

Global Talent: one visa, four routes

This document will help you choose which visa route may be right for you and what documentation you may need to supply when securing your endorsement.

The decision tree below is intended to help applicants determine which route may be right for them. It is the responsibility of the individual to assess their circumstances before making an application. The endorsing bodies are not able to provide advice in this regard.

There are four routes below.

Route 1: Senior appointments

Have you accepted the offer of a senior appointment at an institution approved by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, and Royal Society? If no, [proceed to route 2](#). If yes, then if you have been offered the role of Professor, Associate Professor, Reader, or an equivalent position such as Senior Group Leader, and you meet the necessary recruitment requirements, you need a statement of guarantee from the human resources director at the employing institution to support your application for a fast-track visa.

[Link to more information on route 1: Senior appointments.](#)

Route 2: Individual fellowships

Have you been awarded an individual fellowship on the list approved by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, and Royal Society? If no, [proceed to route 3](#). If yes, if your fellowship is listed and you hold it currently or have done so within the last 12 months, you must submit a copy of the award letter as part of your fast track visa application.

[Link to more information on route 2: Individual fellowships.](#)

Route 3: Endorsed funders

Are you working on a research grant issued by an endorsed funder on the list approved by UK Research and Innovation? If no, [proceed to route 4](#). If yes, if you as an individual or your role is named in a successful grant application from an endorsed funder, you need to submit both the award letter and a statement of guarantee from the employing or hosting institution as part of your application for a fast track visa. The funder and the institution must both be on UK Research and Innovation's approved lists.

Under the endorsed funder pathway, eligibility extends to the principal investigator (P.I.), co-investigators (Co I.) and team roles stated in the grant application at graduate level and above – for example, postdoctoral researchers, research assistants, technologists and methodologists. Eligible individuals must spend at least 50% of their work time on fulfilling the grant conditions (principal investigators or co-investigators holding multiple grants may demonstrate 50% in aggregate). A minimum award threshold of £30,000 applies and the minimum grant duration is 24 months. Individuals must have at least two years left on their employment contract to be eligible.

[Link to more information on route 3: Endorsed funders.](#)

Route 4: Peer review

Check the eligibility and assessment criteria for a standard endorsement and submit an application for peer review by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, or Royal Society.

Note on peer review pathway. The British Academy reviews standard 'exceptional talent and promise' applications from the humanities and social sciences, Royal Academy of Engineering covers engineering, and the Royal Society covers natural and medical sciences. If you do not meet the criteria for standard endorsement, you may still be eligible for a [skilled Tier 2 worker visa](#). If you are coming to the UK for the purposes of collaboration, training or knowledge exchange, you may apply through [Tier 5](#).

[Link to more information on route 4: Peer review.](#)