

Guidance for a Temporary Work – GAE visa application made outside the UK

Overview

This document provides guidance on the requirements for a Temporary Work – Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) visa application made overseas.

You will be issued with a unique Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) number by the University of Oxford Staff Immigration Team. You **must** then submit your GAE application within three months from the date that the University issued the CoS after which it will automatically expire.

You cannot apply for your visa any earlier than three months before the start date given on your CoS.

Once your application is approved you will be issued with a vignette, which is a paper visa in your passport valid for 90 days which you will use to enter the UK. You will also receive instructions to create a UKVI account to access your digital immigration status for the full length of time granted.

If you are coming to the UK for six months or less you will receive a vignette in your passport valid for the full length of time granted.

If you hold a biometric passport from an EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland and use the ID App you will not receive a vignette in your passport. You will hold a digital immigration status only accessed via the UKVI account.

A UKVI account allows you to; view the details of your visa; update your personal details, including your current travel document(s); and obtain a 'share code' to prove your status to others, for example for working and renting in the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status>.

Applicants are advised to refer to the [Home Office guidance](#) alongside this document.

Application processing timescales

We strongly advise that you and your dependants do not make any travel arrangements until your application(s) have been approved. The University is **not** able to request that a visa application is treated urgently.

You should receive a decision on the visa application within 3 weeks of completing the online application and registering your biometric details.

Some (not all) visa application centres offer a priority visa service at an additional cost. This generally means your application is placed at the front of the queue. The priority service can be paid through the online application process described on the following page. *(PLEASE NOTE: the priority options may not be currently available as they have been suspended while the Home Office focusses on processing urgent visa applications for Ukrainian nationals)*

Further information on this service can be found via the visa application centre website:

www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre

The current visa application fees are listed on our website at: <https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/tier-5-costs>

You must not travel to the UK earlier than the issue date printed on your vignette or stated on your electronic immigration status. Arriving before this date means you enter the UK as a visitor. This will not allow you to commence your visit and risks automatically cancelling your GAE visa.

Visa length

If your CoS is for a 2 year period, you will be granted a visa length of exactly 2 years, based on the arrival date you enter on the visa application. Please think carefully about your arrival date, entering this significantly earlier than your CoS start date may mean your visit has to be cut short.

If your CoS is for less than 2 years, you will be granted a visa that is for the period specified, plus 14 days before and after.

Outline of the application process

Each country's application process varies slightly so please refer to the local visa application centre website www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre for specific information. However, as an overview, the general process steps are:

1. Staff Immigration Team issue a CoS via email.
2. You should apply for a 'Temporary Work– Government Authorised Exchange' visa via the [online system](#). During the application process you may be asked which type of visa you are applying for, you should always select "Sponsored Researcher".
3. Dependants do not require a CoS, but you must create and submit a separate online application via the website [here](#) for each dependant. Dependant applications are usually submitted at the same time as the main applicant's, although application can be submitted separately, if necessary.

Please note: When applying for dependant children (under the age of 18), **both** parents must be applying for a visa at the same time, or be lawfully present in the UK (other than as a visitor), unless you are the one surviving parent with sole responsibility for their upbringing or serious or compelling family considerations.

4. You will pay the appropriate Immigration Health (NHS) Surcharge, if you are coming to the UK for more than 6 months.

During the online application process both you and your dependants will be redirected to make a separate payment for this NHS Surcharge. You should ensure you make this payment and then return to the visa application within 30 minutes.

More information about the NHS Surcharge can be found here:

www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application

Please note that this fee is now based on the length of your visa, not your CoS, so will be linked to the arrival date you list in your visa application. You should check the fees you will need to pay using the [Home Office's Immigration Health \(NHS\) Surcharge calculator](#)

5. Once the online application is submitted, you will need to print out a copy of the application and book to attend an appointment at the visa application centre.

EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland nationals holding a biometric passport can use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app rather than attending an appointment. You will not receive a vignette or BRP as detailed at point 8. Details can be found at: www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-uk-immigration-id-check-app

6. If you need to attend an appointment, you will need to submit your biometric details (fingerprints and facial image).
7. You will arrange for your supporting documents to be submitted, this may be part of the appointment or a separate stage. You will also need to specify how you would like to collect these supporting documents once a decision is made.

8. If you are applying for a visa with a duration of 6 months or less, the vignette stamped into your passport will state the full duration of your visa.

If however, you are applying for more than 6 months you will be issued with a 90 day vignette in your passport to enable you to enter the UK. You will also receive instructions to create a UKVI account to access your digital immigration status.

Tuberculosis (TB) pre-screening

If you are applying to come to the UK for more than 6 months, from a country which is considered to have a high incidence of tuberculosis (TB), you and any dependants must provide a valid medical certificate (issued by a Home Office approved medical practitioner) which confirms you have undergone screening and have been diagnosed as free from active TB.

The list of countries affected and country-specific guidance in relation to the process and testing of dependants (including children) can be found on the Home Office website at:

www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa/overview.

If you are required to undertake TB Screening we recommend you do this as early as possible. While the results of the test should be made available quite quickly, if the results are inconclusive additional tests will be required. Where TB is detected a medical certificate will not be issued until after treatment has been received (which can take up to 6 months).

The medical certificate confirming that you are free from TB must be submitted with your application and the Home Office recommends that this is carried in your hand luggage when you come to the UK to present to the immigration officer on arrival if requested.

Supporting documents

All applicants in general are required to submit the following **original** documents:

- A valid passport
- Medical certificate confirming that you are free from Tuberculosis (TB) (if applicable).
- Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate (if applicable)
- Official record of any criminal convictions (if applicable).

Evidence of sponsorship:

- A printed copy of the .pdf Certificate of Sponsorship emailed to you by the Staff Immigration Team.

Evidence of sufficient maintenance funds:

- The Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) may specify that the University of Oxford, as an A-rated (Premium) Sponsor, is certifying you, as the main applicant, maintenance this will be stated at the top of the first page of the CoS and the bottom of the second page.

If this is not the case you will need to provide original personal bank/ building society statements covering at least 90 consecutive days ending no more than 31 days before the date of the visa application. This must show your name, account number, date of the statement, financial institution's name and logo, transactions covering the past 90 days, and that the account balance has always been at least £1,270 during this period. **Please note even £1 under on 1 day means you will not meet the requirements.** Full details on the acceptable documents can be found in the Home Office guidance here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-under-tier-5-temporary-worker

Supporting documents - Dependants

Dependants will be required to submit:

- A valid passport
- Medical certificate confirming that they are free from Tuberculosis (TB) (if applicable)
- Official record of any criminal convictions (if applicable)
- Marriage or Civil Partnership Certificate (for married/civil partners)
- Evidence of the relationship to the main applicant (for those who are not married or in a civil partnership)
- Birth Certificate (for children under the age of 18)
- If the Certificate of Sponsorship does not specify that the University of Oxford will support the maintenance requirement for your dependant(s) you will need to provide evidence that the main applicant or dependant has an extra £285 of funds for a dependent partner, as well as an additional £315 for the first dependent child, and a further £200 for any dependent children after that. These extra funds must have been present in the account for at least 28 consecutive days ending no more than 31 days before the date of the visa application. **Please note even £1 under on 1 day means you will not meet the requirements.**

Important points to note

1. The Staff Immigration Team cannot guarantee the successful outcome of any visa application as this decision is made by the Home Office.
2. Applications are likely to be automatically rejected by the Home Office if they are submitted with missing or incorrect documents.
3. All documents provided must be **original**, not copies.
4. Any documents not in English must be accompanied by a fully certified translation. Translations must be carried out by a professional translator, and include details of the translator's credentials, confirmation that it is a true and entire translation and show the date and signature of the translator.
5. Bank statements must be dated no more than **31 days** prior to the date of application.

Should you have any queries regarding the requirements for a GAE application, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

Staff Immigration Team

<https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/contact-us>