

The Global Talent (RIBA) visa

We are pleased to set out here information on the fees, process and timescale for a Global Talent visa including endorsement by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Please note that the information provided below should not be taken as legal advice. Please contact Samar Shams, Managing Partner on the details at the end of this document if you have questions. The information is up to date as of August 2024.

The Global Talent (RIBA) visa route is for individuals who have made significant contributions to the Tech sector or who show the potential for doing so. They can come to the UK to work without being sponsored by an employer.

Fees

Our fees for help with the endorsement stage of a RIBA application are £2500 plus VAT if applicable. Our fees to assist with the immigration permission application stage are £1500 plus VAT.

Government fees include the following:

- £524 endorsement stage application fee
- £192 visa application fee
- Immigration Health Surcharge of £1035 per year
- £500 optional Priority Service fee
- Additional fees might apply for priority biometrics appointments
- Transaction and exchange rate fees of about 9% apply to the visa application fee, Immigration Health Surcharge and Priority service fee

Process

The Global Talent (RIBA) application process includes two stages:

Endorsement

First you apply for endorsement from the UK government-appointed industry body for architecture, the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

It is at the endorsement stage that your contributions to the sector and your experience will be assessed. You would need to provide 3 letters of recommendation and evidence at least two of the following criteria:

1. Two or more examples of evidence of UK or international media recognition within the last 5 years, online or in print, such as features, articles and/or reviews from national/international publications or broadcasting companies, in one or more countries, which can include your country of residence. Event listings or advertisements are not acceptable;
2. Proof of having, within the last five years from the date of application; won, been nominated or shortlisted, or made a direct contribution to winning, being nominated or being shortlisted for at least one international or national award for excellence in architecture; or
3. Proof of having work published or exhibited within the last 5 years in contexts which are recognised as internationally significant in the field of architecture. Proof must come from



one or more countries, which can include your country of residence and must demonstrate a minimum of two publications or exhibitions of your work.

The processing time for this stage is up to 8 weeks.

Immigration permission

Second, you use the endorsement to support your application to the Home Office for UK immigration permission. The standard processing time for is 3 weeks for applications made from outside the UK or 8 weeks for applications made from within the UK.

Under this route, you may be eligible for settlement in the UK after 3 or 5 years, depending on the strength of your track record. Conditions include a limit on absences from the UK of 180 days in any 12-month period.

Timescale

I estimate an overall timescale of 3 to 4 months.

Contact

If you have any questions, or would like to proceed with an application on the basis of the above terms, please contact:

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