



# THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

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## **GLOBAL TALENT VISA CATEGORY: FAQ's**

A new **Global Talent visa category** has been introduced for talented or promising individuals who are active researchers or specialists in the fields of science, engineering, humanities and medicine. The Global Talent category replaces the existing Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa route.

### **When can I apply?**

The Global Talent category will open to new applications on 20 February 2020.

### **What is the difference between the Global Talent and Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa categories?**

The Global Talent visa category is an expansion of the Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa. The existing Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) endorsement options from the approved endorsing bodies (the Royal Society, the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering, Arts Council England and Tech Nation) remain the same.

A new endorsement route has been added, overseen by UK Research and innovation (UKRI) for eligible researchers and specialists (including post-doctoral positions and specialist technical staff). The number of fellowships eligible for a fast track endorsement is also to be increased.

Other key differences are:

- Those endorsed by the Royal Society, the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering or UKRI will be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain (i.e. settlement) after spending a continuous period of 3 years in the UK (including those currently on the Tier 1 Exceptional Promise route)
- Absences from the UK taken for the purposes of research will not be counted towards the absence limit for settlement
- There is no cap on the number of endorsements available

### **How do I apply for the Global Talent visa?**

This is a two-stage process.

**Stage One:** You must apply for an endorsement from one of the approved endorsing bodies. This is decided by criteria laid out by the endorsing bodies.

**Stage Two:** If you are granted an endorsement, then you must make an application for your visa. This stage is completed by the Home Office and assesses immigration matters only. You can include qualifying dependants with this application.

### **How do I get the endorsement?**

You can either qualify for a fast track endorsement or submit a full peer review application with one of the endorsing bodies. UKRI only offers a fast track route.

These endorsement options are:

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- **Senior appointments** – individuals appointed to eligible senior academic or research positions at a UK university or research institution can qualify for a fast track endorsement if they can provide a Statement of Guarantee, which confirms their recruitment process met specific criteria. This is the same process as under the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route, outlined [here](#).
- **Fellowship holders** - those who have been awarded an individual fellowship on the [list](#) approved by the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering and Royal Society can qualify for fast track endorsement. The fellowship must be held currently or within the last 12 months. The number of eligible fellowships is expanding, and information will be available [here](#) after 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.
- **Endorsed funders (UKRI)** – fast track endorsement for researchers and specialists whose name or job title is specified in a successful grant application from a [recognised funder](#). This includes European Union Horizon 2020 programmes, Wellcome Trust and Cancer Research UK.
- **Peer review** – standard endorsement for individuals who submit a successful application for review by The British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering or The Royal Society (depending on their field of expertise). The criteria remains the same as under the Tier 1 Exceptional Talent route, as outlined [here](#).

### **Who is eligible for the new, UKRI endorsed funder route?**

You may qualify for this fast track endorsement if your name or job title are part of a successful grant application from a recognised funder (see list [here](#)), and you have a job offer from a UK university or research institution.

Other criteria includes:

- The research grant must be competitively awarded, (under the [peer review principle](#)).
- The value of the grant must be at least £30,000
- The project must be for at least 2 years
- The individual looking for endorsement must have, or be given, a contract of at least 2 years in duration at the point of application for endorsement, and their time must be “at least 50% attributable to the grant.”

More information about this will be provided once the Global Talent route opens and further detail is available.

### **I have already applied under the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) category – can I apply for the Global Talent visa?**

If you are still waiting on your endorsement decision under the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) category, and this is successful, then you will be able to use this in support of an application for a Global Talent visa after 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

If you have already used an endorsement letter and submitted an application under Tier 1 Exceptional Talent route before 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020, then your Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa will still be granted. You will be able to apply for an extension or indefinite leave to remain under the Global Talent category.

**I currently have a visa under the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route, do I need to switch to a Global Talent visa?**

If you already have a visa under the Tier 1 Exceptional Talent category, you do not need to switch into the Global Talent visa route. However, if you need to extend your visa then you will be able to do so under the Global Talent route.

Applications for indefinite leave to remain from Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) visa holders will be accepted without the need for applicants to first switch into the Global Talent route. This means that if you have a Tier 1 Exceptional Talent or Exceptional Promise visa, you can apply for indefinite leave to remain using the Global Talent category once you have spent a continuous period of 3 years in the UK.

**Can dependants join me on this route?**

Your dependants (e.g. spouse/partner and children under the age of 18 years old) can join you in the UK under the Global Talent route. Before they can apply for indefinite leave to remain in the UK, they will need to spend a continuous period of 5 years in the UK. This is in line with dependants of visa holders under other UK immigration routes.