

# An Overview of UK Immigration

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# UK Immigration Overview

- Family Based Routes
- European Nationals
- Asylum /Latest Developments
- Human Rights
- Long Residence
- British Nationality
- Points Based System & Students
- Graduate Visa
- Skilled Worker
- Other Work categories
- Immigration By Numbers
- The Future of UK Immigration

# Visitor Visas –

## Legal Basis: Immigration Rules Appendix V

Visit Visa decisions are regulated by Immigration Rules Appendix V: Visitor

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor>

### Overview:

- Short-term entry: tourism, business, family visits, medical treatment
- Max duration: usually 6 months; up to 12 months in some cases
- Legal basis: Immigration Rules – Appendix V Sections V1-V2
- Prohibited uses: employment, long-term settlement, study beyond specified limits

# Categories of Visitors

## (Appendix V Sections V3-V4)

Visitor Type	Purpose	Special Considerations
Standard Visitor	Tourism, business, family	Must show sufficient funds & return intention
Marriage Visitor	Marriage / civil partnership	No work allowed; must leave after ceremony
Transit Visitor	Passing through UK	Must meet transit conditions
Permitted Paid Engagement Visitor	Short-term professional engagement	Must have prior approval; specific activities allowed

# Key Eligibility Criteria (Appendix V Sections V5-V9)

- Genuine purpose of visit (V5.1-V5.3)
- Financial sufficiency to fund stay without recourse to public funds (V5.4-V5.6)
- Return intention / strong ties to home country (V6.1-V6.3)
- Compliance with prohibited activities (V7.1-V7.4)
- Previous immigration history (V8.1-V8.3)
- Criminal convictions and public interest considerations (V9.1-V9.2)

# Legal Rationale Behind Visit Visa Rules (Appendix V, Sections V1-V2)

- Immigration control and prevention of overstaying and abuse of visitor permission (V1.1)
- Economic and considerations of public interest: ensure visitors do not claim public funds, contribute to the economy through tourism/business (V2.1-V2.2)
- Security & Compliance: safeguard against criminal or terrorist activity (V2.3)
- Rule of law & Consistency: consistent application of Appendix V requirements, all decisions must be evidence-based (V2.4)
- Caseworker discretion: must be exercised based on evidence and compliance with rules
- Policy Intent: facilitate legitimate short term visits while protecting UK immigration system integrity

# Visit Visa – Common Reasons for Refusal

Visitor visa applications can be refused for a wide range of reasons – the most common include:

1. Failing to prove Applicant is a genuine visitor:
  - No return ticket provided
  - Insufficient funds to cover all reasonable costs in relation to visit or for any dependants travelling – inadequate financial evidence to demonstrate funds for the duration of the trip and financial incentive to return home
2. Failing to provide intention to return home:
  - Insufficient evidence of work/education/family commitments to return to and lack of clear familiar ties in country of residence/origin
3. Failure to provide financial documentation and evidence of genuine income in home country:
  - Bank statements with crediting sources of income not supported by documentation such as matching amounts in payslips/pension slips/investments/transfers from family members/etc.

# Visit Visas – Right of Appeal

- In most cases, a UK visitor visa refusal does not carry a Right of Appeal or Administrative Review.
- The Standard Visitor route is classed as a temporary entry clearance visa, and under the UK's immigration rules, appeal rights are limited to cases involving human rights or protection claims. If an Applicant can demonstrate that the refusal breaches his rights under the European Convention on Human Rights, such as the right to family life or private life, or that there was a legal error in the refusal process, then the decision can be appealed by way of Judicial Review (JR).
- Consideration of whether a Visit Visa Refusal merits a Judicial Review is assessed on a case-by-case basis at DL, if the merits are extremely high JR is taken into consideration (although costs are high as Counsel has to be instructed). However, due to the fact that Judicial Review claims carry a disproportionate outcome to the Applicant, should it be unsuccessful - the Applicant has to pay costs to the government for the process of JR- this is often not advised.

**In practical terms, the available remedy to a Visit Visa Refusal is requesting the Home Office to reconsider the refusal decision - this is known as a Pre-Action Protocol (PAP).**

# EU settlement scheme

In March 2019 the Home Office – UKVI opened up a scheme for European Nationals and their family members to apply for **settled status** or **pre settled status**. The deadline for applications to be made was **30 June 2021 applications after this date accepted on exceptional basis**.

Applying to the EUSS meant that an EU citizen could stay and work in the UK for the long term. Under this scheme, you could be entitled to either a Settled Status or Pre-Settled Status.

## What is settled status?

Settled status- you can stay in the UK for as long as you wish. You can apply for British citizenship, if you meet the requirements after 1 year of having held Settled Status. If you have a child who is born in the UK, after you obtain settled status they will be automatically British Citizens.

## Who can apply for settled status?

- An EU citizen, or a family member of an EU citizen
- Have been living in the UK continuously for 5 years ('continuous residence')
- Have started living in the UK by 31 December 2020
- If you've lived in the UK for less than 5 years, you'll generally be eligible for 'pre-settled status' instead.
- You'll need to apply even if you're an EU citizen married to a British citizen.

## EU settlement scheme continued...

### What if you already have permanent residence?

- Your permanent residence document will not be valid after 31 December 2020.
- You can change your permanent residence document for settled status by applying to the EU Settlement Scheme. You will not have to pay or prove you have 5 years' continuous residence.

### **What is pre-settled status?**

- If you get pre-settled status you can stay in the UK for 5 years from the date you get pre-settled status. You can apply for settled status as soon as you've lived in the UK for 5 years and spent at least 6 months of each year in the UK - known as 'continuous residence'.

# EUSS Family Permit Applications

The deadline for most people to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme was 30 June 2021.

You can now apply to join a family member from the EU, if

- You're an eligible family member
- Your relationship began before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020
- Your family member was living in the UK by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020
- Your family member is already in the UK or travelling together to the UK
- Family members include, spouse, civil/unmarried partner; child or grandchild under 21; dependent child /grandchild over 21; dependent parent/grandparent

# Asylum:

## What is asylum?

- Seeking refugee in a safe country because of fear of persecution in their home country based on one of the five convention reasons: race, religion, political opinion, nationality or being part of a certain social group (e.g. gender, sexuality).
- To be eligible to claim asylum the individual must have left their country of nationality and entered the UK – they should claim asylum at the earliest opportunity.

## How can someone claim asylum?

- An individual can claim asylum upon arrival to the UK – inform UK Border immigration control
- Contact the Home Office asylum claim line and register an appointment to claim asylum

Asylum continued...

## **How is an asylum claim usually processed?**

- The individual will usually have two interviews the first is called a screening interview and the second is the a substantive asylum interview (lengthy interview)
- The Home Office would also take into consideration any subjective and objective evidence available to support the claim.

## **What are the possible outcomes?**

- The claim is successful and the individual is granted refugee status or humanitarian protection
- The claim is not successful but the individual is granted discretionary status on Human Rights grounds
- The claim is not successful but however they are given the right to appeal against the decision.

# Timing

- The Home Office aims to decide asylum applications within six months, but delays can occur in complex cases, such as when documents need verification, additional interviews are required, or the applicant's personal circumstances require further investigation. The Secretary of State is obligated to ensure that decisions are made as soon as possible while maintaining a thorough examination of the claim
- An asylum claim can be made at a port of entry by expressing unwillingness to return to the applicant's country of origin due to fear of danger. Screening at the port includes identity checks, fingerprinting, and questioning about travel routes. The Immigration Rules also regulate the inadmissibility of claims, particularly for those who have passed through or have connections with a safe third country. Claims made after 28 June 2022 are assessed under updated legal frameworks, including the Nationality and Borders Act 2022

# Contd ..

Asylum seekers who demonstrate destitution may access support under specific provisions, including accommodation and financial assistance. Failed asylum seekers may also apply for support under section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, provided they meet the conditions outlined in the relevant regulations

Support for asylum seekers may be available under specific provisions, such as accommodation and financial assistance for destitute applicants. This support is contingent on demonstrating destitution or the likelihood of becoming destitute within 14 days

Specific conditions apply for failed asylum seekers seeking support under section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

# Nationality and Borders Act 2022-

- **Key Changes Introduced by NABA**
- **Two-Tier Asylum System:** Differentiates treatment for those arriving via "irregular" routes (e.g., small boats), potentially offering less protection,
- **Increased Penalties:** Higher sentences for illegal entry (up to 4 years) and people smugglers (life sentences).
- **Border Force Powers:** Enhanced powers to search containers, seize vessels, and divert boats.
- **Nationality & Immigration:** Changes to citizenship registration and revocation, plus new age assessment procedures for unaccompanied minors.
- **Modern Slavery:** Raised thresholds and streamlined procedures, with potential negative impacts on victim identification, notes ECPAT UK.
- **Asylum Appeals:** Introduction of faster appeal processes (Accelerated Detained Appeals) and removal of out-of-country appeals for certain claims.
- <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/36/contents>

# Changes 2025-2026

- **Rwanda scheme repealed**
- The new Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025 repealed the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024. This effectively ended the Rwanda removal policy introduced by the previous government.
- The Act also repealed significant parts of the Illegal Migration Act 2023, including:
  - the “duty to remove”
  - mandatory inadmissibility rules
  - some bans on granting leave to people who entered irregularly

# Contd

- **Refugee status changed from 5 years to 30 months**
- One of the biggest reforms is that refugees are no longer routinely granted 5 years' refugee leave.
- From 26 March 2026, most people granted refugee status receive only:
  - 30 months (“core protection”) leave
  - followed by repeated reviews and renewals
- This applies to asylum claims made on or after 2 March 2026.
- The government says refugee protection will now be “temporary” and reassessed regularly.

# Contd..

- **Longer route to settlement**
- Previously, refugees could usually apply for indefinite leave to remain after 5 years.
- Under the new policy:
  - settlement may take up to 20 years in some cases
  - refugee status can be reviewed repeatedly before permanent residence is granted
- **Tougher family reunion rules proposed** The government announced plans to tighten refugee family reunion rights by:
  - introducing stronger financial requirements
  - limiting automatic family reunification rights for some refugees
- Some elements are still policy proposals and may face legal challenges.

# Contd...

- **Creation of Border Security Command**

- The 2025 Act created a new border security framework and enhanced powers for tackling organised immigration crime and small boat crossings.

- Measures include:

- stronger surveillance powers
- intelligence sharing
- counterterror-style tactics against smuggling gangs

## **Failed asylum seekers face stricter human rights claim rules**

The government announced changes intended to stop repeated Article 8 and private/family life claims delaying removal.

- Failed asylum seekers are now expected to:
- make paid applications like other migrants
- provide stronger evidence why removal breaches the ECHR

# Contd...

## **Safe and legal routes” promised**

- The government stated it intends to expand some safe and legal entry routes and community sponsorship schemes, although details remain limited.
- **Important practical impact** The overall direction of the 2025–2026 reforms is:
  - tougher on irregular entry
  - more temporary protection for refugees
  - more reviews before settlement
  - stronger enforcement and removals
  - repeal of the Rwanda policy
  - increased focus on border security and smuggling gangs

# Students & Skill Workers

- Free movement between the EU and the UK ended on 31 December 2020 so applies to EU nationals who move to the UK from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021 and all non EU nationals from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020
- Provides flexible arrangements for UK employers to recruit skilled workers from around the world
- In most cases employers will need a sponsor licence to hire employees from outside the UK
- Advantages for Students /easier switching to skilled worker /graduate visa enables employment after without sponsorship, more pathways for entrepreneurial/exceptionally talented individuals to establish a business - although low uptake on some 'innovative' categories

# Student Visa – Overview

- In order to come to study in the UK an individual must:
  - Have been offered a place on a course by a licensed sponsor;
  - Have enough money to pay for the course and support themselves ( usually cost of first year of course – since 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 - £1,529 per month for courses in London & £1171 per month outside , for up to nine months)
  - Meet the English Language Requirement – Level B2 for degree courses
- At undergraduate level maximum time you can spend studying is five years
- A student visa can be extended if academic progression is shown by:
  - Studying a course at a higher academic level than current course
  - At same level and related to previous course
  - Intercalated to a medical/dental degree course

# Students – Overview

## Points requirement for a Student

ST 6.1. The applicant must be awarded 70 mandatory points from the table below.

Points type	Relevant requirements to be met	Points
Study (must meet all)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies requirement</li><li>• Course requirement</li><li>• Approved qualification requirement</li><li>• Level of study requirement</li><li>• Place of study requirement</li></ul>	50
Financial	Financial requirement	10
Language	Language requirement	10

# Student Working Restrictions

- Work in the UK as a student is permitted:
  - Part time during term time up to a maximum of 20 hours a week
  - Full time during vacations & course completion– this must be evidenced by academic term and vacation times verified by the sponsoring education provider;
  - Full time on work placement where they are integral and related to the course and assessed as part of the course- confirmation of this must be provided by the sponsoring education provider.

## Changes in response to net migration increases:

- Students from 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 are no longer permitted to switch into work routes such as the Skilled Worker route , unless they have completed the course of study ;
- Students commencing a post graduate course on or after 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024, are no longer permitted to bring dependants (unless a PhD course or research based higher degree)

# Graduate Visa

- The UK graduate route formally opened in July 2021
- Purpose is to allow international students to remain in the UK to work, or look for work, for 2 years (3 years for doctoral students) after they have completed their studies.
- This route is unsponsored and allows the applicant to work unrestricted.
- Applications must be made in the UK while applicant is on valid leave.
- What are the requirements?
  - Currently in the UK;
  - Current visa is a Student visa or a Tier 4 (General) student visa;
  - Studied a UK bachelor's degree, postgraduate degree or other eligible course;
  - Education provider has told you you've successfully completed your course.
- This route does not lead to settlement and is not extendable, but does allow switching to a Skilled Worker route ( which is a route to settlement)
- Must apply before Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa expires.
- Key Change – from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027 anyone applying with a UK bachelor's/master's degree will only be granted 18 months ( PhD graduates remain unaffected )

# Skilled Worker Route

- This is the main category which governs the employment of all overseas sponsored workers
- Replaces the Tier 2 (General) Route for skilled workers to take up a position with a licensed sponsor
- Annual quota/cap is suspended (previously set at 20,700)
- Skills threshold previously RQF ( Regulated Qualifications Framework) Level 3 (A- Level ) now RQF Level 6
- Removal of the resident labour market test
- Sponsors must establish that they are seeking to fill a 'genuine vacancy'
- No limit on extensions can apply for indefinite leave to remain after five years (currently)

# Skilled Worker – Points

- Points Requirement as Skilled Worker – 70 Points in total
- 50 mandatory points as follows

Mandatory points requirements	Points
Sponsorship	20
Job at an appropriate skill level	20
English language skills at Level B1 ( intermediate)	10

# Skilled Worker – Tradeable Points

- 20 Tradeable Points are awarded for salary as follows:

For first time Applicants and certain individuals holding a skilled visa between 4th April 2024 - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

Option	Description	Requirements
A	Salary only (no discounts)	Salary must meet or exceed both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £41,700 (general threshold)</li><li>• the full going rate for the occupation code as stated in Table 1 or Table 1a of Appendix Skilled Occupations</li></ul>
B	Relevant PhD (10% discount on general threshold and going rate)	Salary must meet or exceed both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £37,500 (general threshold)</li><li>• 90% of the going rate for the occupation code as stated in Table 1 or Table 1a of Appendix Skilled Occupations</li></ul>
C	Relevant PhD in a STEM subject (20% discount on general threshold and going rate)	Salary must meet or exceed both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £33,400 (general threshold)</li><li>• 80% of the going rate for the occupation code as stated in Table 1 or Table 1a of Appendix Skilled Occupations</li></ul>

# Skilled Worker – Tradeable Points Continued

D	Job in Appendix Immigration Salary List (20% discount on general threshold only)	Salary must meet or exceed both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £33,400 (general threshold)</li><li>• the full going rate for the occupation code as stated in Table 1 or Table 1a of Appendix Skilled Occupations</li></ul>
E	New entrant (20% discount on general threshold and 30% discount on going rate)	Salary must meet or exceed both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £33,400 (general threshold)</li><li>• 70% of the going rate for the occupation code as stated in Table 1 or Table 1a of Appendix Skilled Occupations</li></ul>

# Skilled Worker – Tradeable Points Continued

Applicants granted permission before 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 & Specified Health & Care Occupations

Option	Description	Requirements
F	Salary only (no discounts)	Salary must meet or exceed both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £31,300 (general threshold)</li><li>• the full going rate for the occupation code as stated in Table 2, 2aa or 2a of Appendix Skilled Occupations</li></ul>
G	Relevant PhD (10% discount on general threshold and going rate)	Salary must meet or exceed both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £28,200 (general threshold)</li><li>• 90% of the going rate for the occupation code as stated in Table 2, 2aa or 2a of Appendix Skilled Occupations</li></ul>
H	Relevant PhD in a STEM subject (20% salary on general threshold and going rate)	Salary must meet or exceed both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £25,000 (general threshold)</li><li>• 80% of the going rate for the occupation code as stated in Table 2, 2aa or 2a of Appendix Skilled Occupations</li></ul>

# Skilled Worker - Tradeable Points Continued

Applicants granted permission before 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 & Specified Health & Care Occupations

Option	Description	Requirements
I	Job in Appendix Immigration Salary List (20% discount on general threshold only)	Salary must meet or exceed both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £25,000 (general threshold)</li><li>• the full going rate for the occupation code as stated in Table 2, 2aa or 2a of Appendix Skilled Occupations</li></ul>
J	New entrant (20% discount on general threshold and 30% discount on going rate)	Salary must meet or exceed both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £25,000 (general threshold)</li><li>• 70% of the going rate for the occupation code as stated in Table 2, 2aa or 2a of Appendix Skilled Occupations</li></ul>

# Skilled Worker - Tradeable Points Continued

Health & Education Occupations Based on National Pay Scales

Option	Description	Requirements
K	Eligible health or education occupation code	Salary must meet or exceed both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• £25,000 (general threshold)</li><li>• the full going rate for the occupation code as stated in Table 3, 3a, 4 or 5 of Appendix Skilled Occupations</li></ul>

# Skilled Worker Key Changes :

- Since 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 new skilled worker applicants must meet the general salary threshold of at least £41,700 or the going rate for the role ( new entrants/graduates minimum threshold of £33.400)'
- In line with the White Paper Policy Document – May 25 Restoring Control Over the Immigration System' a number of proposed changes were introduced from 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 and further down the line –headline changes:
  - Increasing Skill Level for Sponsorship to RQF Level 6 – resulted in significant reduction in jobs which are eligible for sponsorship- almost 180 occupations removed; likely to have major impact on hospitality, building , retail and manufacturing sectors ( Chefs , builders, junior business development/sales, finance roles all removed)
  - Introduction of a Temporary Shortage Salary List – for certain jobs below RQF Level 6 , where there are considered shortages, but this is time limited and only eligible for sponsorship until 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2026 – \*  
**dependents are not permitted to join main applicant**

# Skilled Worker Key Changes : Continued

- New Higher English Language Requirement Level B2 from 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 for Skilled Workers
- Immigration Skill Charge ( paid by sponsors) increase by 32 % £1032 per year for a medium/ large sponsor / £480 per year for small sponsor - from 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025
- End of Overseas Sponsorship of Care Workers ( can recruit within the UK in limited circumstances )
- Changes to five year settlement : Consultation launched in October 25 examine proposals to increase settlement to 10 years from five years – with a proposed contribution model for settlement enabling an individual to qualify earlier based on employment, NI contributions , contribution to community/society / volunteering ,higher fluency in English.
- Skilled Worker Guidance – now expressly clarifies that employers who recoup immigration costs ( visa applications, associated business costs etc) from salaries must ensure that overall salaries still meet the minimum salary threshold – if they fall below thresholds then individual is not eligible

# Students switching to Skilled Worker

- Students looking to switch to a skilled worker visa , may be considered as ' New Entrant' where they need to meet new the lower salary threshold of £33,400 and at least 70% of the going rate
- New Entrant - include those under 26 years old; Students who have completed a degree course & those under the graduate route
- Added incentive for employers is that Students visa holders switching to Skilled Worker Visa do not attract an Immigration Skill Charge payable by the sponsor ( can be sponsored up to a maximum of four years)
- Only be a New Entrant for a maximum of four years , this includes time spent on Graduate Visa ( i.e a graduate visa holder coming to end of two year graduate visa can only be sponsored as a new entrant for a further two years).
- Going rates for each eligible occupation are out in Table 1 of Appendix Skilled Occupations.- all to RQF Level 6 Occupations listed salaries based on 37.5 hour working week – must be pro-rated for other working patterns based on number of hours worked

# Skilled Worker – Health & Care Visa

- Part of the skilled worker route - permits individuals working in eligible health occupations with a job offer from the NHS; social care sector; or sponsors which provide services to the NHS to benefit from a streamlined route to work in the UK.
- Applicants can benefit from:
  - prioritised visa application processing ( 3 weeks );
  - reduced application fees; and immigration health surcharge exempt

## **Key Changes to Care Workers/ Senior Care Workers due to widespread reports of abuse of sponsorship for such roles:**

**11<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

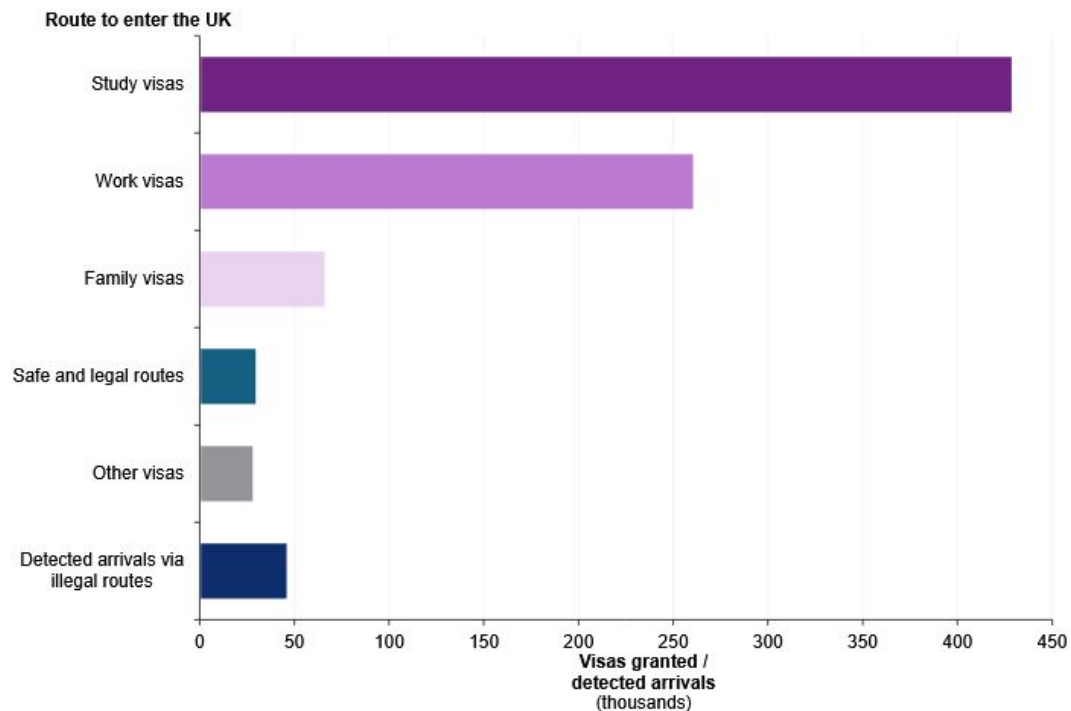
- Care providers could only sponsor new care workers if they were registered with the CQC
- Any newly sponsored care workers from this date can no longer bring family members to the UK

# Skilled Worker – Health & Care Visa continued

- Since 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 – Care Worker & Senior Care Worker sponsorship for overseas candidates is no longer permitted
- Possible to switch into one of these rules if you already in the UK under another route but you must have been legally employed by sponsor for at least three months
- Existing Care/Senior Care Workers can extend visas or change sponsors up until 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2028 when there will be a further review Part of the skilled worker

# Immigration By Numbers

**Figure 2: Total numbers of visas granted in key categories and people detected entering via illegal routes, in the YE December 2025**



**Source:** [Entry clearance visa applications and outcomes - Vis\\_D02](#); [Safe and legal \(humanitarian\) routes summary tables - Hum\\_01](#); [Illegal entry routes to the UK - IER\\_D01](#)

# Immigration By Numbers

- Based on the latest Home Office Statistics for the year ending December 2025:
  - The total of work visas granted in all categories was 168,000 a 19 % reduction on the previous year ( 50% reduction Dec 23)
  - Skilled Worker – Health & Care Work Category saw a reduction a further reduction to 13,000 ( down 91% compared to Dec 23 - likely due to changes to care worker staff being unable to bring dependants )- Care worker occupations seen a 88% fall and Nursing Professionals fell by 80%
  - 407, 000 study visas issued to main applicants representing a 4% increase on previous year ; 20,000 visas issued to dependents a reduction of 10 % on previous year
  - 190,000 people were granted visas under humanitarian schemes (safe & legal routes) in the UK an increase of almost 250 % from the previous year , largely due to the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme Visa Scheme 133,519 extensions by contrast only , 5,874 arrived under the Afghan resettlement programme,

# UK Immigration: Trends

- Immigration policy cycles dictated by global/economic/political factors at the time e.g Brexit, Ukraine Crisis, Afghanistan , Migrant Crisis, right wing political pressure
- Use of flexibility of the Immigration Rules e.g addressing labour shortages as a result of Brexit/pandemic/ Care Worker Roles/Construction but equally can be used to curb immigration; raising salary/skills thresholds; changing suitability requirements; immediate closures of specific routes.
- Government View on Immigration:
  - Main focus on reducing numbers, increased removals , closure of Afghanistan resettlement schemes; postponing of family reunion; introducing temporary asylum status, increasing qualifying period for ILR to 10 years, tougher suitability requirements ;
  - Retained ban on care worker dependants/student dependents / gone further to ban all overseas recruitment of care workers
  - Family income threshold frozen to £29,000 for time being
  - Emphasis on UK businesses establishing work force training plans to fill skills gaps, especially for sponsors who recruit high numbers of skilled workers
  - Immigration Fee Increases
  - Migrant Advisory Committee (MAC) recommendations playing more frequent & key role: recommended retaining Graduate Visa, reviewing financial requirements for family visas, review on IT/Engineering sectors and over reliance on overseas workers/
  - Office of Budget Responsibility Studies/Forecasts on economic impact of net migration likely to shape policy
- Public Opinion/Sentiment based on media reporting is shaping immigration policy

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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