

XIPHIAS Immigration

PROGRAMME BROCHURE

SKILLED MIGRATION | 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.

JOB OFFER

Not required

FAMILY

Spouse, children up to age 18

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At a glance

COUNTRY **United Kingdom**	ROUTE **Skilled Migration - Employment Based**
TIMELINE **Endorsement first, then a visa decision in about 3 weeks**	FAMILY MEMBERS **Spouse, children up to age 18**
JOB OFFER **Not required**	LAST UPDATED **1 October 2026**

Overview

The **UK Global Talent visa** is for leaders and emerging leaders in **academia and research, digital technology, and arts and culture**. There is no job offer, no sponsor and no minimum salary. Instead, an approved endorsing body confirms that you are a leader in your field (**exceptional talent**) or a likely future leader (**exceptional promise**), or you qualify directly through a recognised prestigious prize.

Once in the UK you can work for an employer, freelance or run a business. You can apply for up to five years at a time, and you can settle after **three or five years**, depending on how you were endorsed. The Home Office fee is **£766** per applicant.

Who endorses applicants

- **Research and academia:** the Royal Society, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The endorsed funder pathway was expanded to more than 100 commercial R&D companies on 6 August 2026.
- **Arts and culture:** Arts Council England. The Design Business Association became an Arts Council sub-endorser on 1 July 2026.
- **Digital technology:** Tech Nation, confirmed as the endorsing body in the Home Office's Global Talent guidance, version 19.0 of 3 August 2026.
- **Prestigious prize route:** holders of a qualifying international prize do not need an endorsement and apply in a single stage.

Endorsing bodies assess evidence, not job titles. A strong application shows recognition by peers, a record of significant contribution, and letters from established leaders in your field.

Costs: official Home Office fees

Fee	Amount
Endorsement application (stage 1)	£561
Visa application (stage 2)	£205
Total per main applicant	£766

Fee	Amount
Prestigious prize route (single stage)	£766
Each dependant	£766
Immigration Health Surcharge, adults	£1,035 per person, per year
Immigration Health Surcharge, children under 18	£776 per child, per year

Global Talent fees were not changed in the April 2026 Home Office fee uprating. XIPHIAS professional fees are separate and quoted for your case.

Timeline

1. **Endorsement.** The turnaround depends on the body. Tech Nation takes **5 to 8 weeks**. Arts Council England targets **8 weeks**, and its decisions are currently taking longer than that. The Royal Society, the British Academy and the Royal Academy of Engineering do not publish a turnaround.
2. **Visa decision.** About **3 weeks** when you apply from outside the UK, or **8 weeks** from inside the UK.

English language

There is no English requirement at the visa stage. Settlement requires English at B1 and the Life in the UK test.

Family

Your partner and children under 18 can apply as dependants. Each pays the £766 fee and the Immigration Health Surcharge (£1,035 per adult and £776 per child, for each year of the visa), and can work and study in the UK.

Settlement

How you qualified	Settlement after
Royal Society, British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering or UKRI	3 years
Prestigious prize	3 years
Exceptional talent, endorsed by Arts Council England or Tech Nation	3 years
Exceptional promise, endorsed by Arts Council England or Tech Nation	5 years

As at 1 October 2026 these settlement periods are unchanged. The earned-settlement proposal in the May 2025 immigration White Paper has not been legislated, and Statement of Changes HC 259 (9 July 2026) made no change to settlement periods. Separately, from 26 March 2027 the Home Office will require English at B2 for settlement on certain routes (HC 1619). XIPHIAS confirms whether that applies to you when you prepare for settlement.

Risks and how we manage them

- **Endorsement is selective.** Endorsing bodies look for documented, verifiable recognition. We test your evidence against the criteria before you apply.
- **Talent or promise.** The criterion you are endorsed under decides whether you settle after three or five years, so it is worth choosing deliberately.
- **Variable endorsement times.** Some bodies publish no turnaround and others run beyond target. We build that into your plan.
- **Accurate documents.** All evidence must be genuine and verifiable, with certified translations of anything not in English.

How XIPHIAS helps

We identify the endorsing body and criterion that fit your record, build the evidence file and recommendation letters, manage the endorsement and visa applications, and plan your route to settlement.

Fees and rules on this page reflect the official sources listed below as at 1 October 2026.

Key benefits

- No job offer, sponsor or minimum salary.
- Work for an employer, freelance or run a business.
- Settlement after three years (Royal Society, British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, UKRI, prestigious prize, or exceptional talent) or five years (exceptional promise).
- No English requirement at the visa stage.
- Partners and children under 18 can join you and can work and study.
- Home Office fee of £766 per applicant, unchanged in the April 2026 fee uprating.

Requirements

- Aged 18 or over.
- Work in an eligible field: academia or research, digital technology, or arts and culture.
- An endorsement from an approved body as a leader (exceptional talent) or emerging leader (exceptional promise), or a qualifying prestigious prize.
- Meet the UK's general suitability requirements.

When this route may not fit

- No endorsement and no qualifying prestigious prize.
- Evidence that does not show recognition at the level the endorsing body requires.
- A field outside academia or research, digital technology, and arts and culture.

Skills, language and points

Job offer: No job offer or sponsorship required — applicants are endorsed based on achievements and potential.

Eligible fields

- Academia and research (science, engineering, humanities, social sciences, medicine)
- Digital technology
- Arts and culture (including design, film, literature, architecture, fashion and the performing arts)

How the process works

1. **Choose your route**
   Endorsement by an approved body, or the prestigious prize route.
2. **Apply for endorsement**
   Submit your evidence and pay £561. Tech Nation decides in 5 to 8 weeks; other bodies vary.
3. **Apply for the visa**
   Once endorsed, apply, pay £205 and the Immigration Health Surcharge, and give biometrics.
4. **Visa decision**
   About 3 weeks from outside the UK, or 8 weeks from inside.
5. **Move and plan for settlement**
   Settle after three or five years, depending on how you were endorsed.

Document checklist

Identity

- Valid passport
- Details of any previous UK visas

Endorsement or prize

- Endorsement letter from the endorsing body
- Or evidence of a qualifying prestigious prize

Evidence of achievement

- Recommendation letters from established leaders in your field
- Publications, products, awards, media coverage or portfolio
- Curriculum vitae

Dependants

- Marriage or partnership evidence
- Children's birth certificates

Questions clients ask

What is the UK Global Talent visa?

A UK visa for leaders and emerging leaders in academia or research, digital technology, and arts and culture. You need an endorsement from an approved body, or a qualifying prestigious prize, rather than a job offer.

Who endorses applicants?

The Royal Society, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and UKRI for research; Arts Council England for arts and culture, with the Design Business Association as a sub-endorser since 1 July 2026; and Tech Nation for digital technology.

How much does it cost?

£766 per applicant in Home Office fees (£561 at endorsement and £205 at the visa stage), £766 for each dependant, plus the Immigration Health Surcharge of £1,035 per adult per year (£776 per child).

How long does it take?

Endorsement comes first: Tech Nation takes 5 to 8 weeks, Arts Council England targets 8 weeks but is currently taking longer, and the academies publish no turnaround. The visa decision then takes about 3 weeks from outside the UK, or 8 weeks from inside.

When can I settle?

After three years if endorsed through the Royal Society, British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering or UKRI, through the prize route, or as exceptional talent; after five years if endorsed as exceptional promise.

Do I need an English test?

Not for the visa. Settlement requires English at B1 and the Life in the UK test.

Can my family join me?

Yes. Your partner and children under 18 can apply as dependants; each pays £766 and the Immigration Health Surcharge.

How does XIPHIAS help?

We identify the endorsing body and criterion that fit your record, build the evidence file, and manage the endorsement and visa applications through to settlement planning.

Important notes

- Home Office fees: endorsement £561 + visa £205 = £766 per applicant; each dependant £766; Immigration Health Surcharge £1,035 per adult per year, £776 per child.
- Visa decisions take about 3 weeks from outside the UK and 8 weeks from inside, after endorsement.
- Tech Nation remains the endorsing body for digital technology (Home Office guidance version 19.0, 3 August 2026).
- Settlement requires English at B1 and the Life in the UK test. From 26 March 2027 English at B2 will be required for settlement on certain routes (HC 1619); XIPHIAS confirms the position for Global Talent when you prepare for settlement.
- Provide certified translations of any document not in English; all evidence must be verifiable.

Official sources: GOV.UK — Global Talent visa; Immigration Rules — Appendix Global Talent; Home Office — Global Talent caseworker guidance; Home Office — Immigration and nationality fees; GOV.UK — Immigration Health Surcharge; House of Commons Library — CBP-10267.



XIPHIAS Immigration

NEXT STEP

Plan your United Kingdom application with our Dubai team

Tell us about your profile, family and timeline. We will confirm whether **UK Global Talent Visa — For Exceptional Professionals** fits, 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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