

FAQS

-SKILLED WORKER VISA-

WHAT IS A SKILLED WORKER VISA?

A skilled worker visa allows you to enter the UK to work. The visa permits you to be employed in an eligible job with an approved employer.

To qualify for the skilled worker visa, you must attain 70 points when making the application. The points are awarded when you meet the requirements of the visa which we will discuss further below.

The visa permits you to bring you spouse, partner and children with you. The visa is granted for up to 5 years. Once you have held the skilled worker visa for 5 years, you can apply for settlement (Indefinite leave to remain), which means you will no longer have any restrictions living in the UK

REQUIREMENTS:

To qualify for a Skilled Worker visa, you must:

- work or be offered a position by a UK employer that has been approved by the Home Office
- have a 'certificate of sponsorship' from your employer with information about the role you've been offered in the UK
- do a job that's on the list of eligible occupations
- be paid a minimum salary - how much depends on the type of work you do

The minimum salary for the type of work you'll be doing is whichever is the highest out of the following 3 options:

- £26,200 per year
- £10.75 per hour
- the 'going rate' for the type of work you'll be doing

Your employer must make sure your job pays at least the minimum wage and follows the rules for how many hours a week you can work. If your employer does not do this, your application will be refused.

CHECK IF YOUR JOB IS ELIGIBLE

To check if your is eligible, you need to know the 4-digit occupation code. If you already have a job offer, ask your employer for the code. If you do not know your code, you can search for your job on the government website. Here is the link -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations-and-codes>

APPROVED UK EMPLOYERS

You must have a job offer from an approved UK employer before you apply for a Skilled Worker visa. Approved employers are also known as sponsors. You can view the list of approved UK employers on the government website. Here is the link -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers>

Your employer - also known as your sponsor - will check that you meet the eligibility requirements. They'll give you a 'certificate of sponsorship' to prove this.

The certificate of sponsorship is an electronic record, not a physical document. It will have a reference number, which you'll need for your visa application.

You must apply for your visa within 3 months of getting your certificate of sponsorship.

KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH

You must prove you can read, write, speak and understand English to at least level B1 on the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages \(CEFR\) scale](#).

You can prove your knowledge of English by:

- passing a Secure English Language Test (SELT) from an [approved provider](#)
- having a GCSE, A level, Scottish National Qualification level 4 or 5, Scottish Higher or Advanced Higher in English, gained through study at a UK school that you began when you were under 18
- having a degree-level academic qualification that was taught in English - if you studied abroad, you'll need to [apply through Ecctis \(formerly UK NARIC\)](#) for confirmation that your qualification is equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD

You do not need to prove your knowledge of English if you are a national of certain countries such as Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT

When making the application, you must show that you can support yourself when you arrive in the UK - you'll usually need to have at least £1,270 available in your bank account which has been held for at least 28 days.

Should you not have these funds, then your employer may be able to make a declaration that they will cover your costs.

VISA FEES

When applying from outside of the UK, you will need to pay the following:

Home Office fees	Visa duration up to 3 years - £625.00 Visa duration more than 3 years - £1,235.00
Immigration Health Surcharge	£624 per year

When applying from inside of the UK, you will need to pay the following:

Home Office fees	Visa duration up to 3 years - £719.00 Visa duration more than 3 years - £1,423.00
Immigration Health Surcharge	£624 per year

When applying for a role which is in the shortage occupation list, you will need to pay the following which is the same whether applying from outside or inside the UK:

Home Office fees	Visa duration up to 3 years - £479.00 Visa duration more than 3 years - £943.00
Immigration Health Surcharge	£624 per year

Please note that the fees above will also be payable for each dependant.

If you are applying for a Skilled Worker Visa based on a role in the health and care sector, then you will eligible for substantive reduction on the above. Please contact us to find out more.

SKILLED WORKER VISA PROCESSING TIMES

If you are applying from outside of the UK, applications usually take 3 weeks to be considered. If you are applying from within the UK, then applications can take up to 8 weeks to be considered.

Priority service is available where you can get a decision within 5 working days or the next working day for additional fees of £500.00 or £800.00.

Should you be interested in applying for a skilled worker visa, then contact our immigration team today