

IM IMPACT

GUIDE TO GLOBAL TALENT VISAS -
ACADEMIA OR RESEARCH CATEGORY

THINKING OF WORKING IN THE UK AS A TOP-TIER PROFESSIONAL?

The **Global Talent visa** is designed for exceptional and emerging individuals in key sectors like science, engineering, medicine, social sciences, and the humanities. It offers a flexible path to live and work in the UK — usually without the need for a job offer. Unless you have won an eligible prize you must first be endorsed by one of six official bodies, such as the **Royal Society** or **UKRI**, depending on your field.

Navigating the endorsement process can be complex — from gathering the right evidence to understanding what each endorsing body expects. That's where **Migrate UK** comes in. Our expert immigration team specialises in **Global Talent visa applications**, offering tailored support throughout the **endorsement and visa process**. We know what endorsing bodies look for and can help you present a strong, compelling case — increasing your chances of approval.



REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

ENDORSEMENT

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING 4 TYPES WILL BE ACCEPTED

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Fast-track endorsement is available for individuals who have accepted an eligible role at an approved UK university or research institute, involving leadership in academic, research, or innovation activities, or directing a research or innovation project.

This route is assessed by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, or Royal Society, depending on the field.

INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS

Fast-track endorsement is available for individuals who currently hold, or have held within the last 5 years, an approved individual fellowship from the following:

- The Royal Society (for science & medicine)
- The British Academy (humanities)
- The Royal Academy of Engineering

You can apply as either an 'exceptional talent' (a leader in your field) or 'exceptional promise' (a potential leader), depending on the type of fellowship you hold.

ENDORSED FUNDERS

To qualify, you must:

- Hold a grant from an endorsed funder
- Be with a UK organisation -approved by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
- Have 1+ year left on your contract or hosting agreement
- Spend at least 50% of your time on a £30,000+ grant lasting 2+ years

And either:

- Lead a research/innovation project (PhD or equivalent, named on grant, or
- Contribute to developing new methods (Bachelor's or equivalent experience)

PEER REVIEW

If other Global Talent routes don't apply, you can apply via peer review as:

- Exceptional Talent (leader), or
- Exceptional Promise (emerging leader)

You must:

- Work in an approved research field
- Be an active researcher
- Hold a PhD or have equivalent experience
- Demonstrate exceptional talent or promise

Peer review must be done by:

- The Royal Society, for science and medicine
- The British Academy, for humanities and social science
- The Royal Academy of Engineering, for engineering and technology

TIPS TO PREPARE FOR YOUR ENDORSEMENT APPLICATION

GATHER KEY DOCUMENTATION

1. ID & Immigration Status

- Valid passport or travel document
- Previous BRP or visa vignette (if holding an eVisa)

2. Academic research appointments:

- Job description
- Letter from organisation where you will work

3. Individual fellowship:

- Copy of fellowship award letter

4. Research grant:

- Link to award on list of UKRI approved databases or a letter from your endorsed funder, and
- Letter from the organisation where you're working

5. Peer review:

- CV
- Letter of recommendation from a recognised UK-based expert familiar with you & your work, and
- If applying under exceptional talent a letter from a senior UK-based expert who can objectively assess your work, even if they don't know you personally.

MEET MANDATORY TEST REQUIREMENTS

Tuberculosis (TB) Testing:

Applicants from countries listed in Appendix T of the Immigration Rules must provide a TB clearance certificate from an approved centre before submitting their visa application to enter the UK.

Good character:

The applicant must meet strict suitability requirements, meaning they must not have:

- Criminal convictions
- Used false documents or deception
- Broken immigration rules
- Posed a threat to public safety
- Breached immigration laws or be on immigration bail

PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS BASED ON YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

If you received a UK award or scholarship in the past year, you'll need written permission from the agency or government that granted it.

Non-English/Welsh documents require certified translations.

If you've won a prestigious prize, the Home Office will verify it online and only request evidence if needed.

FAQ's

Q: Can I switch to the Global Talent visa from another visa while in the UK?

A: Yes, you can switch to the Global Talent visa from another visa while in the UK. However, you *cannot* switch if you're currently in the UK on:

- a visit visa
- a short-term student visa
- a Parent of a Child Student visa
- a seasonal worker visa
- a domestic worker in a private household visa
- immigration bail
- permission to stay outside the immigration rules (e.g. on compassionate grounds)

If you're in one of these categories, you must leave the UK and apply for the Global Talent visa from outside the country.

Q: Do I need a job offer to be eligible?

A: If applying under the category academia and research appointments, individual fellowships or endorsed funders you must have an eligible job offer.

Q: Will a secondment abroad as part of my fellowship or grant affect my eligibility for the Global Talent visa?

A: No, secondments or time spent outside the UK won't affect your eligibility for endorsement, as long as all other criteria are met. However, if you're applying under the Endorsed Funder route, you must have at least two years remaining on your employment or hosting agreement with a UKRI-approved UK organisation at the time of your visa application. This requirement does not apply to other endorsement routes.

Q: Can I undertake research overseas on a Global Talent Visa?

A: Yes. Time spent outside the UK for research purposes is exempt from the 180-day annual absence limit when applying for settlement.

Q: What is the prizes route?

A: Individuals who have won certain prestigious prizes can apply for a Global Talent visa without needing endorsement. The list of eligible prizes can be found on the Immpact platform.

Q: What does PhD or equivalent research experience mean?

A: Equivalent research experience to a PhD means at least three years of leading and delivering impactful research, typically outside a traditional academic path. Simply being near the end of a PhD or having clinical experience without research outputs does not qualify.

Q: Who is considered an active researcher?

A: Being an active researcher means having a consistent track record of research in your field. Your application will be assessed based on your career history, contributions, and research outputs — including publications, awards, funding, patents, and other forms of innovation.

Q: How soon can I settle in the UK?

A: You may qualify for Settlement through this visa route. The required time depends on how your visa was granted: 3 years for Exceptional Talent or 5 years for Exceptional Promise.

GLOBAL TALENT VISA APPLICATION PROCESS



Preparing the endorsement application

Complete the Home Office Stage 1 Endorsement form, ensuring all details are accurate, gather all supporting documents & pay the £561 endorsement fee.

1



Preparing the visa application form

Once endorsed prepare the visa application to be filed this will then lead to paying the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) fee of £1,035/year for the duration of your choice and the application fee of £205.

2



Book an appointment

to enrol your biometric data, where you will have your fingerprints and photo taken.

3



Upload supporting documents

Such as passport, CV, fellowship awards recommendation letters, and supporting documents to the application portal before your appointment.

4

PROCESS TIMES

POST BIOMETRIC APPOINTMENT, IT WILL TYPICALLY TAKE THE FOLLOWING TIME TO RECEIVE A DECISION ON YOUR APPLICATION:

STAGE 1 ENDORSEMENT

Academic or Researcher = 1 Week
Individual Fellowship = 1 Week
UKRI = 2 Weeks
Peer Review = 5 Weeks

STAGE 2 VISA APPLICATION

STANDARD SERVICE

= 3 Weeks from Overseas
= 8 Weeks within the UK

STAGE 2 VISA APPLICATION

PRIORITY SERVICE

= 5 Working Days **£500 Additional Charge**

STAGE 2 VISA APPLICATION

SUPER PRIORITY SERVICE

= 1-2 Working Days **£1000 Additional Charge**

ONCE YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If you applied from overseas after 30th October 2025, your decision email or letter will tell you how to [access your eVisa](#) to see the permission you have been granted before you travel to the UK and whether you will get a vignette (visa sticker in your passport).

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER GAINING A GLOBAL TALENT VISA?

YOU CAN:

- Work as an employee, be self-employed, and serve as a company director
- Change or leave your job without notifying the Home Office

YOU CANNOT:

- Apply for most benefits (public funds)
- Work as a sportsperson

HOW CAN MIGRATE UK HELP?

At Migrate UK, we understand that the application process can be confusing and overwhelming. Our team of experienced immigration lawyers are on hand to provide tailored guidance and support throughout your academia and research application journey.

Depending on the level of service you require, we offer the following services.

CONSULTATION

- ✓ Phone / video call where we discuss your suitability and eligibility for a global talent visa
- ✓ Outline of the application process
- ✓ Written summary post call

CHECK & ADVISE

- ✓ Check your supporting documents and offer recommendations, if applicable
- ✓ Check your completed application form and offer revisions, where needed
- ✓ Instructions for submission of application

FULL REPRESENTATION

- ✓ Preparation of endorsement & visa application form and review of supporting documents
- ✓ Submission, booking biometric appointment and uploading all documents to UKVI on your behalf
- ✓ Upon approval, we will provide instructions for your entry/stay in the UK

For a full description for each service, please refer to our guide attached.



CONSULTATION £300 +VAT

- ✓ Phone / video call where we discuss your suitability and eligibility for a global talent visa
- ✓ Outline of the application process
- ✓ Written summary post call

CHECK & ADVISE £750 +VAT

Consultation package plus:

- ✓ Phone/Video call where we discuss your suitability and eligibility for a Global Talent visa
- ✓ Check your supporting documents and offer recommendations if applicable
- ✓ Check your completed application form and offer revisions if needed
- ✓ Instructions for submission of application

FULL REPRESENTATION FROM £2000 +VAT

Consultation package plus:

- ✓ Phone/Video call to review your eligibility via one of the endorsement routes
- ✓ Identify the best endorsing body based on your discipline
- ✓ Assess past grants, publications, awards or roles to build a strong case for endorsement
- ✓ Preparation of endorsement & visa application incl. dependant applications where relevant
- ✓ Submission of applications to endorsement bodies / UKVI at appropriate time
- ✓ Management of communications with endorsing body & UKVI
- ✓ Book biometric appointments and advice on location & premium services.
- ✓ Upload all supporting documents within the required timeframe.

IM IMPACT



By entrusting your visa application to our legal partner Migrate UK, you can ensure that your case is handled professionally, reducing the risk of delays or refusals

THANK YOU

Contact us for an assessment or a quote on info@migrate-uk.com or 01235 645800.