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Temporary Worker – International Agreement Worker visa (T5)

1. Overview

You can apply for a Temporary Worker - International Agreement Worker visa (T5) if you'll be contracted to do work covered by international law or treaty while in the UK. For example if you'll be:

- working for a foreign government
- working as a private servant in a diplomatic household
- providing a service under contract as a contractual service supplier or independent professional

You must also meet the other eligibility requirements (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/eligibility>).

This visa has replaced the Tier 5 (Temporary Worker - International Agreement) visa.

If you or your family are from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein

If you or your close family member started living in the UK before 1 January 2021, you may be able to apply to the free EU Settlement Scheme (<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>).

Otherwise you need a visa to work in the UK.

Irish citizens do not need to apply for a visa or to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Sponsorship

You need to be sponsored (have a certificate of sponsorship (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/eligibility>) from a licensed employer) before you can apply to come to the UK.

The work you do in the UK must relate to the work of your sponsor organisation.

How long it will take

The earliest you can apply for a visa is 3 months before the date you're due to start work. This date is on your certificate of sponsorship.

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks when you apply from outside the UK.

Find out about paying for a faster decision (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visa-decision-waiting-times-applications-outside-the-uk>).

Application fee

The application fee for each person applying is £244.

The fee is the same whether you're applying from inside or outside the UK.

If you're from an eligible country

Your application fee will be automatically reduced by £55 if you're from one of the following countries:

Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden or Turkey.

This reduction only applies to your visa application. Your partner and children will still need to pay the full application fee.

Healthcare surcharge

You'll also have to pay the healthcare surcharge (<https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/pay>) as part of your application. Check how much you'll have to pay (<https://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/type>) before you apply.

If you're applying to extend or switch in the UK

You'll need to pay £19.20 to have your biometric information (fingerprints and a photo) taken.

Get a faster decision on your application

If you're applying to extend or switch in the UK you can pay an extra £500 for the priority service to get a decision within 5 working days.

You can pay an extra £800 for the super priority service to get a decision:

- by the end of the next working day after providing your biometric information if your appointment is on a weekday
- 2 working days after providing your biometric information if your appointment is at the weekend

Working days are Monday to Friday, not including bank holidays.

Once you've got your decision letter, your biometric residence permit will take up to 10

working days to arrive.

How long you can stay

If you're working for a foreign government or as a private servant in a diplomatic household you can stay for 2 years, or the time given on your certificate of sponsorship plus up to 28 days, whichever is shorter.

Providing a service under contract

You can stay for 6 months in any 12 month period, or the time given on your certificate of sponsorship plus 14 days, whichever is shorter if you are providing a service under contract:

- in a relevant sector as set out in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (<http://ec.europa.eu/world/agreements/prepareCreateTreatiesWorkspace/treatiesGeneralData.do?step=0&redirect=true&treatyId=580>) (GATS)
- in another services trade agreement under which the United Kingdom has similar commitments

You can stay longer if your work is covered by one of the following agreements:

- UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agreements-reached-between-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-european-union>) - 12 months or the time given on your certificate of sponsorship plus up to 14 days, whichever is shorter
- Temporary agreement between the Swiss Confederation (Switzerland) and the UK on services mobility (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-agreement-between-the-swiss-confederation-switzerland-and-the-uk-on-services-mobility>) - 12 months in any 24 month period or the time given on your certificate of sponsorship plus up to 14 days, whichever is shorter

When you can enter and leave

You can enter the UK 14 days before the start date on your certificate of sponsorship.

You may be asked to leave the UK within 60 days if your job finishes early. It's unlikely you'll have to leave if your visa has less than 60 days remaining.

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- study - for some courses you'll need an Academic Technology Approval Scheme certificate (<https://www.gov.uk/academic-technology-approval-scheme>)
- work for your sponsor in the job described in your certificate of sponsorship

- do a second job on the Skilled Worker shortage occupation list (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-shortage-occupations>) or one in the same sector as your main job for up to 20 hours per week (unless you are a private servant, a contractual service supplier or an independent professional)
- study, as long as it does not interfere with the job you're sponsored for
- travel abroad and return to the UK
- bring your partner and children with you as your 'dependants' (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children>), if they're eligible

You cannot:

- get public funds (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-funds--2>)
- start working before you get your visa

2. Eligibility

You can apply for a Temporary Worker - International Agreement Worker visa (T5) if you have:

- a certificate of sponsorship reference number
- enough money to support yourself in the UK - you'll usually need to have at least £1,270 available (unless you're exempt)

Work covered by international law

Your work in the UK must be any of the following:

- covered by the General Agreement on Trade in Services (<http://ec.europa.eu/world/agreements/prepareCreateTreatiesWorkspace/treatiesGeneralData.do?step=0&redirect=true&treatyId=580>) (GATS)
- covered by similar agreements between the UK and other countries
- for an overseas government or international organisation
- as a private servant in a diplomatic household or in the household of an employee of an international organisation

Certificate of sponsorship

A certificate of sponsorship is a unique reference number that holds information about you and your job. It's not an actual certificate or paper document.

Your sponsor will give you the certificate of sponsorship.

Your sponsor will also give you the information they used on your certificate about your job, your working hours for example.

Your sponsor must be recognised by the UK government to issue certificates of sponsorship.

Your certificate of sponsorship is valid for 3 months from the date it is assigned to you.

Multiple entry

Your sponsor can give you a multiple entry certificate of sponsorship so you can leave and return to the UK.

Money to support yourself

You must have at least £1,270 in your bank account to show you can support yourself in the UK.

You will need to have had the money available for at least 28 days in a row. Day 28 must be within 31 days of applying for this visa.

You'll usually need to show proof of this when you apply (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/documents-you-must-provide>), unless either:

- you've been in the UK with a valid visa for at least 12 months
- your employer can cover your costs during your first month in the UK, up to £1,270

Your partner and children will also need to prove they can support themselves while they're in the UK. Check how much they'll need (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children>).

Read the guidance on financial evidence (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-sponsored-or-endorsed-work-routes>) for more information about the money you need and how to prove it.

If your employer can support you instead

Your certificate of sponsorship must confirm this. Your employer will need to complete the 'sponsor certifies maintenance' section on your certificate. This is under 'Additional data'.

3. Documents you must provide

When you apply you'll need to provide:

- your certificate of sponsorship reference number - your employer will give you this
- a valid passport or other document that shows your identity and nationality
- evidence that you have enough personal savings to support yourself in the UK (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/eligibility>), for example bank statements (unless your certificate of sponsorship shows your employer can support you)
- proof of your relationship with your partner or children (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children>) if they're applying with you
- your tuberculosis test results (<https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa>) if you're from a country where

you have to take the test

You need a blank page in your passport for your visa.

You'll need to provide a certified translation (<https://www.gov.uk/certifying-a-document>) of any documents that are not in English or Welsh.

Read the guide for a full list of documents (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-under-tier-5-temporary-worker>) you can provide.

You may need to provide additional documents depending on your circumstances.

4. Apply

Read the full guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-under-tier-5-temporary-worker>) before you apply.

Apply from outside the UK

You must apply online (<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/apply-visa-type/tier5>) for this visa.

You'll need to have your fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre (<https://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre>) (to get a biometric residence permit) as part of your application.

You'll have to collect your biometric residence permit (<https://www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits/collect>) within 10 days of when you said you'd arrive in the UK (even if you actually arrive at a later date).

Find out how to get your visa decision faster (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visa-decision-waiting-times-applications-outside-the-uk>) - this depends on what country you're in. Check if your visa application centre offers faster decisions and other services.

Apply from inside the UK

You can only extend your existing visa (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/extend-your-visa>) or switch to this visa (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/switch-to-this-visa>) if you're already in the UK.

5. Extend your visa

You can apply to extend your Temporary Worker - International Agreement Worker visa (T5).

You should apply before your current visa expires.

Eligibility

You must be in the UK to extend your visa.

You must continue to meet the eligibility rules (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/eligibility>).

How long you can stay

You can apply to extend your visa for up to 2 years at a time up to a total maximum stay of 6 years if you are working:

- for a foreign government
- as a private servant in a diplomatic household and applied for your visa before 5 April 2012

If you're working as a private servant in a diplomatic household and applied for your visa on or after 5 April 2012 your total maximum stay can only be 5 years or until the last date of your employer's posting, whichever is shorter.

If you're a contractual service supplier or independent professional you can only stay in the UK for a maximum of:

- 12 months if providing a service under the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement
- 12 months in any 24 month period if providing a service under the Temporary agreement between the Swiss Confederation (Switzerland) and the UK on services mobility
- 6 months in any 12 month period in all other cases

Fees

Check the fees (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa>) for your visa.

How to extend your visa

Read the full guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-under-tier-5-temporary-worker>) before you apply.

You must apply online (<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/tier-5>).

Your partner and children

You can add your partner and children to your online application - including children who have turned 18 during your stay.

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) (<https://www.gov.uk/ukvcas>) service point to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo).

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until

you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

How long it takes

A decision will be made within 8 weeks of your application date if you use the standard service.

If you use the super priority service a decision will be made:

- by the end of the next working day after your UKVCAS (<https://www.gov.uk/ukvcas>) appointment if your appointment is on a weekday
- 2 working days after your UKVCAS appointment if your appointment is at the weekend

Working days are Monday to Friday, not including bank holidays.

Once you've got your decision letter, your biometric residence permit will take up to 10 working days to arrive.

You'll be contacted if your application is complex and will take longer, for example:

- if your supporting documents need to be verified
- if you need to attend an interview
- because of your personal circumstances, for example you have a criminal conviction

6. Switch to this visa

You can apply to switch into a Temporary Worker - International Agreement Worker visa (T5) while you are in the UK if you want to continue working for your current employer and you:

- have a work permit
- work for an overseas government or international organisation

You should apply before your current visa expires.

How long you can stay

You can stay for 2 years or the time given on your certificate of sponsorship plus up to 28 days, whichever is shorter.

Fees

Check the fees (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa>) for your visa.

How to switch your visa

You must apply online (<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/tier-5>).

Your partner and children

You can add your partner and children to your online application - including children who have turned 18 during your stay.

Providing biometric information and supporting documents

When you apply, you'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) (<https://www.gov.uk/ukvcas>) service point to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and a photo).

You'll also need to submit your supporting documents. You can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at your UKVCAS appointment

You must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until you get a decision. Your application will be withdrawn if you do.

How long it takes

A decision will be made within 8 weeks of your application date if you use the standard service.

If you use the super priority service a decision will be made:

- by the end of the next working day after your UKVCAS (<https://www.gov.uk/ukvcas>) appointment if your appointment is on a weekday
- 2 working days after your UKVCAS appointment if your appointment is at the weekend

Working days are Monday to Friday, not including bank holidays.

Once you've got your decision letter, your biometric residence permit will take up to 10 working days to arrive.

You'll be contacted if your application is complex and will take longer, for example:

- if your supporting documents need to be verified
- if you need to attend an interview
- because of your personal circumstances, for example you have a criminal conviction

7. Your partner and children

Your partner and children can apply to join you or to stay in the UK as your 'dependants' if they're eligible. If their application is successful, their visa will end on the same date as yours.

Your relationship

A dependant partner or child is any of the following:

- your husband, wife, civil partner or unmarried partner

- your child under 18 - including if they were born in the UK during your stay
- your child over 18 if they're currently in the UK as your dependant

You'll need to provide evidence of your relationship when you apply.

Your partner

You must be able to prove that either:

- you're in a civil partnership or marriage that's recognised in the UK
- you've been living together in a relationship for at least 2 years when you apply

If your child is 16 or over

They must:

- live with you (unless they're in full-time education at boarding school, college or university)
- not be married, in a civil partnership or have any children
- be financially supported by you

If your child lives with you, you'll need to provide evidence of their address such as:

- a bank statement
- credit card bills
- driving licence
- NHS registration document
- an official letter from their university or college

Money they need to support themselves

Your partner and children must have a certain amount of money available to support themselves while they're in the UK.

You - or your partner or child - will need:

- £285 for your partner
- £315 for one child
- £200 for each additional child

Example

You - or your partner or child - would need to have £600 to bring your partner and one child with you to the UK (£285 for your partner and £315 for your child).

You would also need to have £1,270 available to support yourself for your own application.

You - or your partner or child - will need to have had the money available for at least 28 days in a row. Day 28 must be within 31 days of you or them applying for this visa.

You'll usually need to show proof of this when they apply (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/documents-you-must-provide>), unless either:

- you have all been in the UK with a valid visa for at least 12 months
- your employer can cover your family's costs during your first month in the UK - this must be confirmed on your certificate of sponsorship

If your partner or child is applying at a different time to you, they'll only need to prove they have enough money to support themselves if they have been in the UK for less than 1 year.

Apply from outside the UK

Your partner and children must apply online (<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/apply-visa-type/dependant>).

Each family member will need to complete a separate application and pay the visa fee (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa>).

They'll also need your application number - you'll get this when you apply. This number is called a Global Web Form (GWF) or a Unique Application Number (UAN). You'll find it on emails and letters from the Home Office about your application.

Proving their identity

As part of their application, your partner and children will need to have their fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre (<https://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre>). They may need to travel to get to their nearest centre (this could be in another country).

The visa application centre may need to keep their passport and documents while they process their application.

How long it takes to get a decision

Once they've applied online, proved their identity and provided their documents, they'll usually get a decision within 3 weeks.

They may be able to pay to get their visa faster - check with the visa application centre.

Apply from inside the UK (extend or switch their visa)

You can include your partner and children on your application to extend (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/extend-your-visa>) or switch to this visa (<https://www.gov.uk/international-agreement-worker-visa/switch-to-this-visa>). This includes children who were born or have turned 18 during your stay.

If you cannot apply at the same time, your partner or child can apply to extend or switch their visas at a later date. This must be before their current visa expires.

Your partner or children cannot apply to switch to your visa as your dependants if they are currently in the UK:

- on a visit visa
- on a short-term student visa
- on a Parent of a Child Student visa
- on a seasonal worker visa
- on a domestic worker in a private household visa
- on immigration bail (<https://www.gov.uk/bail-immigration-detainees>)
- because they were given permission to stay outside the immigration rules (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chapter-1-section-14-leave-outside-the-immigration-rules>), for example on compassionate grounds

How to apply

Your partner and children must apply online to either:

- extend or switch as a partner (<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/pbs-dependant-partner>)
- extend or switch as a child (<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/pbs-dependant-child>)

They'll need your application number - you'll get this when you apply. This number is called a Global Web Form (GWF) or a Unique Application Number (UAN). You'll find it on emails and letters from the Home Office about your application.

Proving their identity

As part of their application, your partner and children will need to have their fingerprints and photograph taken at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) (<https://www.gov.uk/ukvcas>) service point.

They must not travel outside of the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man until they get a decision. Their application will be withdrawn if they do.

How long it takes to get a decision

Once they've applied online, proved their identity and provided their documents, they'll usually get a decision within 8 weeks.

They may be able to pay to get a faster decision - they'll be told if they can when they apply.

Children born in the UK

If you have a child while you're in the UK, they do not automatically become a British citizen (<https://www.gov.uk/british-citizenship>).

You can apply online for their visa as your dependant (<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/pbs-dependant-child>). You must do this if you want to travel in and out of the UK with your child.

You'll need to provide a full UK birth certificate for each child, showing the names of both

parents.

You must apply for their dependant visa before they turn 18 if they want to stay in the UK.