

XIPHIAS Immigration

COUNTRY BROCHURE

SKILLED MIGRATION | COUNTRY GUIDE

# United Kingdom Skilled Migration

Move to the UK through world-class immigration routes for skilled professionals, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

| PROGRAMMES | CAPITAL | CURRENCY | LANGUAGE |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | London | Pound Sterling (GBP) | English |

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Updated 1 October 2026

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# United Kingdom at a glance

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|---|---|
| CAPITAL<br>**London** | LANGUAGE<br>**English** |
| CURRENCY<br>**Pound Sterling (GBP)** | TIME ZONE<br>**UTC+0** |
| CLIMATE<br>**Temperate maritime — mild winters and cool summers** | PROGRAMMES WE ADVISE ON<br>**1** |
| LAST UPDATED<br>**1 October 2026** | |

# Overview

The United Kingdom is a global hub for research, technology and the creative industries. The Global Talent visa lets leaders and emerging leaders in those fields live and work in the UK without a job offer, once endorsed by an approved body such as the Royal Society, Arts Council England or Tech Nation, or through a recognised prestigious prize. For professionals with a UK job offer, the employer-sponsored Skilled Worker route requires a degree-level role, a salary of at least £41,700 (or the going rate, if higher) and English at B2. XIPHIAS assesses which route fits your profile and manages the application from start to finish.

# Key points

- Global Talent: no employer sponsorship needed; an endorsement replaces the job offer.
- Endorsing bodies include the Royal Society, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering, UKRI, Arts Council England and Tech Nation.
- Visa decisions in about 3 weeks from outside the UK, once endorsed.
- Settlement after three or five years on Global Talent, and after five years on Skilled Worker.
- Recognised worldwide for education, research and business.

# Programmes in United Kingdom



### UK Global Talent Visa — For Exceptional Professionals

No job offer and no sponsor: an endorsement-based UK visa for leaders and emerging leaders in research, digital technology and the arts, with £766 in Home Office fees and settlement after three or five years.

**Endorsement first, then a visa decision in about 3 weeks**

## Overview

The **United Kingdom** is one of the world's top destinations for skilled migration, innovation, and higher education. With a stable economy, transparent governance, and a forward-thinking business environment, the UK welcomes talented individuals to contribute to its growing industries.

## Why Choose the United Kingdom

- World-renowned universities and research institutions like Oxford and Cambridge
- Leading global financial and technology hubs in London, Manchester, and Edinburgh
- Diverse industries — from medicine and engineering to digital arts and design
- Strong focus on innovation, sustainability, and cultural exchange
- Safe, inclusive society with excellent quality of life and healthcare (NHS)

{/ restored from the 2019–2026 site /}

*Skilled Worker was replaced by the Skilled Worker visa on 1 December 2020. The outline below describes the route under its old name.*

# Skilled Worker

A skilled worker in any Tier 2 category must not displace a suitable settled worker

## What You Need to Know

You need to be have been provided with Certificate of Sponsorship from a licensed sponsor before being able to work in the UK as a Skilled Worker migrant.

## You must have all of the following to be eligible for a Skilled Worker visa

- A certificate of sponsorship reference number
- An appropriate salary
- The required level of English

For further information, please see our section for Family Members.

## How the application works

1. **Identify the most suitable UK immigration route, such as the Global Talent Visa or Skilled Worker Visa.**
2. **Prepare eligibility evidence including education, experience, or endorsement credentials.**
3. **Submit your online application through the UK Home Office portal.**
4. **Pay the applicable visa fee and Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS).**
5. **Provide biometrics and attend a visa appointment, if required.**
6. **Receive your visa and move to the UK for work, research, or entrepreneurship.**

## General requirements

- Hold relevant academic or professional qualifications, or recognition in your field.
- Meet English language requirements where the route sets them (Skilled Worker: CEFR B2).
- For Global Talent, an endorsement from an approved body or a qualifying prestigious prize.
- Comply with UK health, security and character requirements.

## Sectors in demand

- Technology
- Science
- Engineering
- Medicine
- Arts

## Questions clients ask

**What are the main UK options for skilled professionals?**

Global Talent, for leaders and emerging leaders in research, digital technology and the arts, with no job offer needed; and Skilled Worker, for those with a job offer from a licensed UK sponsor.

**Do I need a job offer to move to the UK?**

Not for Global Talent. You need an endorsement from an approved body, or a qualifying prestigious prize.

### Can I bring my family with me to the UK?

Yes. Partners and children under 18 can join you as dependants.

### How long does it take?

For Global Talent, endorsement comes first (Tech Nation takes 5 to 8 weeks; other bodies vary), then a visa decision in about 3 weeks from outside the UK or 8 weeks from inside.

### Does the UK offer permanent residency?

Yes. Global Talent leads to settlement after three or five years depending on how you are endorsed; Skilled Worker after five years under the current rules.

### How does XIPHIAS assist?

XIPHIAS offers complete UK immigration support, from eligibility assessment and documentation to endorsement and visa submission.



XIPHIAS Immigration

NEXT STEP

# Discuss your United Kingdom options with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will compare the United Kingdom routes that fit you, set out the full cost in writing and manage the application with you from start to finish.


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## CREDENTIALS

- Advising clients on global mobility since 2009; XIPHIAS Immigration DMCC in Dubai since 2017.
- Named Best Immigration Consultant by The Times of India in 2022.
- Canada files handled by a CICC-licensed Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant, licence R516194.
- Australia files handled by a registered migration agent, MARA 1680615.


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