter (no other documents required) to the Home Office using the address on the checklist you are provided.
5. The Home Office will forward the application to UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Within fourteen days of this referral, you will receive your Global Talent endorsement confirmation via email.
6. You can then apply for stage 2, which is the visa application itself. You must do so within three months of receipt of the endorsement confirmation. Further guidance on this can be found in the [‘Applying for the visa’ section](#) of this guidance.

Path 4 – ‘Standard’ Peer Review path

If you are ineligible for endorsement via the first three paths, you can still seek endorsement via the Royal Society/British Academy/Royal Academy of Engineering (as applicable), and they will undertake a peer-review assessment your career to determine eligibility for the visa.

Steps to apply:

1. To be eligible for this path, you can be a current or prospective employee/visitor at the University.

2. You must meet the requirements within one of the following categories:

EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE CATEGORY	EXCEPTIONAL TALENT CATEGORY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those at an early stage in their career: <p>Mandatory Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is an active researcher in a relevant field, typically within a university, research institute or within industry; and • Holds a PhD or equivalent research experience (including industrial or clinical research); and • Provides a dated letter of personal recommendation from an eminent person resident in the UK supporting the Tier 1 visa application, who is familiar with your work and your contribution to your field, and is qualified to assess your claim to be a leader in your field; and • Has been awarded, holds, or has held in the past five years, a prestigious UK-based Research Fellowship, or an international Fellowship or advanced research post judged by the competent bodies to be of equivalent standing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those at a more advanced stage in their career: <p>Mandatory Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same criteria as Exceptional Promise (on the left) and, at least one of the following criteria: • Is a member of their national academy or a foreign member of academies of other countries (in particular any of the UK national academies); or • Has been awarded a prestigious internationally recognised prize; or • Can provide a written recommendation from a reputable UK organisation concerned with research in their field. The dated letter must be written by an authorised senior member of the organisation, such as a Chief Executive, Vice Chancellor or similar, on official paper.

3. To evidence this, you will require the following documentation:

a. Your most recent CV; and

b. A letter of personal recommendation from an eminent person resident in the UK supporting your application. Once completed, the letter should be sent to you for inclusion in your application pack. There are no issues with you seeing and reading the letter yourself. The letter should be dated and must include the following:

How the eminent person knows you;

- Your achievements in the specialist field;
- How in the opinion of the eminent person you exhibit Exceptional Talent;
- How you would benefit from living in the UK; and
- The contribution you would make to UK research excellence and to wider society.

c. Where you are seeking endorsement as a person of 'Exceptional Talent' (as opposed to 'Exceptional Promise', where this is not required), you must also include at least one of the following:

Evidence of membership of a National Academy;

- Evidence of a prestigious prize being awarded to you;
- A written recommendation from the Vice-Chancellor (Please contact the [Recruitment Team](#) directly to arrange this).

d. Finally, within the application you will be required to write a personal statement "outlining your case for qualifying for Tier (Exceptional Talent)." It should be of about two pages and no more than 7,000 characters. There are no 'rules' concerning the content of the personal statement. A good structure to use is:

- Your achievements to date
- Your current research interests
- Your future aspirations

Apply for endorsement online at: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent-researcher-academic/academic-or-researcher>

After you submit the application, you can submit the relevant documentation (as above in step 3) to the Home Office using the address on the checklist you are provided.

- The Home Office will forward the application to the Royal Society/British Academy/Royal Academy of Engineering (as applicable). Within 4-8 weeks of this referral, you will receive your Global Talent endorsement confirmation via email.
- You can then apply for stage 2, which is the visa application itself. You must do so within 3 months of receipt of the endorsement confirmation. Further guidance on this can be found in the ['Applying for the visa' section](#) of this guidance.

Applying for the visa (stage 2)

- If/when your application is endorsed you will be notified via the e-mail address you provided in your application form.
- You must apply for the Global Talent Visa within three months of notification. You must submit a copy of the endorsement letter that was emailed to you when your endorsement application was approved.
- How to apply depends on where you are applying from:

I am applying from outside the UK	I am applying from inside the UK
<p>You must apply online: https://www.gov.uk/global-talent/apply-from-outside-the-uk</p> <p>You can apply from any country in the world, except Republic of Ireland, even if you are only temporarily resident there (i.e. as a visitor)</p>	<p>You must apply online: https://www.gov.uk/global-talent/switch-to-this-visa</p>

- For further information on how to apply, please see the published Home Office guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

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