

# FACTSHEET: THE GLOBAL TALENT VISA

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## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

On 20 February 2020, the UK government launched the Global Talent visa, a bespoke immigration route designed to attract the 'best and brightest talent from around the world'.

The route reformed and replaced the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route, with the aim of improving the UK's appeal to highly skilled individuals with specialist skills that will enrich the UK's knowledge, economy and society.

**This guide provides an overview of the Global Talent visa route and the application process, and addresses some frequently asked questions.**

## WHO CAN APPLY?

You can apply for a Global Talent visa if you are a leader or potential leader in one of the following fields:

- Academia or research
- Arts and culture
- Digital technology

Before applying you must usually be endorsed by a [recognised UK body approved by the Home Office](#), who will verify your expertise.

You can apply without an endorsement if you have won a 'highly prestigious' award or prize, such as a Nobel Prize, an Oscar or a Golden Globe. A full list of eligible awards can be found in [Appendix Global Talent](#).

Applicants must also be over 18 years old and pass all relevant criminality and immigration checks.

## HOW LONG YOU CAN STAY

The Global Talent visa allows its holder to live and work in the UK for up to five years. Applicants can choose the length of their visa when they apply, up to a maximum of five years.

There is no limit to how long you can spend in the UK in total, but you will need to apply to extend your visa each time it expires.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost to apply for a Global Talent visa is £608. If you are applying based on an endorsement, you will pay the fee in two parts:

- £456 when you apply for the endorsement
- £152 when you apply for the visa itself

If you are applying based on an eligible award, you will pay the full £608 when you apply for the visa.

Your application fee for the visa will automatically be reduced by £55 if you are from one of the following eligible countries: **Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden or Turkey.**

Applicants will also need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), which is currently £624 per person per year.





## HOW TO APPLY

Once you have secured endorsement from a recognised UK body, you can submit your Global Talent visa application online via the gov.uk website. You will need to provide a valid passport or identity document and a tuberculosis test result if you are applying from a country which requires one. To prove your identity as part of the application process, you will need to either:

- Use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to scan your identity document. Or
- Have your fingerprints and photograph taken at a UK Visa Application Centre (VAC).

## PROCESSING TIMES

You will usually receive a decision on your application within three weeks if you apply from outside the UK, or within eight weeks if you apply from inside the UK.

If you are applying at a VAC, you may be able to get a faster decision on your application by using the Priority or Super Priority services at an additional cost, if available at your chosen centre.

## SETTLEMENT IN THE UK

You may be able to get Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) after three or five years, depending on which field you work in and how you apply. Settlement in the UK gives you the right to live, work and study here for as long as you like, and apply for benefits if you are eligible.

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**Please contact Smith Stone Walters for more information regarding Global Talent visas.**

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