

UK immigration law

Tier 1: Exceptional talent

This category is designed to attract exceptional people who are internationally recognised as world-leading or potential world-leading talent in the fields of science, engineering, humanities and the arts.

In order to qualify you must score a total of **75 points** for "Attributes".

Attributes: (75 points)

In order to score 75 points, you must produce documentary evidence to show that:

- You are endorsed by a Designated Competent Body* and have a valid Tier 1 exceptional talent Unique Reference Number.

*The Designated Competent Bodies recognised by the UK Border Agency for the purposes of the Tier 1 exceptional talent route are:

- Arts Council England.
- The British Academy.
- The Royal Society.
- The Royal Academy of Engineering.

Duration of exceptional talent visa

Tier 1 exceptional talent visas are granted for a period of 3 years initially. Before the expiry of this period, you may apply for an extension of a further 2 years, provided that you continue to meet the requirements of the rules.

The UK Border Agency may curtail a Tier 1 exceptional talent migrant's leave to enter or remain if the Designated Competent Body that endorsed the application which led to the migrant's current grant of leave withdraws its endorsement of the migrant.

Extending an exceptional talent visa

The criteria for applying for an extension are slightly different from the criteria for an initial application. You are still required to score 75 points for Attributes, but on the extension application, you must also produce evidence to show that:

- You are economically active in your expert field as previously endorsed by a Designated Competent Body, in employment or self-employment or both; and that Designated Competent Body has not withdrawn its endorsement from you.

You must also score 10 points for English language. To score these points you must either:

- Be from a country in which English is the majority language; or
- Have studied and successfully completed a degree level qualification which was taught in English; or
- Have passed an English language Test that is still within its validity period (at least CEFR level B1).

Settlement in the UK

If you have completed a total of 5 years under this category you will be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain or permanent residence in the UK.

British nationality

You will be able to apply for British nationality 12 months from the time you were granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK, provided you meet the additional criteria for naturalisation in the UK as a British citizen.

Disclaimer

The information provided on this page is designed to provide general guidance. Nothing in this page constitutes legal advice.

For detailed advice please contact Laya by telephone on 020 7105 6178 or 020 7357 9494 or e-mail: Laya Falsafi lf@lzwlaw.co.uk