

Immigration options: Old versus New

'Old'	'New'	Start date of new route	Description of new route
Tier 1	Global Talent Visa	February 2020	Enabling the most highly skilled workers to enter the UK without a job offer. Candidates must meet specified criteria and be endorsed by a Home Office recognised endorsing body during the application process. Aimed to attract recognised or emerging leaders, individuals are not sponsored, can change jobs, undertake consultancy, set up a spin-out company without issue or permission from the Home Office. Visa route continues unchanged. EU citizens are now eligible.
Tier 2	Skilled Worker Route	1 January 2021	Anyone coming to the UK for work, EU or non-EU citizens, must score 70 points (from non-tradeable and tradeable criteria) to be eligible for this points-based sponsorship route. A streamlined, faster process with no overall cap on numbers and reduced skills and salary thresholds compared to Tier 2.
Tier 4: General	Student Route	5 October 2020	No limit to the number of international students permitted to enter the UK to study. A points-based system, a candidate must have an offer from an approved education institution, speak English and be able to support themselves during their studies to achieve the required points.
Tier 4: Doc Extn Scheme	Graduate Route	Summer 2021	Allowing international students to stay in the UK to work or look for work after they graduate. Un-sponsored route. Permitted stay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two years for UG and Masters students - Three years for PhD students Route does not count towards ILR.
Temporary Worker (Tier 5)	no change	Change planned for phase 2 'later in 2021'	Permitting individuals to be sponsored for short term, temporary employment to undertake supernumerary work including research, training or a government approved scheme. Duration of stay 12 to 24 months dependent upon purpose of visit.
	Highly Skilled Worker Route	No timeframe provided	In addition to the Global Talent route a broader un-sponsored route is planned to run alongside the employer-led points-based system. Gov to explore in line with the MAC recommendations for such a route. No timeframe stated.
	Frontier Worker route	1 July 2021	Permits workers to come to the UK to work while living elsewhere. Eligibility criteria restricts this route to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nationals of EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein; - who live outside the UK; - have worked in the UK by 31 December 2020 - have kept working in the UK at least once every 12 months since starting work in the UK

Skilled Worker route costs vary according to:

- Applying from within or outside of UK
- SOC code of intended job
- duration of visa application
- nationality of candidate

Current details of charges are found on the following Gov web pages:

Visa application and healthcare surcharge costs: <https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs>

Immigration Skills Charge rates (payable by employer): <https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa/how-much-it-costs>