

# University of BRISTOL

## **GLOBAL TALENT VISA: PEER REVIEW ROUTE – EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE**

### **Benefits of a Global Talent Visa**

The [Global Talent Visa](#) allows applicants to work in the UK on a flexible basis without employer sponsorship and the other conditions that apply to the Skilled Worker visa. Benefits include being able to change roles and employing organisations without permission from the Home Office, and earn additional income from consultancy, a second job or other sources.

The visa comes with considerable advantages for applicants wishing to establish a long-term connection to the UK, including a fast-track to indefinite leave to remain (ILR) after three years for the main visa holder. The three-year residence period can include time spent on a Skilled Worker visa. Guidance on ILR can be found on the [Settling in the UK](#) section of our visa guidance pages.

The Global Talent Visa is not linked to the period of time on a contract of employment. Applicants are eligible to apply for any period that they want, between 1-5 years.

Those holding a Global Talent Visa can also undertake research overseas without it counting towards the maximum period allowed for absences if they choose to apply for ILR.

### **Application criteria for Peer Review under Exceptional Promise**

To be considered for endorsement under the [peer review](#) route for Exceptional Promise, applicants must submit compelling evidence demonstrating a high degree of originality, creativity and independence in research. The exceptional promise path requires there to already be clear evidence of exceptional promise for independence and leadership in your own innovative research work, and exceptional potential for international excellence and leadership in your research work.

The reviewers look at the strength of all the evidence provided. They consider:

- Whether you are regarded as a potential future research leader in your field.
- Your track record and career history relative to career stage, including your international standing, the significance of your publications, prizes and research funding awarded, patents, and the impact of past innovation activity, in a company, academia or as an individual.
- The strength of the supporting statements in the letter(s) of personal recommendation concerned with research in your field.
- The expected benefits of your presence in the UK in terms of the contribution to UK research excellence and to wider society, including potential economic benefits from exploitation of intellectual capital.



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For exceptional promise, you must be at an early stage in your research career. There is no defined timeframe for what constitutes “early stage” but typically someone less than 10 years post-PhD might be considered to be at an early stage.

## Application Process

**Stage 1** - the application for endorsement administered by the endorsing bodies.

**Stage 2** - the Home Office application for the visa.

The application for endorsement will take 5-8 weeks to be decided. If you successfully obtain endorsement, Stage 2 of the application process will need to be completed. The Home Office advises that Stage 2 can take up to eight weeks when you apply from inside the UK. It usually takes approximately 3 weeks if you are applying from outside the UK.

The total cost for the Global Talent visa is £766 irrespective of whether you apply for 1-5 years duration and irrespective of whether you are applying from inside or outside the UK.

You'll pay the £766 in two parts:

- **£561** when you apply for the endorsement (stage 1)
- **£205** when you apply for the visa itself (stage 2)

If you are successful in obtaining a Global Talent Visa the full cost of the application will be covered by the University's [Immigration Reimbursement Policy](#).

You will also have to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge of £1035 per year of your visa.

## Stage 1 - The application for the Endorsement

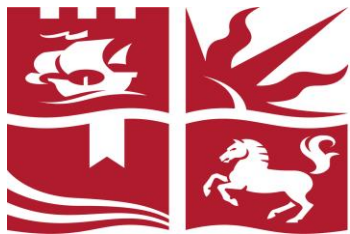
You apply for endorsement [here](#).

### Required documents for application:

- CV - should be succinct (limited to 3 pages).
- A personal statement “outlining your case for qualifying for Global Talent” (see below).
- A personal recommendation (see below) and the CV of the person providing it.

**Personal statement** – this forms part of the body of the online application.

- Prepare beforehand to insert into the application. You may wish to check this with a colleague or suitable peer before you make the application.
- The statement is a maximum of 1000 words (7000 characters). It should be clear and concise. It should be checked for grammar and spelling errors.
- The statement is effectively a brief essay explaining why you want to be considered for the UK Global Talent Endorsement:
- It should not be a retelling of your CV. It should be a personal account of your relationship to your field of talent; a summary of your greatest achievements.



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enthusiasm for your field; the values you have; what you hope to gain by endorsement; and what you feel you will contribute to the UK in your expert field.

- It can also include what you want to contribute to your current employment/city, including the relationships you are building with others in that expert field, both locally and UK wide.

## Personal recommendation

This should be from an eminent person resident in the UK who is familiar with your work and your contribution to your field, and who is qualified to assess your claim to be a potential world leader in your field (for instance a senior member of a UK organisation involved in research or innovation in your field, such as University of Bristol).

The person providing the letter of recommendation should also provide their CV, so that it can be determined if they are a suitably eminent person. The letter should be dated and must include the following:

- how the eminent person knows you and your work.
- general comments relating to your work in the specialist field.
- your achievements in the specialist field.
- how in the opinion of the eminent person you exhibit Exceptional Promise, such as innovation, approach, leadership qualities and anything else that might set you apart from your peers.
- how you would benefit from living in the UK.
- how you are likely to contribute to UK research/innovation and to wider society.

## Process

If you have prepared all your documents and your personal statement beforehand, this is a fairly simple application and should take you about 30-45 minutes to complete. In applying for endorsement, the following information may be useful:

- You do not have an immigration advisor.
- You will be asked if you have a prize accepted by the Home Office. Check [here](#).
- You are not applying for Leave to Enter/Remain at the same time as Endorsement (You will be applying for LTE/LTR after you receive endorsement). However, please note that if your current visa might expire while your endorsement application is outstanding, then you should answer "Yes" and you should submit the Stage 2 application immediately after you have submitted the Stage 1 application.
- You are applying under Exceptional Promise.
- The categories for field of talent are [here](#). It is important to select the correct one as you may need to evidence earnings in this field for future extensions or application for Settlement.
- The link immediately above will also make clear who is the most appropriate endorsing body for your field of talent.
- You are not applying for fast-track endorsement.
- State your academic field from the following choices (science, medicine, engineering, humanities, social science).



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- You will be asked “Which of the following would you like to document in support of your application?”. You do not need to include everything.
- You will be asked to provide further details of what you are relying on. For example, if you state that you are relying on professional qualifications and publications, you will be asked to list these.
- You will be given an email address of where to send your evidence, along with instructions for what to put in the subject line.

## Stage 2 - The application for the Visa

If you are outside the UK, you apply for the visa [here](#).

If you are inside the UK, you apply to switch your current visa [here](#)

During the application process, you will be linked to another site to pay for your Immigration Health Surcharge.

### Required documents

- Passport
- Endorsement decision. They will refer to this as an "endorsement letter" but it will in fact be the email that has been received by you from the endorsing body.

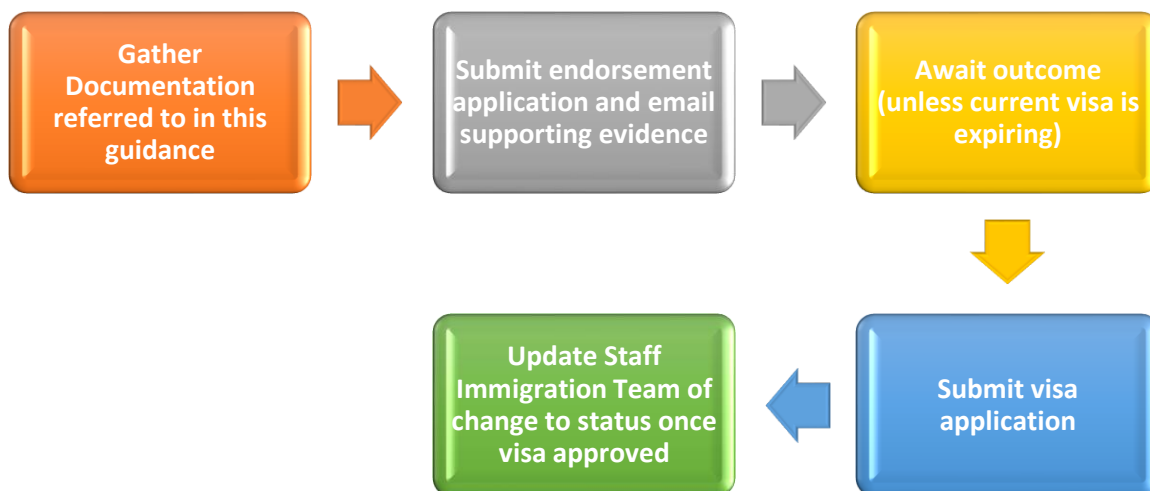
If you are applying from outside the UK, you may also need a TB Certificate. Check [here](#).

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: once you have your Global Talent Visa you are required to arrange a Right to Work Check with the Staff Immigration Team. It is essential that the University has details of your most up to date right to work. You can email [staff-immigration-team@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:staff-immigration-team@bristol.ac.uk) to arrange this. \*\*\***



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## Summary of process:



## **Top tips from colleagues who have successfully applied under the Peer Review route\***

1. "Providing additional letters of support from a range of contacts can help."
2. "In my case where my research was more industrial and my profile lacked research output (journal articles), my letter of support from industrial contact helped me."
3. "Highlighting the impact of research and having a big picture of my research on my CV improved it."
4. "Listing any form funding I had received even if I was only a named researcher helped improve my CV."
5. "Make sure you update any online profiles you have to match your CV. This helps, especially given the reviewers tend to look you up (although the application states you are assessed completely based on the documents you provide)."
6. It can be helpful to review the caseworker guidance for the UKVI employee assessing the application [Global Talent caseworker guidance \(accessible\)](https://www.gov.uk/global-talent-caseworker-guidance) - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

*\*These tips may not be relevant to all applications or endorsing bodies. They have been included purely as useful prompts to consider for your application.*