



Charity People

UK Sponsorship Options for People who are not UK Citizens

For people outside of the UK

Below there is detail and links to potential work visas if you're not a UK citizen, currently reside outside of the UK, and you are looking to work in the UK. This is not an exhaustive list, and does not cover every sponsorship option that may suit you, depending on your current situation.

There are various visas available. The following are some that you may wish to explore. Follow the links for further details. The sources mainly come from the UK Government website, so it is reputable.



For people outside of the UK

Skilled worker visa

This has replaced the Tier 2 (General) visa. This is probably the most common as it is broad and covers a number of occupations.

To qualify for a Skilled Worker visa, you must:

- ☐ Work for a UK employer that's been approved by the Home Office
 - ☐ Do a job that's on the list of [eligible occupations](#)
 - ☐ Have a 'certificate of sponsorship' from your employer with information about the role you've been offered in the UK
 - ☐ Be paid a minimum salary – generally £25,600 pa or £10.10 per hour ([or the going rate for your particular occupation](#))
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Please note, if your job is in **healthcare or education**, different rules apply. See below for more information.

- ☐ Your salary must be £20,480 or higher (or if the going rate is higher, you'll be required to meet this for [healthcare](#) or [education](#))
 - ☐ You must do a job on the list of [eligible education/healthcare occupations](#)
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Fees

There are costs for applying for visas to work in the UK, please see below for a breakdown of these.

- ☐ If you're on the [shortage occupation list](#):
 - £479 if you're staying for up to 3 years
 - £943 if you're staying for more than 3 years
- ☐ Pay the healthcare surcharge - this is usually £624 per year
- ☐ Support yourself when you arrive in the UK - you'll usually need to have at least £1,270 available (unless you're exempt)
- ☐ Standard application fee
 - Applying from outside the UK:
 - Up to 3 years - £625 per person
 - More than 3 years - £1,235 per person
 - Applying within the UK to extend, switch or update visa:
 - Up to 3 years - £479 per person
 - More than 3 years - £943 per person

For people outside of the UK

Ukrainian Nationals

If you are Ukrainian and doesn't have family in the UK, you can stay through the *Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine)* – allowing Ukrainians and their families to stay in the UK, providing you have a named sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Ukrainians can apply online [here](#).

If you are a Ukrainian who is already in the UK and wish to remain, you can do so through the *Ukraine Extension Scheme*.


Visa Application Centres are currently closed in the Ukraine, but are open in the below countries:

 Budapest, Hungary

 Bucharest, Romania

 Chisinau, Moldova

 Paris, France

 Warsaw, Poland

Study in the UK

There are three different visas for students in the UK, a *Student visa*, *Child Student visa* or *Study English in the UK (Short-term Study Visa)*. All three do not offer working rights.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, you can apply for the *EU Settlement Scheme*, which allows family members of someone of these nationalities to join a family member in the UK, provided they have been living here since 31 December 2020. Family members can also apply if the person lives outside of the UK but regularly works in the UK (a 'frontier worker').

You can apply as the family member of a British citizen if you're currently living with them in an EU country, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. You must have been living there with your family member by 31 December 2020 to apply.

It is free to apply for this scheme.


For people outside of the UK


Seeking protection or asylum


In order to seek asylum in the UK, you must have left your country and been unable to return due to fear of persecution. Once you apply, you will have a screening with an immigration officer, and following this, your application will be reviewed, with an outcome being issued within 6 months of your application.

While you're waiting on the outcome of your application, you may be asked to regularly report to a caseworker, and you will not be able to work until your application is approved.

Some helpful links for applying for asylum are below:

 [Find an immigration advisor](#) to help back up your claim of asylum

 Free Infoline – Refugee Council: 0808 196 727
Contact Information for [Migrant Help](#) -
[Financial support and accommodation](#)

 [Find a solicitor](#) to help you with any legal queries about the process

To make an appointment, you can call 0300 123 4193.

Please note: While seeking asylum, you will not be eligible to work in the UK. Once your application has been approved, you will be granted settlement status, which will mean you will be able to work like any other citizen.



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