

TECH NATION

Visa Scheme

Tier 1 Exceptional Talent
Visa for Digital Technology

**ATTRACTING THE BEST
TECH TALENT TO THE UK**

From



POPULAR VISA ROUTES IN TECH

There are a number of visa routes available to come and work in the UK. These include visas for entrepreneurs, students, skilled workers and temporary workers. Please note that the table below is a summary of the most common routes in the **digital technology sector** and does not include information about the other routes. Please see more information on [work visas](#).

	TECH NATION VISA SCHEME (No job offer required)	TIER 2 (GENERAL) (Visa depends on offer of employment)
Who this is for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers applicants who show exceptional talent and exceptional promise in the digital tech sector (<i>defined as proven expertise in management or exploitation of a technology stack</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some tech jobs in companies of less than 250 employees are on the Tier 2 shortage occupation list No need to advertise the position if job is on shortage occupation list Applicants can apply for graduate level tech jobs
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the mandatory and qualifying criteria for the visa route Endorsement by Tech City UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A certificate of sponsorship for a specific graduate level job vacancy An appropriate salary for the job you're applying for A required intermediate level of English Maintenance funds requirement of £945
Sponsorship by a company	n/a	A-rated sponsor
How long it will take	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 1: endorsement by Tech City UK up to 8 weeks Stage 2: visa application up to 3 weeks out of country and 8 weeks in country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 weeks (out of country) once applicant is successfully sponsored 8 weeks (in country depending on mode of application)
Fees*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £287 for stage 1 Another £287 for stage 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £575 to £1,151 (out of country) £664 to £1,328 (in country)
How long you can stay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa is granted up to a maximum of 5 years and 4 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa is granted for up to 5 years, depending on length of sponsorship
Extension / Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can apply to extend up to another 5 years at a time You can apply for settlement once you've been in the UK for 5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can apply for settlement once you've been in the UK for 5 years. (You must still be required by your sponsor)

* Please note that this covers the standard application fees only. Other Home Office fees may be incurred depending on each case.

WHAT IS THE TECH NATION VISA SCHEME?

The Tech Nation Visa Scheme makes it possible for tech talent from around the world to come and work in the UK's digital technology sector.

Tech City UK is the designated competent body for digital technology and has the ability to endorse applications for the Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa. If you receive an endorsement from Tech City UK, then you will be eligible to submit your visa application to the Home Office.

This is part of Tech City UK's mission to ensure that the UK continues to maintain its position as a globally competitive digital economy.

FOR BUSINESSES TO HIRE TECH TALENT

Whether you wish to employ a cyber security specialist or an experienced scale-up professional, the Tech Nation Visa Scheme can provide a way for you to access the right talent at the right time to hasten your path to success.

Furthermore, as a UK-based business you are now able to hire teams of up to 5 individuals from outside the EU, allowing you to attract high calibre and high performing teams that have a proven track record of creativity, collaboration and commercial vision.

Please see our [website](#) for more details.



THE TYPES OF SKILLS WE LOOK FOR

If you are an individual with the following skills or a business looking to hire individuals with these skills, then the Tech Nation Visa Scheme can help.

TECHNICAL SKILLS & ROLES
Senior DevOps / SysOps engineers Senior Systems administrators / engineers
Data scientists
Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning experts (AI, NLP, ML)
Senior cybersecurity experts
Technical analysts
Hardware engineers / RIFD / Internet of Things
Senior Front end Developers
Senior QA engineers
Compiler experts
Operating Systems engineers Kernel programmers
Graphics programmers / designers with experience in Mobile graphics engines/ DirectX and Open GL
Senior GPU developers eg. C++, CUDA
Experienced published mobile developers (Android / iOS)
Back end developers with senior experience in new technologies such as JVM, and languages such as Scala, F#, C Rust, Python, Ruby on Rails, Node.js, GoLang and Clojure. etc.
Information Architecture strategy / Chief Technology Officer for technical or business applications with international operations (ERP, CRM, BI, etc.)

BUSINESS SKILLS & ROLES
Experience of taking a tech company through IPO
Experience as a commercial / business lead (P&L, growth, sales and distribution strategy in a digital business)
Experience of scaling a digital product internationally
Sector-specific experience eg. payment infrastructure in FinTech / international expansion in EdTech/ AdTech / E-commerce etc.
Solution sales experts
Data and Complexity Academic
Experience as a digital product lead (head of product management / development)
SaaS or enterprise sales leadership for digital services
Performance marketing expert / Experience in achieving significant growth for early stage digital products /startups
Track record of leading VC or PE investments in digital businesses
Experience as C suite in an SME + (CEO, CMO, CIO) or head of operations for a digital business

If you are looking to relocate to the UK or are already in the UK using a different visa route, you may be eligible to apply for the Tech Nation Visa Scheme. You do not need a job offer to work in the UK and you will be assessed exclusively on your skills, expertise and how you intend to benefit the UK digital technology sector.

We have specific fast-track routes for:

- Applicants with business and technical experience of scaling digital businesses
- Applicants intending to make a contribution to one of the following Northern cities: Newcastle, Leeds, Sunderland, Hull, Liverpool, Sheffield and Manchester or the surrounding areas
- Entire teams who are looking to relocate to the UK

Please check out our [website](#) to find out more on whether you are qualified to apply.

HOW DO I APPLY?

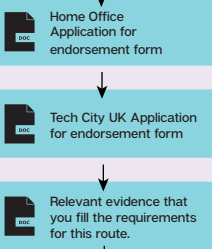
There are two stages to the Tech Nation Visa application

TECH NATION Visa Scheme



STAGE 1

Applying for Endorsement



Send your application for endorsement to the Home Office



By post to:
UK Visa & Immigration
Home Office
Tier 1, PO Box 496
Durham DH99 1WQ



By courier to:
UK Visa & Immigration
Home Office, Tier 1
Wearside House,
Riverside Place
Freemans Reach
Durham DH1 1SL

Tech City UK assesses your application for endorsement

In the event you are not endorsed, you have 3 options

1. Apply for a review: Tech City UK will reconsider your application. The decision that follows this review is final.

2. You can apply for entry through another visa route.

3. You can re-apply through the same route again, which allows you to add new evidence. You will have to pay the fee again.

If you are endorsed, Tech City UK will notify the Home Office, who notify you

STAGE 2



You apply for a visa through the Home Office

Tech City UK is NOT involved in this process.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

ANTONIA ANNI

User experience designer

"It is worth applying for the visa, the benefits massively outweigh the monetary and time costs expended in the process. The entire process for me took 2 months but I have up to 5 years to benefit from it."



SHANNON MAHER

CTO The Guardian

"Tech City UK did a great job of demystifying the criteria for certification for me, as a tech applicant. They helped with the overall process as well as with explanations on their website and in conversation. They also helped me in the processing of my visa, and in understanding its status. Thanks!"



**TECH
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Visa Scheme

From
**TECH
CITY**



Home Office

Kindly supported by:

FRAGOMEN
WORLDWIDE

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STONE
WALTERS**
UK Immigration Practice

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