



LEXEN LAW
JUSTICE, INTEGRITY, RESULTS

UK GLOBAL TALENT VISA

The key to building your future in the UK through the Global
Talent Visa



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What is the Global Talent Visa?

01 What is the Global Talent Visa?

The Global Talent Visa is a UK immigration route designed for highly skilled individuals who are already recognised as leaders or show exceptional promise in their field.

It allows you to live, work, study and build your career or business in the UK without needing employer sponsorship.



02 Who is the Global Talent Visa for?

This visa is intended for individuals who are:

- Leaders or future leaders in academia, research, science, engineering, medicine, humanities
- Recognised or emerging talent in arts & culture (film, TV, fashion, architecture, literature, music, design, etc.)
- Exceptional innovators in digital technology
- Holders of an internationally prestigious award/prize (no endorsement required)
- Professionals with a proven track record of achievement and contribution to their field

You must be able to demonstrate national or international recognition and potential for continued contribution in your area of work.

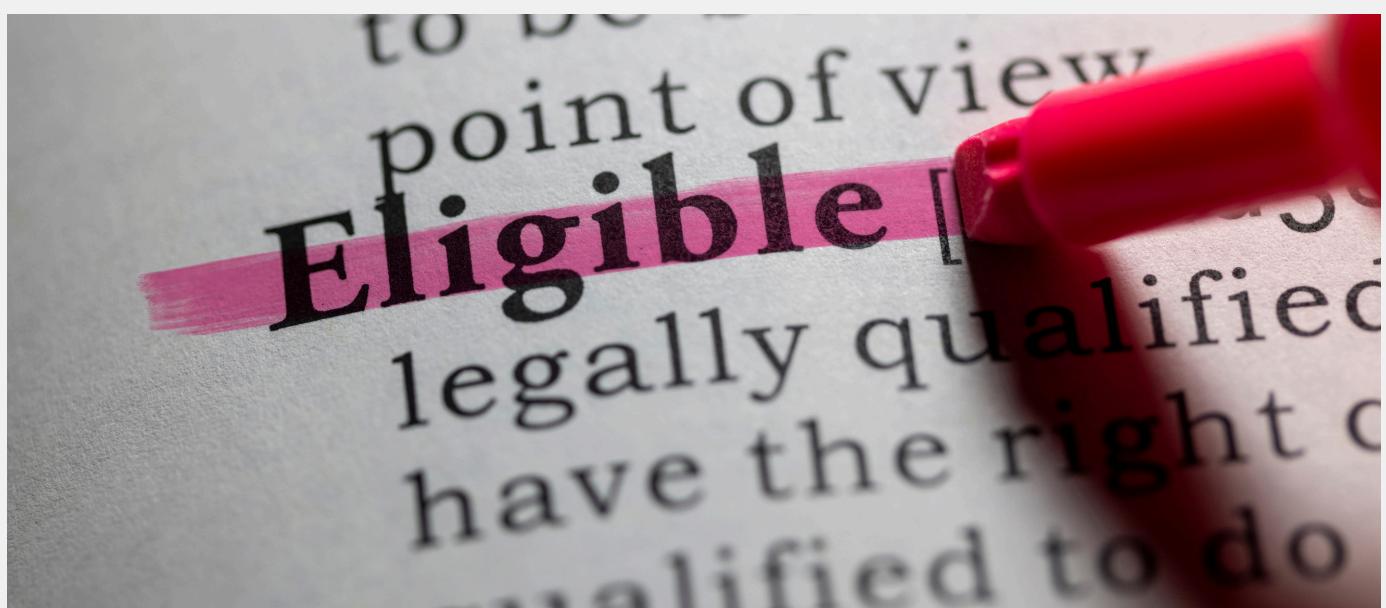


Eligibility Criteria

03 To apply, you must:

You may apply for the Global Talent Visa if you:

- Are aged **18** or over.
- Work (or intend to work) in one of the eligible fields:
 - **Academia or research (science, engineering, humanities, medicine)**
 - **Arts and culture (including architecture, fashion design, film/TV, visual arts)**
 - **Digital technology (for example product-led tech companies, innovation in digital fields)**
- Are either:
 - **A recognised leader in your field ("Exceptional Talent" route)** or
 - **A promising potential leader in your field ("Exceptional Promise" route)**
- Either hold a **qualifying prestigious prize** that removes the need for endorsement, or obtain an endorsement from an approved endorsing body.
- Meet any specific criteria for your field (for example the digital tech criteria include showing innovation, track record etc).





Funds & Costs



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How much Funds & Costs

- Application fee: If applying via endorsement, you pay the endorsement fee £561 and then a visa application fee £205 (total £766) for the main applicant.
- If applying via the prize route (no endorsement needed), pay £766 at visa stage.
- The Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) also applies, for example approx £1,035 per year for most applicants (exact rate depends on length of stay).
- Dependents (partner/children) also pay application fees and IHS.
- Note: These figures may change; always check the latest UKVI fees schedule before applying.



Application Process

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Obtain Endorsement

(if not applying via awards route)

06

Submit Visa Application

Online

07

Provide Biometrics

And identity documents

08

Decision

Normally within a few weeks (8 weeks in UK) depending on where you apply



Stage 1 – Endorsement (if required):

- Submit application to appropriate endorsing body (depending on your field) to get endorsement.
- If you hold a qualifying prize, you may bypass this stage.

Stage 2 – Visa Application:

- Once endorsed (or if prize route), apply for the visa online via UKVI.
- Provide biometric information (passport/ID, possibly attend a Visa Application Centre).
- If you are in the UK and switching routes, ensure your current leave allows.

Stage 3 –Timing & Decision:

- Endorsement processing times differ. If you hold an eligible academic or research role, fellowship, or approved grant, decisions are faster (around 2 weeks). Peer review applications take longer (up to about 5 weeks). Some fields or endorsing bodies may take even more time.
- Visa application decisions: typically within 3 weeks if applying from outside the UK; about 8 weeks if inside.

Valid for 3 months after endorsement – you must apply for the visa within 3 months of receiving endorsement.



Your Position in the UK

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Your Position in the UK:

With a Global Talent Visa, you gain more than the right to enter the UK you gain a strong legal foundation to build and grow your entrepreneurial career.

- You can live, work, study and change jobs freely without needing an employer to sponsor you.
- You may be self-employed, work as a director, switch employer, etc there are very few restrictions.
- You cannot work as a professional sportsperson or coach.
- You must continue to work in, or make contributions to, the field for which you were endorsed.
- To qualify for an extension or settlement, you must also have earned income in the UK during your most recent grant of permission while working in that field.



Performance Requirements

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Performance Requirements (5 Key Points)

While there is no set salary or job requirement, you must:

- **Continue working in your endorsed field** (research, tech, arts, etc.)
- Demonstrate **income or work activity related to your field** during extensions/settlement
- Maintain **evidence of professional achievements** (publications, awards, roles, contracts, projects, grants, etc.)
- Show **economic, cultural, or scientific contribution** to the UK
- Provide **proof of ongoing engagement** in talent-related work if requested (e.g., letters, contracts, financial statements, company evidence)





Duration & Settlement Pathway

- When you apply for the visa you may choose a grant of leave for **1 to 5 years**.
- You can extend your leave as many times as you like, provided you continue to meet the requirements.

Settlement (ILR) eligibility:

- For “leaders” (**Exceptional Talent**) you may apply for ILR after 3 years.
- For “potential leaders” (**Exceptional Promise**) after 5 years.
- Absences: For ILR, you must ensure you have spent no more than **180 days outside the UK** in any 12-month period during the qualifying period.





Benefits of the Global Talent Visa?

11 What are the Benefits of the Global Talent Visa?



- **No job offer or employer sponsorship needed**
- **Freedom to change employers or roles anytime**
- **Ability to start a business or work freelance**
- **Fast-track to permanent residency (ILR)**
- **No minimum salary requirement**
- **Lower financial burden than sponsored visas**
- **Dependants can work**



How Lexen Law Supports Your Global Talent Journey

Securing the Global Talent Visa requires precision, strategy, and expert guidance. At Lexen Law, we act as your dedicated legal partners, supporting you from application to settlement. Our services include:

- **Strategic Case Assessment:** We evaluate your profile, achievements, and career goals to create a strong visa strategy aligned with UK immigration requirements.
- **Business & Career Plan Development:** We craft a compelling, compliant, and results-focused business or professional plan that reflects your expertise and meets endorsement expectations.
- **Endorsement Assistance:** We prepare and structure your endorsement application, helping you demonstrate leadership, innovation, and contribution in your field.
- **Visa Application Management:** We ensure every document and submission meets Home Office standards, reducing risks and strengthening your case.
- **Family & Dependant Support:** We manage dependant applications so your partner and children can join you smoothly and confidently in the UK.
- **Ongoing Compliance Guidance:** We provide advisory support on maintaining compliance, demonstrating progress, and preparing evidence throughout your visa term.
- **Settlement & Citizenship Roadmap:** We offer long-term guidance on extension, settlement (ILR), and ultimately, British citizenship.

**For inquiries,
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