

United Kingdom

Visa regimes

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Under the Auspices of



British High Commission in Islamabad

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When visiting the consular/visa section of the British High Commission, Islamabad, you must take the Diplomatic Shuttle. The shuttle stop is located at Third Avenue near Quaid-e-Azam University Road, G-5 Islamabad.

British High Commission in Islamabad, Pakistan

General Contact Information

Street address:

Diplomatic Enclave, Sector G-5
Islamabad, Pakistan

Postal Address:

High Commission of Canada
P. O. Box 1042
Islamabad, Pakistan

Telephone: (011 92 51) 201-2000

Contact form for consular enquiries:

www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-islamabad

For enquiries that are not about consular issues,

Email: Islamabad-general.enquiries@fco.gov.uk

GMT: Mon-Thurs: 0300-1115; Fri: 0300-0800. Local Time: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1615; Fri: 0800-1300

Consular Public Counter Timings: Mon-Thurs: 0300-0800; Fri: 0300-0700. Local Time: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1300; Fri- 0800-1200.

Consular Telephone Enquiries: Mon-Thurs: 0300-1115; Fri: 0300-0800. Local Time: Mon-Thurs: 0800-1615; Fri- 0800-1300.

United Kingdom

UK is a popular destination for Pakistani visitors, due to its beautiful and colorful culture, which attracts tourists from all over the world. There are more than a million Pakistanis living in United Kingdom, and the relatives in Pakistan want to visit them as well.

If you are visiting UK on a visit visa or business visa in 2019, and looking forward to get information about the UK visa requirements and application process, UK visa fees, documents requirements and processing time than this document will be very helpful to you.

The visa process is done online, means you have to fill the forms online, and provide the supporting documents in person at the UK Visa Application center Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Mirpur. The biometric is required for all applicants, and additional charges will be paid by the applicant for the biometric and visa processing by UK Visa Application Center.

Visa Types

Standard Visitor visa

You can apply for a Standard Visitor visa if you want to visit the UK:

- for leisure, for example on holiday or to see your family and friends
- for business, or to take part in sports or creative events
- for another reason, for example to receive private medical treatment

The Standard Visitor visa has replaced the:

- Family Visitor visa
- General Visitor visa
- Child Visitor visa
- Business Visitor visa, including visas for academics, doctors and dentists
- Sports Visitor visa
- Entertainer Visitor visa
- Prospective Entrepreneur visa
- Private Medical Treatment Visitor visa
- Approved Destination Status (ADS) visa

If you visit the UK on business

- You can apply for a Standard Visitor visa if you want to visit the UK for business-related activities, for example:
 - you're coming to the UK for a conference, meeting or training
 - you want to take part in a specific sports-related event
 - you're an artist, entertainer or musician and coming to the UK to perform
 - are an academic and are doing research or accompanying students on a study abroad programme

- you're a doctor or dentist and are coming to the UK to take a clinical attachment or observer post
- you want to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test or sit the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- you want to get funding to start, take over, join or run a business in the UK

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- take part in any of the business-related activities mentioned in the Visitor Rules
- study for up to 30 days, as long as it's not the main reason for your visit
- take part in an exchange programme or educational visit (if you're under 18)
- convert your civil partnership into a marriage
- pass through the UK in transit (on your way to another country)

You cannot:

- do paid or unpaid work
- live in the UK for long periods of time through frequent visits
- get public funds
- marry or register a civil partnership, or give notice of marriage or civil partnership
- Read the guidance for more information about what you can and cannot do with a Standard Visitor visa.

How long it will take

The earliest you can apply is 3 months before you travel.

Example: You can apply from 16 March if you plan to travel on 15 June.

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks

How long you can stay

You can usually stay in the UK for up to 6 months.

You might be able to stay for longer if:

- you're coming to the UK for private medical treatment - up to 11 months (£190 fee)
- you're an academic on sabbatical and coming to the UK for research - you, your spouse or civil partner may be able to stay for up to 12 months (£190 fee)

If you need to visit the UK regularly

If you need to visit the UK regularly over a longer period, you can apply for a long-term Standard Visitor visa that lasts 2, 5 or 10 years. You can stay for a maximum of 6 months on each visit.

Fees

A Standard Visitor visa costs **£95.**

The fee for a long-term Standard Visitor visa depends on its length:

- **2 years- £361**
- **5 years- £655**
- **10 years- £822**

Eligibility

You must always show that:

- you'll leave the UK at the end of your visit
- you're able to support yourself and any dependents for the duration of your trip
- you're able to pay for your return or onward journey and any other costs relating to your visit

- you have proof of any business or other activities you want to do in the UK, as allowed by the Visitor Rules

If you're applying for a long-term Standard Visitor visa

You must prove that:

- you'll only ever need to come to the UK to visit, for example to go on holiday, see family or attend a meeting
- you plan to leave the UK at the end of each visit

You may be given a visa for a shorter period than requested if you do not do this. You will not get a refund of the application fee if you get a shorter visa or your application is refused.

Your visa may be cancelled and you may get a long-term ban on visiting if your travel history shows you're repeatedly living in the UK for extended periods.

If you're applying as an academic

You can stay in the UK for 12 months if you're applying as an academic. You must prove you're highly qualified within your field of expertise, on sabbatical leave from your home institution and visiting to either:

- take part in a formal exchange with a UK counterpart
- carry out your own research
- take part in someone else's research, teaching or clinical practice - as long as this does not involve filling a permanent teaching post

If you're applying to visit for private medical treatment

You must prove that you:

- have a medical condition that needs private consultation or treatment in the UK
- have made or paid for arrangements for consultations or treatment
- have enough money to pay for your treatment, support yourself without using public funds and pay for your return or onward journey

- will leave the UK once your treatment is completed, or when your visa expires
 - are not a danger to public health if you're suffering from an infectious disease, such as leprosy.

If you're applying as an organ donor

You can only visit the UK to donate organs to:

- a family member who you're genetically related to (for example your sibling or parent)
- someone you have a close personal relationship with (for example your spouse or friend)
- You must prove that the person you're donating an organ to is legally allowed to be in the UK.

Documents you must provide

When you apply, you'll need to provide a current passport or other valid travel identification.

You need a blank page in your passport for your visa. Your passport should be valid for the whole of your stay in the UK.

You'll also need to provide a certified translation of any documents that are not in English or Welsh.

You'll be told how to provide your documents when you apply.

You might need to provide additional documents if you're visiting the UK:

- or private medical treatment
- to apply as an organ donor
- as an academic on sabbatical and want to stay for 12 months
- as a prospective entrepreneur

- to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test or sit the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- in transit to a country outside the UK, Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands
- Other information you'll need
- You'll need to provide the following:
 - the dates you're planning to travel to the UK
 - details of where you'll be staying during your visit
 - how much you think your trip will cost
 - your current home address and how long you've lived there
 - your parents' names and dates of birth
 - how much you earn in a year
- You might also need:
 - details of your travel history for the past 10 years (as shown in your passport)
 - your employer's address and telephone number
 - your partner's name, date of birth, and passport number
 - the name and address of anyone paying for your trip
 - the name, address and passport number of any family members you have in the UK
 - details of any criminal, civil or immigration offences you have committed.

For the complete list of supporting documents please click on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visitor-visa-guide-to-supporting-documents>

If you're under 18

You can apply for a standard visitor visa if you're under 18 and:

- you've made suitable arrangements for your travel and stay in the UK
- you have consent from your parent or guardian to travel to the UK
- you're able to pay for your return or onward journey
- you have enough money to support yourself without working or getting help from public funds, or you have family and friends that can support you.

Travelling alone

You can travel to the UK without an adult (someone over the age of 18).

Your parent or guardian will need to provide their:

- written consent for you to travel to the UK
- full contact details
- They'll also need to provide proof that you have somewhere suitable to live during your stay in the UK, including:
 - the name and date of birth of the person that you will be staying with
 - an address where you will be living
 - details of your relationship to the person who'll be looking after you
 - consent in writing so they can look after you during your stay in the UK

Travelling with an adult

When travelling to the UK with an adult (someone over the age of 18), you'll need to identify them in your visa application.

If the person you're travelling with is not your parent, you'll need to provide specific information about them in your application.

Their name will appear on your visa, and you'll be refused entry to the UK if you arrive in the UK without them.

You can identify up to 2 adults in your visa application, and your visa will only be valid if you travel with at least one of them.

The adult can apply for a visa at the same time, but you must each complete separate application.

Apply

Apply from outside the UK online

You must apply online. As part of your online application, you need to book an appointment at a visa application centre. You'll have your fingerprints and photograph (known as 'biometric information') taken at your appointment.

You may be able to get your visa faster or other services depending on what country you're in - check with your visa application centre.

<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/alt-language-selection-skip-visa>

Extend your visa

You may be able to extend your visa as long as the total time you spend in the UK is less than 6 months. For example, if you apply for a 3-month visa, you can apply to extend it for 3 more months. Read the guidance to find out if you can extend your visa.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visit-guidance>

You should apply before your current visa expires.

Study in the UK

Short-term study visa

Overview

You can apply for a Short-term study visa if:

- you're doing a short course of study in the UK
- you're from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland
- you meet the other eligibility requirements

You need a Standard Visitor visa if you're an academic visitor.

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- do a short course of study in the UK, such as an English language course or a training course
- do a short period of research as part of a degree course if you are studying abroad

You cannot:

- study at a state-funded school
- work (including on a work placement or work experience) or carry out any business
- extend this visa
- bring family members ('dependants') with you - they must apply separately
- get public funds

How long you can stay

You can stay in the UK for:

- 6 months - for any short course (including English language courses), or short period of research if you're 16 or over
- 11 months - if you're 16 or over and taking an English language course

Fees

It costs:

- **£97** for a 6-month visa
- **£186** for an 11-month visa

How long it takes

You can apply for a visa up to 3 months before your date of travel to the UK.

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks.

Check the guide processing times to find out how long getting a visa might take in the country you're applying from.

Eligibility

You must prove that you:

- have been offered a place on a course in the UK at an accepted place of study
- have enough money to support yourself without working or help from public funds, or that relatives and friends can support and house you
- can pay for your return or onward journey

If you're under 18 you must also:

- have made arrangements for your travel and stay in the UK
- have permission from your parent or guardian to study in the UK

Where you can study

You must be accepted on a course with an education provider that holds a Tier 4 sponsor license.

Otherwise your course will need to be held at an educational institution listed by one of the following:

- Accreditation Body for Language Services
- Accreditation Service for International Colleges

- Accreditation UK
- Bridge Schools Inspectorate
- British Accreditation Council
- Education and Training Inspectorate (in Northern Ireland)
- Estyn (in Wales)
- Higher Education Funding Council for England
- HM Inspectorate of Education (in Scotland)
- Independent Schools Inspectorate
- Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)
- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
- Schools Inspection Service

Learning English as a foreign language

You must be at least 16 years old and accepted on a course to learn English as a foreign language if you're applying for an 11month Short-term study visa.

A mixed course, some of which is spent studying English, does not count.

Visiting the UK as part of an overseas course

You can apply for a Short-term study visa if you're at least 16 years old and studying at an overseas higher education institution and part of your course is in the UK.

Your institution must:

- hold its own national accreditation
- offer only part of its educational programme in the UK
- offer programmes that are equivalent to a UK degree

Researching in the UK for a short time

You can come to the UK for a short period of research if already enrolled on an overseas degree course.

To be eligible:

- your course must be equivalent to a UK degree
- you must be carrying out the research at a [UK recognised body](#), or a body that receives public funding as a higher education institution
- you must be at least 16 years old

Documents you must provide

When you apply you need to provide:

- a current passport or other valid travel identification
- evidence that you can support yourself during your trip, for example bank statements or payslips for the last 6 months
- details of where you intend to stay and your travel plans - you should not pay for accommodation or travel until you get your visa
- your [tuberculosis \(TB\) test results](#) if you're from a country where you have to take the test and you're coming to the UK for more than 6 months
- contact details for at least one parent or guardian in your home country (if you're under 18 years old)

You also need to provide a [certified translation](#) of any documents that are not in English or Welsh.

You need a blank page in your passport for your visa.

Documents about your course

You must provide proof of the course you're studying, for example a letter of acceptance from the educational institution - on official headed paper, stating the course's name, duration and cost (including accommodation).

You may need to provide additional documents depending on your circumstances, such as evidence of your:

- previous study, for example academic certificates, references or transcripts
- English language qualifications, for example certificates or awards
- accommodation and travel plans

- permission to be in the country you're applying from (if you're not a national)
- financial sponsor's occupation, income, savings or funds that will support your studies

If you're under 18

If you're under 18 you need to provide additional documents if:

- you're travelling on your own
- you're travelling with someone who is not your parent or guardian

Travelling on your own

You can travel to the UK without an adult (someone 18 or over).

Your parent or guardian needs to provide their:

- written consent for you to travel to the UK
- full contact details

They also need to provide proof that you have somewhere suitable to live during your stay in the UK, including:

- the name and date of birth of the person that you will be staying with
- an address where you will be living
- details of your relationship to the person who'll be looking after you
- consent in writing so they can look after you during your stay in the UK

You must provide a letter from the school confirming it has notified the local authority of your visit and the details of who'll be caring for you if:

- you're under 16 (or under 18 if you have a disability)
- you'll be looked after for more than 28 days by someone who is not a close relative (called 'private foster care')

You must include the reply from the local authority if the school has received one.

Travelling with an adult

When travelling to the UK with an adult (someone 18 or over), you need to identify them in your visa application.

Their name will appear on your visa, and you'll be refused entry to the UK if you arrive in the UK without them.

You can identify up to 2 adults in your visa application, and your visa will only be valid if you travel with at least one of them.

The adult can apply for a visa at the same time, but you must each complete separate application.

Apply

You must [apply online](#) for a Short-term study visa.

You need to have your fingerprints and photograph (known as 'biometric information') taken at a [visa application centre](#) as part of your application.

You may be able to get your visa faster or other services depending on what country you're in - check with your visa application centre.

General student visa (Tier 4)

You can apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa to study in the UK if you're 16 or over and you:

- have been offered a place on a course
- can [speak, read, write and understand English](#)
- have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course - the amount will vary depending on your circumstances
- are from a country that's not in the [European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#) or Switzerland
- meet the other [eligibility requirements](#)

When to apply

The earliest you can apply for a visa is 3 months before you start your course.

You'll usually get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks. You can check visa processing times for your country.

Fees

It costs **£348** to apply for this visa from outside the UK.

You must pay £348 per person for any dependents.

Healthcare surcharge

You'll also have to pay the healthcare surcharge as part of your application. Check how much you'll have to pay before you apply.

How long you can stay

You can arrive in the UK before your course starts:

- 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

How long you can stay depends on the kind of course you're doing and what study you've already completed.

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- study
- work as a student union sabbatical officer
- apply from inside or outside the UK
- apply to extend your stay
- work in most jobs - depending on what level your course is and what kind of sponsor you have

You cannot:

- get public funds
- work in certain jobs, for example professional sports person or sports coach
- study at an academy or a local authority-funded school (also known as a maintained school)
- You may be able to bring in family members (dependants).
- Read the full guidance to find out how long you might be able to stay and what you can and cannot do.

Eligibility

You must have:

- an unconditional offer of a place on a course with a licensed Tier 4 sponsor
- enough money to support yourself and pay for your course - the amount will vary depending on your circumstances
- Read the guide and appendix for the full list of documents and how much money you'll need.

Your course

You can do a course that's one of the following:

- full-time leading to a qualification that's at least level 6 on the Ofqual register
- part-time leading to a qualification that's at least level 7 on the Ofqual register
- an overseas course of degree level study that's equal to a UK higher education course and is being run by an overseas higher education institution
- full-time, with at least 15 hours per week of organised daytime study, leading to a qualification which is at least level 3 on the Ofqual register
- a recognised foundation programme as a postgraduate doctor or dentist
- an English language course at level B2 or above on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Postgraduate doctors and dentists

You can apply for this visa if you're sponsored to do a recognized foundation programme and you've:

- finished a recognised UK degree in medicine or dentistry
- received that degree from a registered Tier 4 sponsor
- spent your final year and at least 1 other year of studies leading to that degree in the UK

Confirmation of acceptance for studies

Your education provider will send you a reference number called a confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS) once they've offered you a place on a course. You'll need to enter this on your visa application.

You must apply for your visa no more than 6 months after you receive the CAS.

If you've studied in the UK before

You can only get a CAS in certain situations if you're applying from within the UK.

If you're continuing your studies

You can get a CAS if you're:

- resitting exams or repeating modules
- applying for the first time to a new institution to complete a course you started at an institution that lost its Tier 4 sponsorship
- applying to extend your stay to complete your studies because you've done (or want to do) a work placement or study abroad programme
- completing a PhD or other doctorate that you started studying under your last Tier 4 (General) student visa
- applying after working as a student union sabbatical officer to complete a qualification you started studying under your last Tier 4 (General) student visa
- continuing your medical, dentistry or medical science degree after completing an intercalated course

If you're starting a new course

You can get a CAS if your course is one of the following:

- at a higher academic level than your previous course
- at the same level and related to your previous course or career aspirations - it must be degree level or above at a Higher Education Institution (HEI)
- intercalated to a medicine, dentistry or medical science course you started studying under a Tier 4 (General) student visa

If you're applying to work in the UK

You can get a CAS if you're applying to either:

- work as a student union sabbatical officer
- stay in the UK to look for work after you've finished your PhD or doctorate - the 'Doctorate Extension Scheme' (DES)

Knowledge of English

You must prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply.

This usually means passing a secure English language test (SELT).

Where you're studying	What you're studying	Knowledge of English needed	Level
Higher education institution (HEI)	Degree level or above	Reading, writing, listening and speaking	Equivalent to CEFR (Common European Framework for languages) level B2
Institution that's not HEI	Degree level or above	SELT in reading, writing, listening and speaking	CEFR level B2
Any institution	Below degree	SELT in reading, writing, listening and speaking	CEFR level B1

- HEIs can choose how to assess a student's knowledge of English. They must still be at:
- CEFR level B2 if you're studying at a degree level or higher
- SELT in reading, writing, listening and speaking and CEFR level B1 if you're not studying at a degree level
- If you have to pass a SELT, it must be from an approved provider.
- Check the full visa guidance for detailed information.
- Exceptions

- You do not need to prove your knowledge of English if you've completed a qualification equivalent to a UK degree in:
 - Antigua and Barbuda
 - Australia
 - the Bahamas
 - Barbados
 - Belize
 - Dominica
 - Grenada
 - Guyana
 - Ireland
 - Jamaica
 - New Zealand
 - St Kitts and Nevis
 - St Lucia
 - St Vincent and the Grenadines
 - Trinidad and Tobago
 - UK
 - USA
- You also do not need to prove your knowledge of English if one of the following apply:
 - you're a national of Canada or any of the countries in the list above
 - you have studied in the UK before as a Tier 4 (Child) student
 - you're applying to come to the UK for a study abroad programme as part of a university degree course in the USA

Documents you must provide

When you apply for the visa you must provide:

- a current passport or other valid travel documentation
- proof that you can support yourself and pay for your course - this will vary depending on your circumstances
- proof of parental or other legal guardian consent if you're under 18
- proof of your relationship with your parent or guardian if you're under 18
- your tuberculosis test results if you're from a country where you have to take the test
- You need a blank page in your passport for your visa.
- You may also need to provide additional documents depending on your circumstances.
- Read the guidance for the full list of documents and how much money you'll need according to your situation.

Apply

You should read the full guidance before you apply.

Apply outside the UK

You must apply online for a Tier 4 (General) student visa.

You'll need to have your fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre (to get a biometric residence permit) as part of your application.

You'll have to collect your biometric residence permit within 10 days of when you said you'd arrive in the UK (even if you actually arrive at a later date).

You may be able to get your visa faster or other services depending on what country you're in - check with your visa application centre.

Extend your visa

You may be able to stay longer to continue your course or study a new one.

You must:

- meet the [eligibility](#) requirements of this visa
- be in the UK
- have a sponsor

Who can sponsor you

You can only apply to extend your leave to study if your current sponsor is:

a higher education institute (HEI)

an overseas HEI

an embedded college offering pathway courses

an independent school

You must include your dependents in your application if they're on your current visa, including children who have turned 18 during your stay.

Read the full Tier 4 guidance before you apply.

When to apply

You must apply:

within 6 months of getting a confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS)

before your current visa expires - but no more than 3 months before the course start date on your CAS

You can stay in the UK until you get your decision.

Fees

For each person, you'll need to pay:

£475 to extend this visa

the healthcare surcharge - check how much you'll have to pay

£19.20 to have your biometric information (fingerprints and a photo) taken

If you want to get a decision more quickly than the standard 8 weeks, you can pay an extra:

£500 for the priority service to get a decision within 5 working days

£800 for the super priority service to get a decision within 1 working day

Apply

You must apply online.

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo).

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

upload them into the online service

have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

What happens next

You'll be contacted if your application is complex and will take longer, for example because:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- of your personal circumstances (for example if you have a criminal conviction)

Work in the UK

General work visa (Tier 2)

Overview

You can apply for a Tier 2 (General) visa if:

you've been offered a skilled job in the UK

you're from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland

Getting sponsored

You need to be employed by a licensed sponsor to apply to live in the UK.

Your sponsor checks that you can do the job they're hiring you for and if it qualifies you for a visa. They'll assign you a certificate of sponsorship to prove this.

They must also give you other information you need when you apply, for example how much you'll be paid.

How long it will take

The earliest you can apply for a visa is 3 months before you're due to start work in the UK.

The date you can start is listed on your certificate of sponsorship.

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks when you apply from outside the UK.

Check the guide processing times to find out how long getting a visa might take in your country.

Fees

How much you pay for a Tier 2 (General) visa depends on the type of visa and where you are.

Up to 3 years

Who you're applying for	Apply (outside the UK)	Extend or switch (in the UK)
You	£610	£704
If you're a citizen of Turkey or Macedonia	£555	£649
All dependants	£610 each person	£704 each person

Up to 3 years - shortage occupation

A shortage occupation is a skilled job where there is a shortage of workers in the UK.

Who you're applying for	Apply (outside the UK)	Extend or switch (in the UK)
You	£464	£464
You - as a citizen of Turkey or Macedonia	£409	£409
All dependants	£464 each person	£464 each person

More than 3 years

Who you're applying for	Apply (outside the UK)	Extend or switch (in the UK)
You	£1,220	£1,408
You - as a citizen of Turkey or Macedonia	£1,165	£1,353
All dependants	£1,220 each person	£1,408 each person

More than 3 years - shortage occupation

A shortage occupation is a skilled job where there is a shortage of workers in the UK.

Who you're applying for	Apply (outside the UK)	Extend or switch (in the UK)
You	£928	£928
You - as a citizen of Turkey or Macedonia	£873	£873
All dependants	£928 each person	£928 each person

Healthcare surcharge

You'll also have to pay the healthcare surcharge as part of your application. Check how much you'll have to pay before you apply.

If you're applying to extend or switch in the UK

You'll need to pay £19.20 to have your biometric information (fingerprints and a photo) taken.

Get a faster decision on your application

If you're applying to extend or switch in the UK you can pay an extra:

£500 for the priority service to get a decision within 5 working days

£800 for the super priority service to get a decision within 1 working day

How long you can stay

You can come to the UK with a Tier 2 (General) visa for a maximum of 5 years and 14 days, or the time given on your certificate of sponsorship plus 1 month, whichever is shorter.

You can start your stay up to 14 days before the start date on your certificate of sponsorship.

Example

Your start date is 15 July - the earliest you can start your stay is 1 July.

You can apply to extend this visa for up to another 5 years, as long as your total stay is not more than 6 years.

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- work for your sponsor in the job described in your certificate of sponsorship
- do a second job in certain circumstances
- do voluntary work
- study as long as it does not interfere with the job you're sponsored for
- travel abroad and return to the UK
- bring family members with you

You cannot:

- own more than 10% of your sponsor's shares (unless you earn more than £159,600 a year)
- get public funds
- apply for a second job until you've started working for your sponsor

Eligibility

You need to:

- have a valid certificate of sponsorship for your job
- show you're being paid an appropriate salary for your job
- prove your knowledge of English
- have personal savings so you can support yourself when you arrive in the UK
- show you can travel and your travel history over the last 5 years
- have tuberculosis test results if you're from a listed country
- provide a criminal record certificate from any country you've lived in for 12 months or more in the last 10 years, if you'll be working with vulnerable people
- You need to have an eligible qualification if you're switching from a Tier 4 visa.

Certificate of sponsorship

A certificate of sponsorship holds your personal details and information about the job you've been offered. It's an electronic record, not a paper document. Your sponsor will give you a certificate of sponsorship reference number to add to your application.

You can only use your certificate of sponsorship reference number once. You must use it 3 months after getting it.

Appropriate salary

You'll usually need to be paid at least £30,000 per year or the 'appropriate rate' for the job you're offered - whichever is higher. Check the appropriate rate for the job you've been offered.

Check the guidance for situations when you can be paid less - for example if:

you'll work as a medical radiographer, nurse, paramedic or secondary school teacher in some subjects

you'll work as a pre-registration nurse or midwife

Personal savings

You must have £945 in your bank account for 90 days before you apply. This is to prove you can support yourself.

You do not need to prove this if you have a fully approved ('A-rated') sponsor who can give you at least £945 to cover your costs for a month if you need it. Your sponsor must confirm this on the certificate of sponsorship.

Knowledge of English

You may need to prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply.

You can prove your knowledge of English by either:

passing an approved English language test with at least CEFR level B1 in reading, writing, speaking and listening

having an academic qualification that was taught in English and is recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD

You may be able to meet the English language requirement in other ways or need a higher level of English in some circumstances. Check the full visa guidance for detailed information.

Exceptions

You will not need to prove your knowledge of English if you're a national of one of the following countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- the Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica

- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- USA

You also may not have to prove your knowledge of English in other circumstances - check the visa guidance.

Documents you must provide

When you apply you'll need to provide:

- your certificate of sponsorship reference number
- proof of your knowledge of English
- a bank or building society statement or letter that shows you have enough personal savings (unless your certificate of sponsorship shows your sponsor can support you)
- a current passport or travel document to prove you can travel - you need a blank page in your passport for your visa
- expired passports or travel documents if you need them to show your travel history
- your tuberculosis test results if you're from a listed country
- a criminal record certificate - if you're working with vulnerable people
- If your documents are not in English or Welsh you'll also need to provide a certified translation.
- Read the guide for a list of documents you can provide.

- You may need to provide additional documents depending on your circumstances.

Criminal record certificate

You'll need to provide a criminal record certificate if you work in:

- education, for example teachers, education advisers and school inspectors
- healthcare, for example nurses, doctors, managers, pharmacists, dentists, ophthalmic opticians
- therapy, for example psychologists, speech and language therapists
- social services, for example social workers, managers, probation officers

Apply

You should read the full policy guidance before you apply.

Apply outside the UK

You must apply online for a Tier 2 (General) visa.

You'll need to have your fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre (to get a biometric residence permit) as part of your application.

You'll have to collect your biometric residence permit within 10 days of when you said you'd arrive in the UK.

You may be able to get your visa faster or get other services (like translation) depending on what country you're in - check with your visa application centre.

Extend your visa

You may be able to apply to extend your stay in the UK under a Tier 2 (General) visa.

You should include any dependants who are on your current visa on your application to extend. This includes children who have turned 18 during your stay. They'll also need to submit a separate application.

You should apply before your current visa expires.

Eligibility

You must have current permission to enter or stay on a Tier 2 (General) visa.

You must also meet the following conditions:

- you have the same job as when you were issued your previous permission to enter or stay in the UK
- you're still working for the employer who assigned your certificate of sponsorship
- you're still earning an 'appropriate salary' - read the guidance if you're not sure
- You must be in the UK to extend your visa.

How long you can stay

You can apply to extend your visa for up to another 5 years, as long as your total stay is not more than 6 years.

Fees

Check the fees for your type of visa.

How to extend your visa

Read the Tier 2 guidance notes before you apply.

You must apply online as an individual or family group.

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo).

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

How long it takes

Decisions are made:

- within 8 weeks of your application date if you use the standard service
- within 5 working days of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the priority service
- within 1 working day of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the super priority service

You'll be contacted if your circumstances or application are more complicated, for example if:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- you have a criminal conviction

Once you've applied you can stay in the UK until you've been given a decision, as long as you applied before your last visa expired.

If you change your job

You may need to make a new Tier 2 (General) visa application if:

- you want to change your job and your new job is with a different employer
- your job changes to a different standard occupation classification (SOC) code, and you're not in a graduate training programme
- you leave a job that's on the shortage occupation list for a job that is not on the list

You do not need to apply again if you stay in the same job, but your job is taken off the shortage occupation list

You will not need to make a new application if you'll be staying with your current employer but your job will change in other ways, for example you want to change to a job in the same SOC code, or your pay will increase.

You must have a new certificate of sponsorship and you must meet all other application conditions, but you will not need to provide evidence to support your application if you've provided it for a previous Tier 2 application.

You can continue working for your previous sponsor until the start date on your new certificate of sponsorship if your current permission to stay is still valid.

You should not start your new job until you've received your biometric residence permit with your new permission.

Switch to this visa

You can apply to change ('switch') from another visa to a Tier 2 (General) visa.

You should apply before your current visa expires.

Eligibility

- You must already be in the UK under any of the following visas or schemes:
- Tier 1 visa
- Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa
- Tier 2 (Minister of religion) visa
- Tier 2 (Intra company Transfer) visa under the Immigration Rules in place before 6 April 2010 and you're applying to change sponsor
- Tier 4 visa - if you have an eligible qualification or you've done at least 12 months of a PhD
- Start-up visa
- Innovator visa

You can also switch to a Tier 2 (General) visa if you're:

- a dependent partner of someone with a Tier 4 visa
- a representative of an overseas business

You must leave the UK and make your Tier 2 (General) application from abroad if you're not in any of these categories.

Eligible qualifications for Tier 4 visa

You must have been sponsored by a licensed tier 4 sponsor to get one of the following qualifications:

- a UK bachelors degree
- a UK masters degree
- a postgraduate certificate in education
- a professional graduate diploma of education

PhD students

You must have completed at least 12 months' study during your most recent stay in the UK. This can be through a licensed Tier 4 sponsor or another visa that allowed you to study.

How long you can stay

You can stay in the UK for up to 5 years after switching to a Tier 2 (General) visa.

Fees

Check the fees for your type of visa.

How to switch your visa

Read the Tier 2 guidance notes before you apply.

You must apply online as an individual or family group.

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo).

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

How long it takes

Decisions are usually made:

- within 8 weeks of your application date if you use the standard service
- within 5 working days of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the priority service
- within 1 working day of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the super priority service

You'll be contacted if your circumstances or application are more complicated, for example if:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- you have a criminal conviction

Once you've applied you can stay in the UK until you've been given a decision, as long as you applied before your last visa expired.

Family members

Your family members ('dependants') can come with you when you come to the UK on this visa. Your family members must have a visa if they're from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland.

A 'dependant' is any of the following:

- your husband, wife or partner
- your child under 18
- your child over 18 if they're currently in the UK as a dependant

Read the guidance on dependant applications before you apply.

Personal savings

You must show that your dependants can be supported while they're in the UK.

Each dependant must have £630 available to them whether they apply with you or separately. This is in addition to the £945 you must have to support yourself.

You must have proof you have the money, and that it's been in your bank account or your dependant's bank account for at least 90 days before you or they apply.

Example: You must have £2,205 if you want to bring your partner and one child with you to the UK (£945 to support yourself plus £630 for your partner and £630 for your child).

You will not need evidence of your savings if you have a:
fully approved ('A-rated') sponsor
certificate of sponsorship stating that your sponsor will give each of your dependants at least £630 to cover their costs for a month if they need it

Fees

Check the fees for your type of visa.

Dependants applying from outside the UK

Your family members must apply online.

They'll need to have their fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre to get a biometric residence permit as part of their application.

They'll have to collect their biometric residence permit within 30 days of when they said they'd arrive in the UK.

They may be able to get their visa faster or other services depending on what country they're in - check with the visa application centre.

Dependants applying in the UK on their own

Your dependants can apply to extend or switch their visas to stay with you if they're already in the UK.

Your family members can apply online if they're your:

- partner
- child

It's best for your dependants to apply at the same time as you but they can apply at a later date.

Your family members cannot apply in the UK as your dependant if they hold a visitor visa.

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When they apply, they'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide their biometric information (their fingerprints and a photo).

They'll also need to submit their supporting documents. They can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at their UKVCAS appointment

They must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until they get a decision. Their application will be withdrawn if they do.

Children born while you're in the UK

- If you have children while you're in the UK, you can apply for permission for them to stay.
- You must do this if you want to travel in and out of the UK with your child.
- When you apply you must provide a full UK birth certificate showing the names of both of your child's parents.

Intra-company Transfer visa (Tier 2)

Overview

You can apply for a Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) visa if:

- your overseas employer has offered you a role in a UK branch of the organisation
- you're from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland
- you meet the other eligibility requirements

Getting sponsored

You need to be employed by a licensed sponsor to apply to live in the UK.

Your sponsor checks that you can do the job they're hiring you for and if it qualifies you for a visa. They'll assign you a certificate of sponsorship to prove this.

They must also give you other information you need when you apply, for example how much you'll be paid.

Types of Intra-company Transfer visa

There are 2 types of Intra-company Transfer visa.

Long-term Staff

Apply for this visa if you're transferring into a role that requires you to have had previous experience working for the company.

You'll need to have worked for your company for more than 12 months, unless they're going to pay you £73,900 or more a year to work in the UK.

Graduate Trainee

This visa is for transfers into graduate trainee programmes for specialist roles. You need to be a recent graduate with at least 3 months' experience with your employer overseas.

How long it will take

You can apply for a visa up to 3 months before the day you are due to start work in the UK. This date is listed on your certificate of sponsorship.

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks when you apply from outside the UK.

You can check the [guide processing times](#) to find out how long getting a visa might take in your country.

Fees

How much you pay for a Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) visa depends on the type of visa and where you are.

Graduate Trainee

Who you're applying for

Fee

You	£482
If you're a citizen of Turkey or Macedonia	£427
All dependants	£482 each person

Long-term Staff (up to 3 years)

Who you're applying for	Apply (outside the UK)	Extend or switch in the UK
You	£610	£704
If you're a citizen of Turkey or Macedonia	£555	£649
All dependants	£610 each person	£704 each person

Long-term Staff (more than 3 years)

Who you're applying for	Apply (outside the UK)	Extend or switch in the UK
You	£1,220	£1,408
If you're a citizen of Turkey or Macedonia	£1,165	£1,353
All dependants	£1,220 each person	£1,408 each person

Healthcare surcharge

You'll also have to pay the healthcare surcharge as part of your application. Check how much you'll have to pay before you apply.

If you're applying to extend or switch in the UK

You'll need to pay £19.20 to have your biometric information (fingerprints and a photo) taken.

Get a faster decision on your application

If you're applying to extend or switch in the UK you can pay an extra:

- £500 for the priority service to get a decision within 5 working days
- £800 for the super priority service to get a decision within 1 working day

How long you can stay

You can come to the UK with a Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) visa for up to the maximum stay allowed for your visa type, or the time given on your certificate of sponsorship, whichever is shorter.

The maximum stay for each type of Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) visa is:

- Long-term Staff (if you earn more than £120,000 a year): 9 years
- Long-term Staff (if you earn less than £120,000 a year): 5 years, 1 month
- Graduate Trainee: 12 months

You can start your stay up to 14 days before the start date on your certificate of sponsorship.

Example Your start date is 15 July - the earliest you can start your stay is 1 July.

You can apply to extend your stay in the UK for the maximum time allowed for your visa type.

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- work for your sponsor in the job described in your certificate of sponsorship
- do a second job in the same profession and at the same level as your main job for up to 20 hours per week
- do voluntary work
- study as long as it does not interfere with the job you're sponsored for
- travel abroad and return to the UK
- bring family members with you

You cannot:

- get public funds
- start working before you get a visa

Eligibility

You need to:

- have a valid certificate of sponsorship for your job
- be paid an 'appropriate salary' for your job
- have personal savings so you can support yourself when you arrive in the UK
- show you can travel and your travel history over the last 5 years
- have tuberculosis test results if you're from a listed country
- be able to show you have worked for your employer outside the UK

Certificate of sponsorship

A certificate of sponsorship holds your personal details and information about the job you've been offered. It's an electronic record, not a paper document. Your sponsor will give you a certificate of sponsorship reference number to add to your application.

You can only use your certificate of sponsorship reference number once. You must use it 3 months after getting it.

Appropriate salary

You usually need to be paid at least the minimum salary for your type of visa or the appropriate rate for the job you're offered - whichever is higher.

The minimum salary is:

- £41,500 for Long-term Staff
- £23,000 for Graduate Trainee

Check the guidance - the salary you need might be different, for example if:

- you're extending your Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) visa
- you're working in the UK for less than a year
- you'll be paid at an hourly rate
- you'll work a set number of hours

Personal savings

You must have £945 in your bank account for 90 days before you apply. This is to prove you can support yourself.

You do not need to prove this if you have a fully approved ('A-rated') sponsor who can give you at least £945 to cover your costs for a month if you need it. Your sponsor must confirm this on the certificate of sponsorship.

Documents you must provide

When you apply you'll need to provide

- your certificate of sponsorship reference number
- a bank or building society statement or letter that shows you have enough [personal](#) savings (unless your certificate of sponsorship shows your sponsor can support you)
- a current passport or travel document to prove you can travel - you need a blank page in your passport for your visa
- expired passports or travel documents if you need them to show your travel history
- your tuberculosis test results if you're from a listed country

Read the guide for a list of documents you can provide.

You may need to provide additional documents depending on your circumstances.

If your documents are not in English or Welsh you'll need to provide a [certified translation](#).

Proof you've worked for your employer outside the UK

After you apply you might be asked to prove you've worked for your employer for a certain amount of time.

The length of time depends on what visa you're applying for:

- Long-term Staff earning £73,900 or less - 12 months
- Long-term Staff earning more than £73,900 - no minimum time
- Graduate Trainee - 3 months

If you're asked, you'll need to show you've been paid by your employer over this time period.

You can provide:

- printed payslips
- online payslips supported by a letter from your sponsor signed by a senior staff member
- bank or building society statements
- a building society pass book

Apply

You should read the full guidance before you apply.

Apply outside the UK

You must apply online for a Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) visa.

You'll need to have your fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre (to get a biometric residence permit) as part of your application.

You'll have to collect your biometric residence permit within 10 days of when you said you'd arrive in the UK.

You may be able to get your visa faster or other services depending on what country you're in - check with your visa application centre.

Extend your visa

You might be able to apply to extend your stay in the UK depending on what type of Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) visa you have.

Eligibility

You must have either of the following Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) visas:

- Long-term Staff
- Graduate Trainee

You should apply before your current visa expires.

You must also:

- have the same or a similar job to the one you received your previous visa for
- still work for the employer who provided your certificate of sponsorship
- still earn an 'appropriate salary' - read the full guidance if you're not sure
- already be in the UK

You should include any dependants who are on your current visa on your application to extend - including children who have turned 18 during your stay.

How long you can stay

The amount of time you can extend your stay depends on the type of Tier 2 (Intra-company) visa you have.

Long-term Staff

Your stay can be extended for the shortest of the following:

- the time given on your certificate of sponsorship plus 14 days
- the time needed to extend your stay to the maximum time allowed in the category
- 5 years (9 years if you earn more than £120,000 a year)

Graduate Trainee

You can extend your stay if your original visa was for less than 12 months. You can only extend your visa by up to 12 months.

Fees

Check the fees for your type of visa.

How to extend your visa

Read the Tier 2 guidance notes before you apply.

Apply online as an individual or as a family group. Choose the visa you want to apply for:

- Long-term Staff
- Graduate Trainee

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo).

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

How long it takes

Decisions are usually made:

- within 8 weeks of your application date if you use the standard service
- within 5 working days of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the priority service
- within 1 working day of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the super priority service

You'll be contacted if your circumstances or application are more complicated, for example if:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- you have a criminal conviction

Once you've applied you can stay in the UK until you've been given a decision, as long as you applied before your last visa expired.

Switch to this visa

You can apply to change ('switch') from a Representative of an Overseas Business visa to a Long-term Staff Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) visa.

You cannot switch to a Graduate Trainee Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) visa.

You should apply before your current visa expires.

Eligibility

You must:

- already be in the UK
- have a representative of an overseas business visa
- be still working for the same employer named on your previous application

How long you can stay

Your stay can be extended for the shortest of the following:

- the time given on your certificate of sponsorship plus 14 days
- the time needed to extend your stay to the maximum time allowed in your visa category
- 5 years (9 years if you earn more than £120,000 a year)

Fees

Check the fees for this visa.

How to switch your visa

Read the Tier 2 guidance notes before you apply.

Apply to switch your visa online as an individual or a family group.

Biometric information and supporting documents

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo).

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

How long it takes

Decisions are usually made:

- within 8 weeks of your application date if you use the standard service
- within 5 working days of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the priority service
- within 1 working day of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the super priority service

You'll be contacted if your circumstances or application are more complicated, for example if:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- you have a criminal conviction

Once you've applied you can stay in the UK until you've been given a decision, as long as you applied before your last visa expired.

Family members

Your family members ('dependants') can come with you when you come to the UK on this visa. Your family members must have a visa if they're from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland.

A 'dependant' is any of the following:

- your husband, wife or partner
- your child under 18

Read the guidance on dependant applications before you apply.

Personal savings

You must show that your dependants can be supported while they're in the UK.

Each dependant must have £630 available to them whether they apply with you or separately. This is in addition to the £945 you must have to support yourself.

You must have proof you have the money, and that it's been in your bank account or your dependant's bank account for at least 90 days before you or they apply.

Example You must have £2,205 if you want to bring your partner and one child with you to the UK (£945 to support yourself + £630 for your partner + £630 for your child).

You will not need evidence of your savings if you have a:

- fully approved ('A-rated') sponsor
- certificate of sponsorship stating that your sponsor will give each of your dependants at least £630 to cover their costs for a month if they need it

Fees

Check the fees for your type of visa.

Dependants applying from outside the UK

Your family members must apply online.

They'll need to have their fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre (to get a biometric residence permit) as part of their application.

They'll have to collect their biometric residence permit within 30 days of when they said they'd arrive in the UK.

They may be able to get their visa faster or other services depending on what country they're in - check with the visa application centre.

Dependants applying in the UK on their own

Your dependants can apply to extend or switch their visas to stay with you if they're already in the UK.

Your family members can apply online if they're your:

- partner
- child

It's best for your dependants to apply at the same time as you but they can apply at a later date.

Your family members cannot apply in the UK as your dependant if they hold a visitor visa.

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When they apply, they'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide their biometric information (their fingerprints and a photo).

They'll also need to submit their supporting documents. They can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at their UKVCAS appointment

They must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until they get a decision. Their application will be withdrawn if they do.

Children born while you're in the UK

If you have children while you're in the UK, you can apply for permission for them to stay.

You must do this if you want to travel in and out of the UK with them.

When you apply, you'll need to provide a full UK birth certificate for each child showing the names of both parents.

You can:

- apply online - dependent child application
- apply by post - download the form (the address is on the form)

Sportsperson visa (Tier 2)

Overview

You can apply for a Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa if all of the following apply:

- you're an elite sportsperson or qualified coach, who's recognised by your sport's governing body as being at the highest level of your profession internationally
- your sport's governing body is endorsing your application
- your employment will develop your sport in the UK at the highest level
- you're from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland
- you meet the other eligibility requirements

Getting sponsored

Your sponsor is the governing body endorsing your application. They'll assign you a certificate of sponsorship to prove they're sponsoring you.

How long it will take

You can apply for a visa up to 3 months before the day you're due to start work in the UK. This date is listed on your certificate of sponsorship.

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks when you apply from outside the UK.

You can check processing times to find out how long getting a visa might take in your country.

Fees

How much you pay for a Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa depends on where you are.

Who you're applying for	Apply (outside the UK)	Extend or switch (in the UK)
You	£610	£704
You - as a national of Turkey or Macedonia	£555	£649
All dependants	£610 each person	£704 each person

Healthcare surcharge

You'll also have to pay the healthcare surcharge as part of your application. Check how much you'll have to pay before you apply.

If you're applying to extend or switch in the UK

You'll need to pay **£19.20** to have your biometric information (fingerprints and a photo) taken.

Get a faster decision on your application

If you're applying to extend or switch in the UK you can pay an extra:

- **£500** for the priority service to get a decision within 5 working days
- **£800** for the super priority service to get a decision within 1 working day

How long you can stay

You can come to the UK with a Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa for up to 3 years.

You can apply to extend this visa for up to another 3 years to a maximum stay of 6 years.

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- work for your sponsor in the job described in your certificate of sponsorship
- do a second job in certain circumstances
- play for your national team in the UK
- work as a sports broadcaster
- do voluntary work
- study as long as it does not interfere with the job you're sponsored for
- travel abroad and return to the UK
- bring family members with you

You cannot:

- get public funds
- start or run a business
- apply for a second job until you've started working for your sponsor

Eligibility

You need to:

- have a valid certificate of sponsorship for your job
- prove your knowledge of English
- have personal savings so you can support yourself when you arrive in the UK
- show you can travel and your travel history over the last 5 years
- have tuberculosis test results if you're from a listed country

You need to have an eligible qualification if you're switching from a Tier 4 visa.

Certificate of sponsorship

A certificate of sponsorship holds your personal details and information about the job you've been offered. It's an electronic record, not a paper document. Your sponsor will give you a certificate of sponsorship reference number to add to your application.

You can only use your certificate of sponsorship reference number once. You must use it 3 months after getting it.

Personal savings

You must have **£945** in your bank account for 90 days before the date you apply.

You will not need this money if you have either a:

- fully approved ('A-rated') sponsor who can give you at least £945 to cover your costs for a month if you need it (your sponsor must confirm this on the certificate of sponsorship)
- Tier 2 visa and you're applying from within the UK

Knowledge of English

You may need to prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply.

You can prove your knowledge of English by either:

- passing an approved English language test with at least CEFR level A1 in speaking and listening
- having an academic qualification that was taught in English and is recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD

You may be able to meet the English language requirement in other ways. Check the full guidance for detailed information.

Exceptions

You will not need to prove your knowledge of English if you're a national of one of the following countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- the Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- USA

You also may not have to prove your knowledge of English in other circumstances - check the visa guidance.

Documents you must provide

When you apply you'll need to provide:

- your certificate of sponsorship reference number
- proof of your knowledge of English
- a bank or building society statement or letter that shows you have enough personal savings

- a current passport or travel document to prove you can travel - you need a blank page in your passport for your visa
- expired passports or travel documents if you need them to show your travel history
- your tuberculosis test results if you're from a listed country
- a letter of endorsement from your sport's governing body, if you're applying as a sportsperson or coach

Read the guide for a list of documents you can provide.

If your documents are not in English or Welsh you'll need to provide a certified translation.

You might need to provide more documents depending on your circumstances.

Apply

Read the Tier 2 (Sportsperson) guidance before you apply.

Apply outside the UK

You must apply online for a Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa.

As part of your application you'll need to have your fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre. This is to get a biometric residence permit.

You'll have to collect your biometric residence permit within 10 days of when you said you'd arrive in the UK.

You may be able to get your visa faster or other services (like translation) depending on what country you're in - check with your visa application centre.

Apply in the UK

Check if you can apply from inside the UK to:

- extend your existing Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa
- switch to this visa from another visa

Extend your visa

You can apply to extend your stay in the UK under a Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa.

You should include any dependants who are on your current visa on your application to extend. This includes children who have turned 18 during your stay. They'll also need to submit a separate application.

You should apply before your current visa expires.

Eligibility

You must have your endorsement by your sport's governing body renewed and a new certificate of sponsorship reference number.

How long you can stay

You can apply to extend your stay in the UK with a Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa for up to 3 years and 14 days.

You must leave the UK after this. You can only apply for this visa again if either:

- 12 months have passed and your previous certificate of sponsorship was granted for less than 3 months
- you can show you'll be paid a gross annual salary of £159,600 or more

Fees

Check the fees for your type of visa.

How to extend your visa

Read the Tier 2 guidance notes before you apply.

You must apply online as an individual or family group.

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo).

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

How long it takes

Decisions are usually made:

- within 8 weeks of your application date if you use the standard service
- within 5 working days of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the priority service
- within 1 working day of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the super priority service

You'll be contacted if your circumstances or application are more complicated, for example if:

- your supporting documents need to be verified

- you need to attend an interview
- you have a criminal conviction

Once you've applied you can stay in the UK until you've been given a decision, as long as you applied before your last visa expired.

Switch to this visa

You can apply to change ('switch') from another visa to a Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa.

You should apply before your current visa expires.

Eligibility

You must meet the Tier 2 (Sportsperson) eligibility requirements and you must already be in the UK under any of the following visas or schemes:

- Tier 1 visa
- Tier 2 (General) visa
- Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) visa
- Tier 2 (Intra-company Transfer) visa under the Immigration Rules in place before 6 April 2010 and you're applying to change sponsor
- Tier 4 visa - if you have an eligible qualification or you've done at least 12 months of a PhD
- Tier 5 (Temporary Worker - Creative and Sporting) for a job as a professional footballer
- Start-up visa
- Innovator visa

You can also switch to this visa if you meet the eligibility requirements and you're a:

- dependent partner of someone with a Tier 4 visa
- representative of an overseas business

You must leave the UK and make your Tier 2 (Sportsperson) application from abroad if you're not in any of these categories.

Eligible qualifications for Tier 4 visa

You must have been sponsored by a licensed Tier 4 sponsor to get one of the following qualifications:

- a UK bachelors degree
- a UK masters degree
- a postgraduate certificate in education
- a professional graduate diploma of education

PhD students

You must have completed at least 12 months' study during your most recent stay in the UK. This can be through a licensed Tier 4 sponsor or another visa that allowed you to study.

How long you can stay

You can apply to extend your stay in the UK with a Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa for up to 3 years and 14 days.

You must leave the UK after this and can only apply for this visa again if either:

- 12 months have passed and your previous certificate of sponsorship was granted for less than 3 months
- you can show you'll be paid a gross annual salary of £159,600 or more

Fees

Check the fees for your type of visa.

How to switch your visa

Read the Tier 2 guidance notes before you apply.

You must apply online as an individual or family group.

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo).

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

How long it takes

Decisions are usually made:

- within 8 weeks of your application date if you use the standard service
- within 5 working days of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the priority service
- within 1 working day of your UKVCAS appointment if you use the super priority service

You'll be told if it will take longer, for example if:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- your application is complex because of your personal circumstances, for example you have a criminal conviction

Once you've applied you can stay in the UK until you've been given a decision, as long as you applied before your last visa expired.

Family members

Your family members ('dependants') must apply to join or remain with you in the UK if they're from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland.

A 'dependant' is any of the following:

- your husband, wife or partner
- your child under 18
- your child over 18 if they're currently in the UK as a dependant

Read the guidance on dependant applications before you apply.

Personal savings

You must show that your dependants can be supported while they're in the UK.

Each dependant must have £630 available to them whether they apply with you or separately. This is in addition to the £945 you must have to support yourself.

You must have proof you have the money, and that it's been in your bank account or your dependant's bank account for at least 90 days before you or they apply.

Example You must have £2,205 if you want to bring your partner and one child with you to the UK (£945 to support yourself + £630 for your partner + £630 for your child).

You will not need evidence of your savings if you have a:

- fully approved ('A-rated') sponsor

- certificate of sponsorship stating that your sponsor will give each of your dependants at least £630 to cover their costs for a month if they need it

Fees

Check the fees for your type of visa.

Dependants applying outside the UK

Your family members must apply online.

As part of their application they'll need to have their fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre. This is to get a biometric residence permit.

They'll have to collect their biometric residence permit within 30 days of when they said they'd arrive in the UK (even if they actually arrive at a later date).

They may be able to get their visa faster or other services depending on what country they're in - check with the visa application centre.

Dependants applying in the UK on their own

Your dependants can apply to extend or switch their visas to stay with you if they're already in the UK.

Your family members can apply online if they're your:

- partner
- child

It's best for your dependants to apply at the same time as you but they can apply at a later date.

Your family members cannot apply in the UK as your dependant if they hold a visitor visa.

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When they apply, they'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide their biometric information (their fingerprints and a photo).

They'll also need to submit their supporting documents. They can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at their UKVCAS appointment

They must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until they get a decision. Their application will be withdrawn if they do.

Children born while you're in the UK

If you have children while you're in the UK, you can apply for permission for them to stay.

You must do this if you want to travel in and out of the UK with your child.

When you apply, you'll need to provide a full UK birth certificate showing the names of both of your child's parents.

Family visas

If you're outside the UK

You can apply for a family visa to live with your:

- spouse or partner
- fiancé, fiancée or proposed civil partner
- child
- parent
- relative who'll provide long-term care for you

Apply as a partner or spouse

To apply as a partner, you and your partner both need to be 18 or over.

Your partner must also either:

- be a British citizen
- have settled in the UK - for example, they have indefinite leave to remain, settled status or proof of permanent residence
- have refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK

You and your partner must intend to live together permanently in the UK after you apply.

What you'll need to prove

You must be able to prove one of the following:

- you're in a civil partnership or marriage that's recognised in the UK

- you've been living together in a relationship for at least 2 years when you apply
- you are a fiancé, fiancée or proposed civil partner and will marry or enter into a civil partnership in the UK within 6 months of arriving

You also need to prove you:

- have a good knowledge of English
- can financially support yourself and your dependants

If you do not meet these requirements you may still be able to apply for a visa or extend your permission to stay if:

- you have a child in the UK who is a British citizen or has lived in the UK for 7 years and it would be unreasonable for them to leave the UK
- there would be very significant difficulties for you and your partner if you lived together as a couple outside the UK that could not be overcome
- it would breach your human rights to stop you coming to the UK or make you leave

If you're applying as a fiancé, fiancée or proposed civil partner

You must prove that:

- any previous marriages or civil partnerships have ended
- you plan to marry or become civil partners within 6 months of arriving in the UK

You will not be able to work during your engagement.

How long you can stay

You'll get permission to stay for 2.5 years, or for 6 months if you're applying as a fiancé, fiancée or proposed civil partner.

After this you'll need to apply to extend your stay.

How to apply

You'll need to prepare information and documents to provide with your application.

How you apply depends on whether you're in the UK or not.

Outside the UK

You must apply online from outside the UK.

There's a different way to apply in North Korea.

In the UK

You must apply online.

If you cannot pay the fee

Fill in the online fee waiver request form as well if you cannot pay the fee because 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
- have a very low income and paying the fee would harm your child's wellbeing

Get help using a computer to apply online

You can get help with:

- accessing a computer or the internet
- finding the right information on GOV.UK

You cannot get advice on:

- whether you're eligible to apply
- what information to put in your application
- an application you've already made

Telephone: 03333 445 675
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm
Find out about call charges
Text: 'VISA' to 07537 416 944
visa@we-are-digital.co.uk

Applying with your children

You can add children to your application as dependants if both of the following apply:

- they are under 18 when you apply, or were under 18 when they were first granted leave
- they do not live an independent life

Your child is living an independent life if, for example, they've left home, got married and had children.

When you can settle permanently

The earliest you can apply to settle in the UK (called 'indefinite leave to remain') is after you've lived in the country for 5 years continuously with permission to stay ('leave to remain') as a partner. You cannot count any permission to stay in the UK as a fiancé, fiancée or proposed civil partner.

The rules are different if you applied before 9 July 2012.

If you applied before 9 July 2012

You can only extend your family visa if all the following are true:

- you were given permission to stay in the UK as a partner before 9 July 2012
- you are not eligible to settle
- you have not been granted or refused another visa

You must also prove that:

- you and your partner have enough money to adequately support and accommodate yourselves and any dependants without relying on public funds
- you have good knowledge of English

Knowledge of English

You may need to prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply.

You can prove it with an academic qualification, or by taking a test.

You do not need to prove it if you're applying as a:

- child
- adult coming to be cared for by a relative

Academic qualifications

You can prove your knowledge of English if both:

- you have a degree or academic qualification that was taught or researched in English
- your qualification is recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree or higher

You'll need to provide a certificate from UK NARIC confirming this when you apply.

Take an approved English language test

You can prove your knowledge of English by passing an approved English language test with at least a CEFR level A1 in speaking and listening.

If you want to settle permanently in the UK within 5 years

If you took the CEFR A1 when you first applied for your visa, you'll need to take a CEFR A2 test when you apply to stay after 2.5 years.

If you did not need to do the CEFR A1 when you first applied for your visa but you need to do it now, you'll need to pass it when you apply to stay after 2.5 years.

When you will not need to prove your knowledge of English

You will not need to prove your knowledge of English or take a test if:

- you're over 65
- you have a physical or mental condition that prevents you from meeting the requirement

You also will not need to prove your knowledge of English if you're a national of one of the following countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- the Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago

- USA

You may not have to prove your knowledge of English in other circumstances – check the guidance for the partner (2-year and 5-year routes) or parent (5-year route).

Give proof of your income

You and your partner must have a combined income of at least £18,600 a year if:

- you're applying as a partner
- you want to settle in the UK (get 'indefinite leave to remain') within 5 years

You must prove you have extra money if you have children who are not:

- British citizens
- EEA nationals
- permanently settled

You'll need to earn an extra:

- £3,800 for your first child
- £2,400 for each child you have after your first child

This is called the 'minimum income requirement'.

You may be able to use your savings instead of income.

How you prove you have the money depends on how you got the income.

What counts as income

You and your partner can use:

- income from employment before tax and National Insurance (check your P60 or payslips)
- you can only use your own income if you earn it in the UK
- income you earn from self-employment or as a director of a limited company in the UK -
check your Self Assessment tax return
- cash savings above £16,000
- money from a pension
- non-work income, for example from property rentals or dividends

If you're using income from self-employment or employment, you'll need to prove you or your partner received that income for 6 months or more.

Example You've worked with the same employer earning £18,600 or more for 6 months or longer.

What proof you need to give

You'll need to provide proof of your income with your application. If you or your partner are employed, you could include:

- bank statements showing you or your partner's income
- 6 months of payslips
- a letter from an employer, dated and on headed paper

The employer's letter should confirm:

- you or your partner are employed there
- the job title or position you or your partner hold
- how long you or your partner have worked there
- the type of contract (for example, permanent, fixed term)
- what you or your partner earn before tax and National Insurance
- how long you or your partner have been paid your current salary
- the payslips are genuine

You'll be told exactly what documents to provide when you apply online.

Check the detailed guidance if:

- you or your partner's income is more complicated
- you or your partner have taken maternity or paternity leave in the last 6 months
- you want to combine different income sources

The detailed guidance also explains the evidence you need to provide for each of the types of income you're relying on.

If you cannot meet the minimum income requirement

- You need to show you and your partner meet the minimum income requirement if you want to settle in 5 years as a partner.
- If you do not meet the requirement, you may be able to settle in 10 years.

When you do not need to meet the income requirement

You may be able to settle in 5 years without meeting the minimum income requirement if either:

- you're applying as a parent
- you get certain benefits, for example Disability Living Allowance or Carer's Allowance.

You need to show you and your family have enough money to adequately support and accommodate yourselves without relying on public funds. The caseworker considers your income and housing costs.

Information you must provide

You'll need to have information and some evidence ready when you make your application. Include information for you and any dependants applying at the same time.

You'll need to provide:

- all your names
- your date of birth
- your current passport or other valid travel ID
- copies of the photo page and any visa or entry stamps in your previous passports
- a copy of your biometric residence permit, if you have one
- details of any previous immigration applications you've made
- details of any criminal convictions
- your national insurance number, if you have one
- your parents' date of birth and nationality if you're applying from outside the UK
- your tuberculosis test results if you're from a country where you have to take the test
- a certified translation of any document that is not in English or Welsh

You'll need to have a blank page in your passport on which to put the visa if you're applying outside the UK.

You'll need an email address to make an online application.

You'll also need to give proof of:

- your finances
- how well you speak and understand English

You may need to provide additional documents depending on your circumstances - for example a sponsorship form from your family member in the UK.

You'll be told how to provide your documents when you apply.

Your partner's details

If you have a partner, you'll be asked about their:

- name
- date of birth
- nationality
- passport
- right to be in the UK, for example they're a British citizen

You'll also need to give details of:

- any people your partner was previously married to, in a civil partnership with or had children with
- evidence of marriages ending, for example a divorce certificate
- anyone your partner supports with money, for example their parents

Proof of relationship

If you're applying as a spouse or partner, you'll be asked about:

- your relationship with your partner, for example how you met and how often you see each other
- how long you've lived together - you'll need to provide proof like council tax bills
- things you pay for together
- whether you're your partner's carer

Your previous partners

You'll need to include details of anyone you previously married or had children with. Include evidence of marriages ending, for example a divorce certificate.

Children

You'll need to give details of your children (and your partner's children if you have one). You'll be asked about all children, even if they're not applying.

You'll need to give details of:

- their name
- their nationality
- their date of birth
- their passport details
- who the child normally lives with
- any other people with parental responsibility for your child, for example your step children's other parents
- how you're involved in their day to day life
- arrangements you have to see the child - for example the courts have granted you access
- the child's extended family
- any countries your child has visited or lived in

Your life outside the UK

You'll need to give details of:

- countries outside the UK you've lived in and visited
- family and friends in the countries where you were born or have nationality

After you apply

You'll need to attend an appointment to provide your biometric information (fingerprints and a photo). You'll be told how to make an appointment when you apply.

Getting your documents back

You can ask for your passport and other documents to be returned if you've provided them with your application but need them urgently.

You might have to cancel your application to get your documents back.

If your application is approved

You'll get a biometric residence permit.

You can:

- work
- study

You cannot work or study if you're applying for a visa or extending your stay to get married or become civil partners.

You cannot:

- usually get benefits or other public funds for you or your dependants
- apply to settle in the UK until you're eligible.