

UK immigration costs: an international comparison of skilled worker, researcher and student visas in 2025

Fragomen LLP was commissioned by the Royal Society to collect data for a 2025 update to previous analyses (2019, 2021 and 2024) on upfront immigration costs in the UK and 17 other leading science nations. The Society requested information on the main visa categories for researchers coming to the UK for an extended period of work or study, namely the UK Skilled Worker, Global Talent, Student and Graduate visas and their equivalents in other countries.

Key findings

- Total upfront immigration costs in the UK increased by up to 3% from 2024 to 2025 depending on visa type and have risen by up to 128% in the six years since 2019 (79% in real terms).
- Total upfront costs remain significantly higher in the UK than other countries. When including the UK in the calculation of average upfront visa costs across the study group, UK costs are up to nine times higher than the average. When excluding the UK from the international average, costs are up to 22 times higher.
- The biggest upfront cost component in the UK is the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) which in February 2024 was increased by 66%, from £624 to £1,035 per year. This is payable in full before a visa is issued, meaning a five-year stay costs applicants £5,175 (£1,035 x 5) in IHS costs, plus visa fees.
- UK employer costs for the Skilled Worker visa are the second highest in absolute terms – after the USA – and the highest when adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP)¹. Australia and Israel rank third and fourth, respectively.
- For sub-PhD level roles (eg technicians) employers must pay the UK Immigration Skills Charge (ISC) at a cost of up to £5,000² for a five-year stay depending on the size of the employing organisation. PhD level occupations are exempt from the ISC.
- If applicants have dependants, total costs are multiplied. A family of four coming to the UK on a five-year Skilled Worker visa is liable to pay up to £24,711 for a PhD level role (£29,711 for a sub-PhD level).
- The Global Talent visa (GTV) is the UK's premier immigration route for talented and promising researchers and innovators from other countries. However:
 - with the IHS, the GTV is the most expensive visa compared to other leading science nations – GTV costs are 810% higher than the average, or 2,062% when the UK is excluded from the average; or 863% and 2,408% respectively when adjusting for PPP.
 - without the IHS, the price of the GTV is still significantly higher than the average applicant costs (£766 vs £197) and the average total upfront costs (£766 vs £275) in other leading science nations in 2025.
 - a typical family of four coming to the UK on a five-year Global Talent visa will be liable to pay £21,174 upfront – up 58% from 2021.
- The UK has the second highest costs for settlement for visa holders among European nations with dedicated researcher visa categories – and the highest when adjusted for PPP – which increased by 5% (2% in real terms) to £3,029 from 2024 and 27% (5% in real terms) from 2021.
- UK settlement costs are now 217% higher than the average across countries including the UK, and 336% higher when the UK is excluded. When adjusted for PPP, these gaps widen to 248% and 404%, respectively.

1. Purchasing power parity is a currency conversion rate used to eliminate the differences in price levels across countries. It allows for more accurate international comparisons.

2. Up to £7,125 if the ISC is increased by 32% as proposed in the UK Government's white paper *Restoring control over the immigration system* published in May 2025. If such a change is applied, the maximum five-year charge for the ISC will have increased by 43% from £5,000 in 2024.

Contents

Note on methodology	3
Skilled worker visa costs	4
Cost of extending visas – skilled worker	6
Dedicated researcher visa costs	7
Cost of extending visas – dedicated researcher	8
Student visa costs	9
What does it cost to bring a family to the UK?	10
Settlement costs	11
Annex: Supplementary tables	15

Note on methodology

As with previous iterations of this analysis in 2019, 2021 and 2024^{3, 4, 5}, information on visa costs was collected by Fragomen LLP, which was commissioned by the Royal Society to produce an update for 2025. Costs are categorised as those payable by 1) the individual, 2) the employer, 3) either party and 4) as the UK Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS).

The countries in the study group were selected according to their Nature Index (NI) ranking, which “tracks contributions to research articles published in high-quality natural-science and health-science journals”, and is taken as a proxy for research excellence. The Royal Society selected the top 18 NI countries.

Where Fragomen gave a range of fees, the maximum value has been taken. The analysis highlights changes in costs of UK visas from 2024 to 2025, comparing visa types from 2024 which have been replaced with similar schemes from 2021. For a comparison with other leading science nations, UK costs are shown against both the average total costs across all other countries (excluding the UK in the calculation) and against the average across all countries in the analysis (including the UK). This method was chosen because the significantly higher visa costs in the UK biases the mean across all nations.

Nominal exchange rates have been used to compare visa costs in line with previous analyses. Furthermore, to ensure costs are comparable across time and countries, figures that account for both inflation and PPP have been included to better reflect visa cost trends in spite of price changes over time and differences among countries^{6, 7}. Nominal exchange rates are used unless stated otherwise.

The analysis is not a strict like-for-like comparison in that no two visa systems are directly comparable. UK visas, for instance, tend to be valid for a longer period than similar visas offered overseas. Furthermore, the analysis is concerned with upfront costs only, not ongoing costs such as mandatory healthcare premiums that are payable in some countries in the study group. The reason for focusing on upfront costs alone is that this was judged to be a more significant factor in an individual’s motivation or ability to migrate to the UK, requiring access to thousands of pounds in income or savings unless the applicant’s employer or funding organisation covers the costs on their behalf. Additionally, the analysis does not consider processing times and expedited fees, associated costs like medical exams and language tests, or long-term benefits such as pathways to permanent residency or citizenship, which may justify higher initial costs.

3. The Royal Society 2019. *UK science and immigration: why the UK needs an internationally competitive visa offer*. See <https://royalsociety.org/-/media/policy/Publications/2019/international-visa-systems-explainer-july-2019.pdf>. (Accessed 22 September 2025).

4. The Royal Society 2021. *Summary of visa costs analysis* 2021. See <https://royalsociety.org/-/media/policy/Publications/2023/liberal-democrat-party-conference.pdf>. (Accessed 22 September 2025).

5. The Royal Society 2024. *Summary of visa costs analysis* 2024. See <https://royalsociety.org/news-resources/publications/2024/summary-visa-costs-analysis-2024/>. (Accessed 22 September 2025).

6. Inflation-adjusted data employed in this analysis are based on GDP deflators extracted from the International Monetary Fund’s International Financial Statistics. See [https://data.imf.org/en/Data-Explorer?datasetUrn=IMF.RES:WEO\(6.0.0\)&INDICATOR=NGDP_D](https://data.imf.org/en/Data-Explorer?datasetUrn=IMF.RES:WEO(6.0.0)&INDICATOR=NGDP_D). (Accessed 22 September 2025).

7. PPP-adjusted figures are based on the International Monetary Fund’s Implied PPP conversion rates. See <https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/PPPEX@WEO/UKR/EST>. (Accessed 22 September 2025).

Skilled worker visa costs

The UK has three main visa categories for skilled work: Skilled Worker, Global Business Mobility (GBM) Route Subcategory 1 (formerly Intra Company Transfer) and Graduate Route. Between 2024 and 2025, visa costs for skilled workers in the UK increased by:

- 3% (flat after adjusting for inflation) from £12,050 to £12,451 for the Skilled Worker and GBM visas.

As of 2025, fees for the general UK Skilled Worker and GBM visa are:

- 1,033% higher (1,082% when adjusting for PPP), respectively, than the mean total upfront visa costs for skilled workers across all other leading science nations when excluding the UK from the international average.
- 547% higher (561% when adjusting for PPP), respectively, than the mean total upfront visa costs for skilled workers across all other leading science nations when including the UK in the international average.

For the Graduate visa, costs in the UK are 263% (278% when adjusting for PPP) higher than the international average when the UK is discounted. When including the UK, Graduate visa costs are 109% (113% when adjusting for PPP) higher compared to the international average. Even without the IHS, total upfront visa costs payable by the applicant in the UK (£880) would remain higher than for most other nations, except for the USA⁸ (£3,512) and Australia (£1,084).

8. USA's O-1A Individuals with Extraordinary Ability visa's costs can be pay by either the employer or employee (£3,512).

FIGURE 1

Costs for UK Skilled Worker visa compared to equivalent visas in other leading science nations, 2025

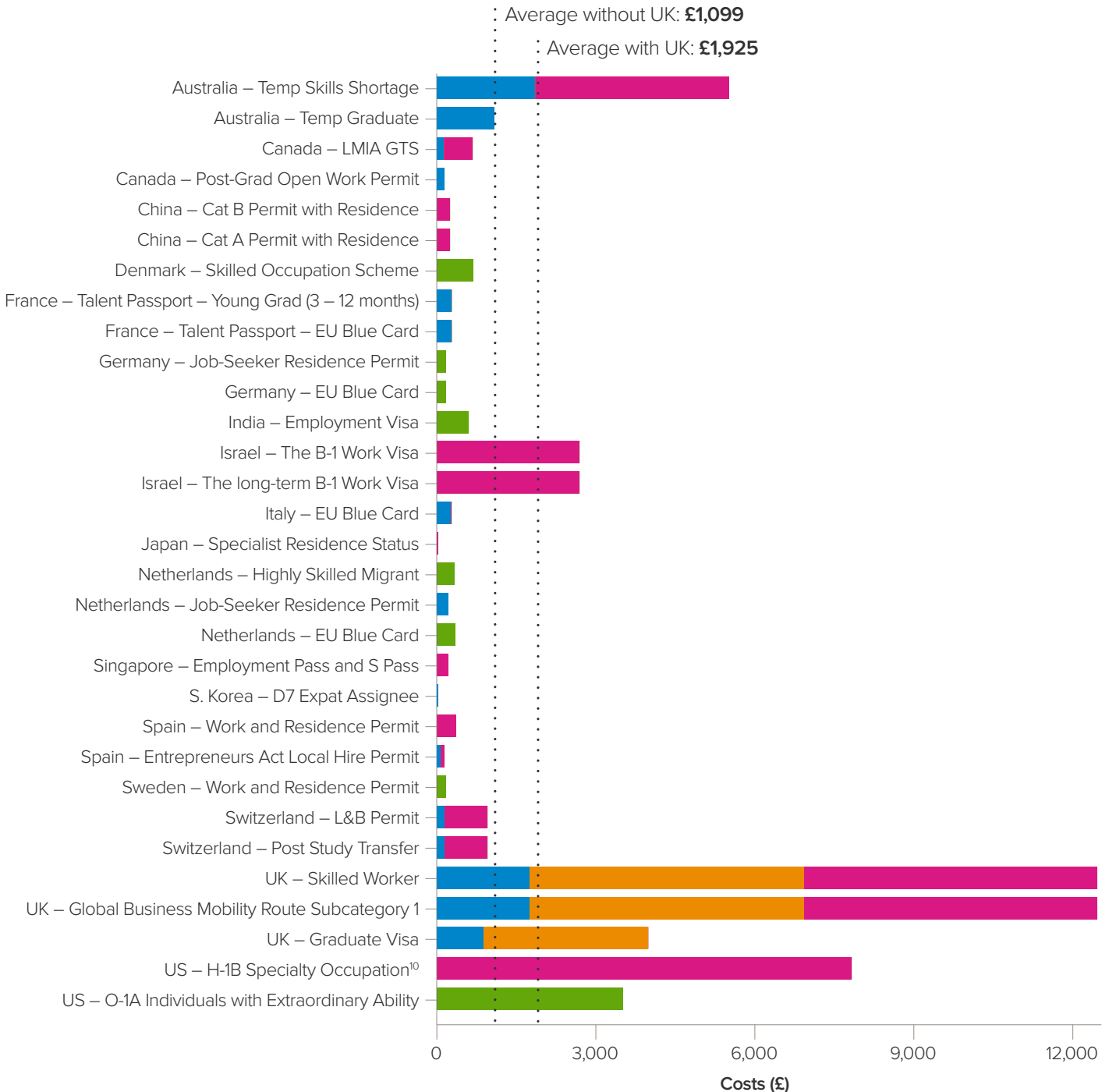
KEY

■ Applicant cost (£)

■ UK IHS (£)

■ Employer cost (£)

■ Payable by either (£)



9. The US administration has by Presidential Proclamation established a new \$100,000 fee for the H-1B visa, effective 21 September 2025. Its scope is significantly narrower than first appeared evident from the text and accompanying explanations. The US government has since clarified that the fee and accompanying restrictions will apply only on a one-time basis to new petitions for H-1B employment for workers from outside the United States. (Most H-1B petitions are for workers already within the United States.) So the fee will not apply, for example, to extensions of stay with the same employer, or for beneficiaries of petitions submitted before this date are exempt, or those currently holding H-1B visas. Significant uncertainties around scope remain at the time of publication, though, pending further clarification from the administration and the likelihood of judicial attention.

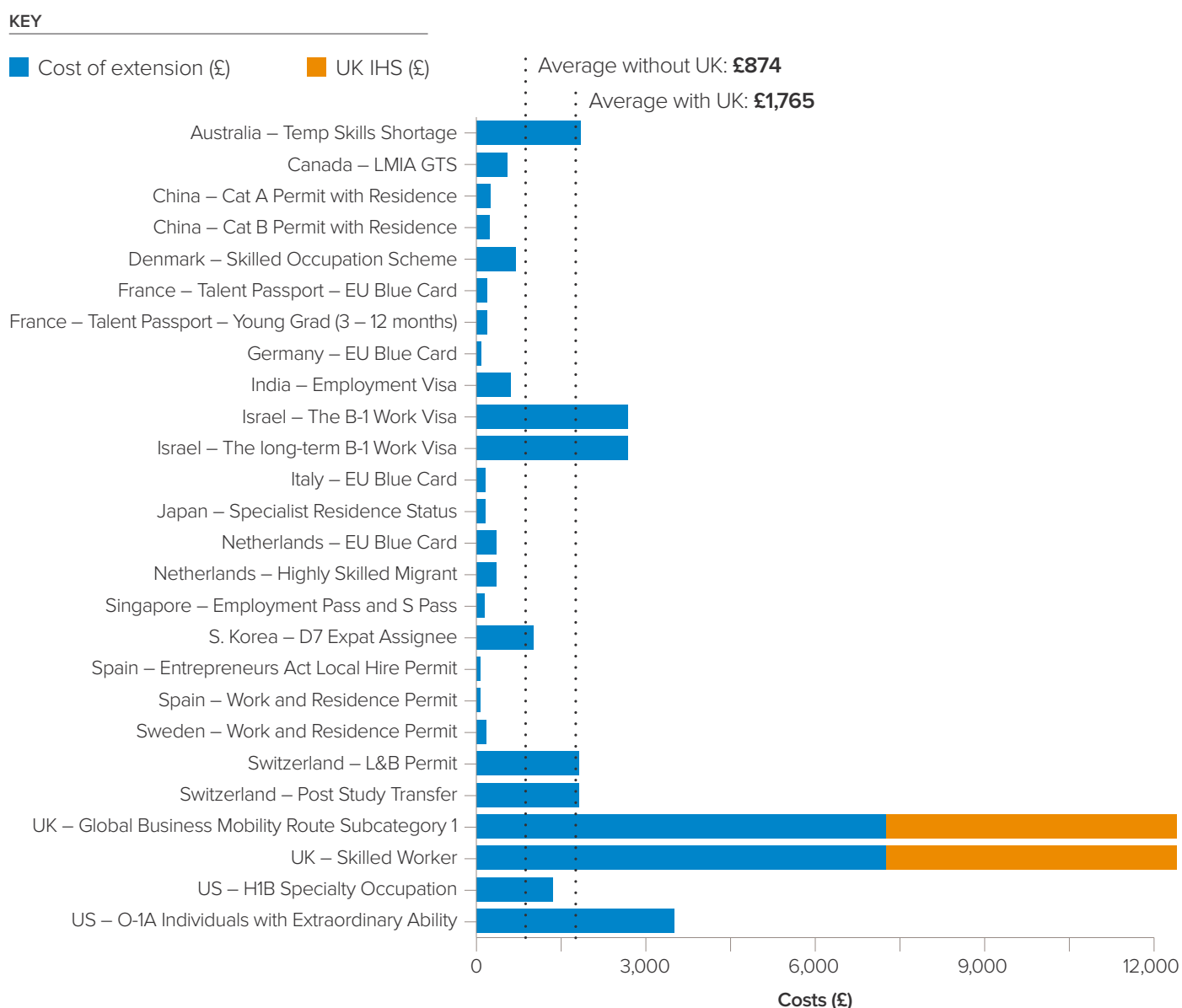
Cost of extending visas – skilled worker

The UK Skilled Worker visa can be extended indefinitely whereas the GBM can be extended for an additional period of four years, with a maximum of nine years in total¹⁰. The Graduate visa cannot be extended. The upfront costs for a one-year visa extension of the UK Skilled Worker and GBM visas are:

- 1,324% (1,310% when adjusting for PPP) higher than the average total costs for extending a skilled worker visa for one year across the leading science nations when excluding the UK from the international average.
- 606% (602% when adjusting for PPP) higher than the average total costs for extending a skilled worker visa for one year across the leading science nations when including the UK in the international average.

FIGURE 2

Costs for UK Skilled Worker visa extensions compared to equivalent extensions in other leading science nations, 2025



10. Figures for UK visa extensions reflect five-year extensions both for those switching into, and already on, the Skilled Worker (SW) and Global Business Mobility (GBM) routes. However, extensions of this length are less common among individuals already on the SW and GBM routes.

Dedicated researcher visa costs

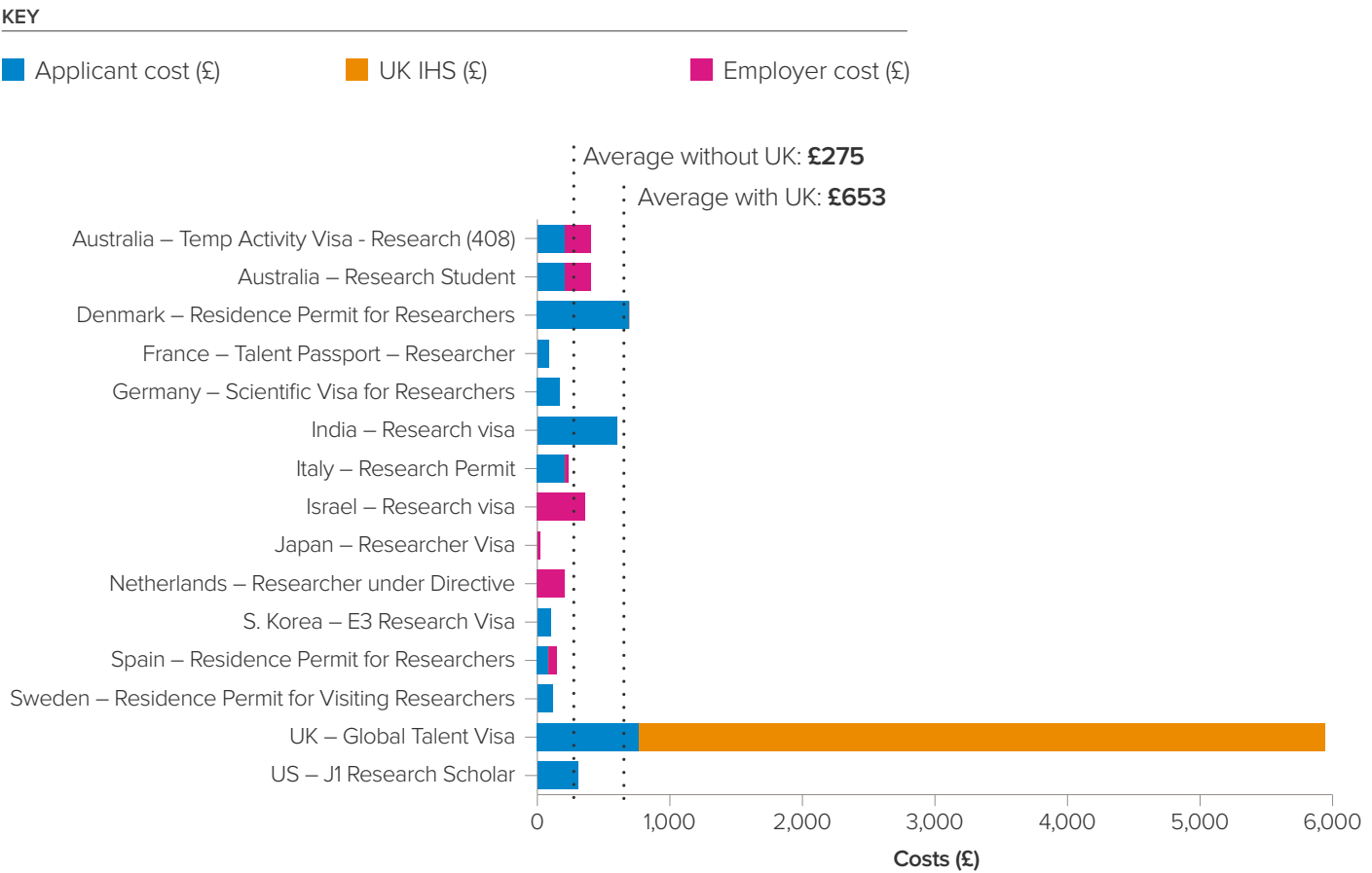
The UK Global Talent visa is aimed at talented and promising individuals in specific sectors including research and innovation.

From 2024 to 2025, Global Talent visa costs increased by 1% (-2.4% when adjusting for inflation) from £5,891 to £5,941 and by 60% from 2021 (32% when adjusting for inflation). Researchers entering the UK via the Global Talent visa incur costs that are 2,062% (2,408% when adjusting for PPP)

higher than the average upfront fees for similar visa schemes across all other leading science nations. When UK costs are included in the calculation for the international average, Global Talent visa costs are 810% higher (863% when adjusting for PPP). Even without the IHS, the price of the GTV is still significantly higher than the average applicant costs (£766 versus £197) and the average total upfront costs (£766 versus £275) in other leading science nations in 2025. See Annex for full disclosure of figures.

FIGURE 3

Costs for UK Global Talent visa compared to visa routes for researchers in other leading science nations, 2025



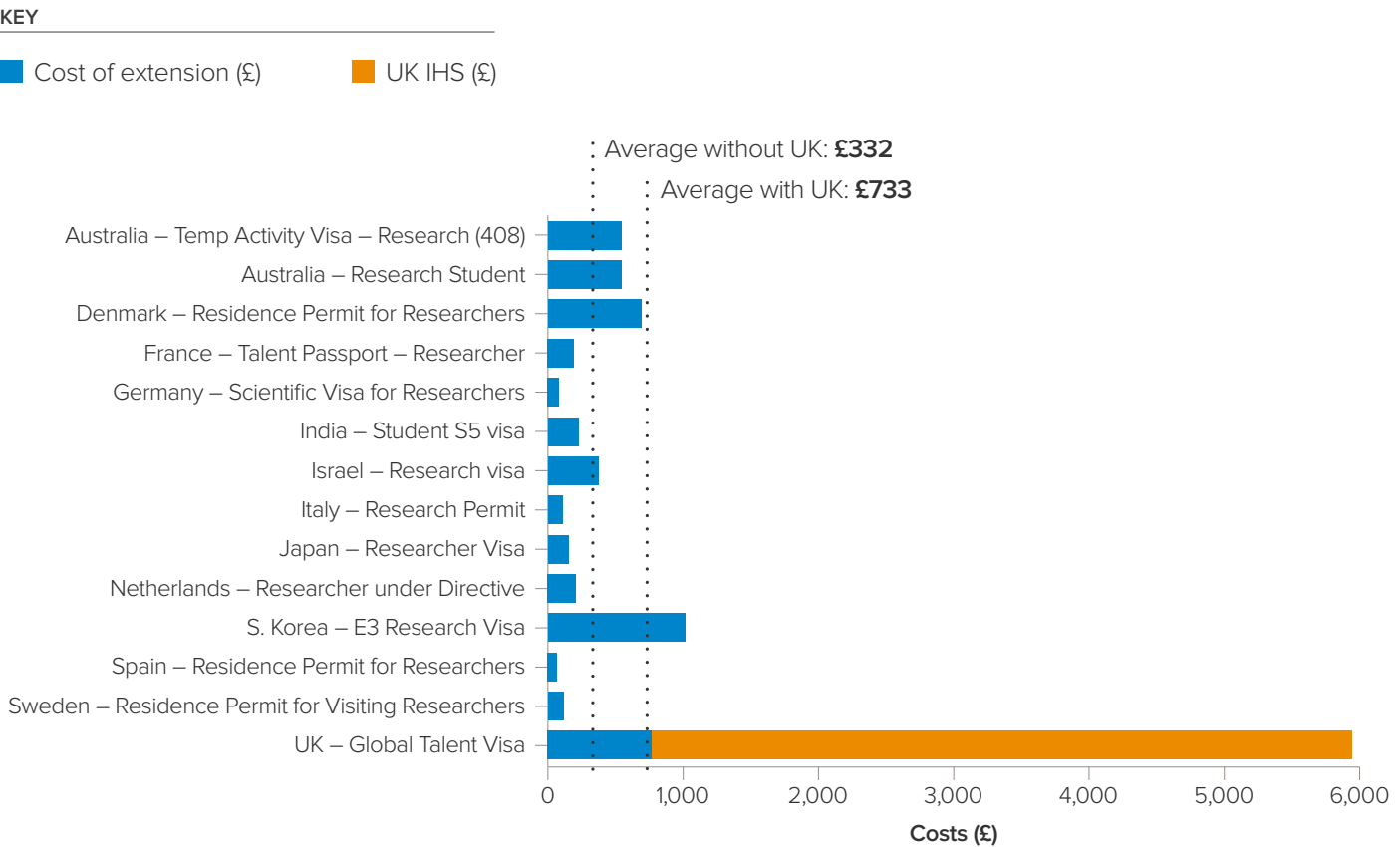
Cost of extending visas – dedicated researcher

The UK Global Talent visa can be extended indefinitely, for up to five years at a time¹¹. Researchers extending their visa for one year incur 1,690% (1,339% after adjusting for PPP) higher costs than the average upfront fees for

a one-year extension under similar visa schemes across the leading science nations. If UK costs are included in the calculation for the international average, Global Talent visa's costs are 711% higher (636% after PPP adjustment).

FIGURE 4

Costs for UK Global Talent visa extension compared to other leading science nations, 2025



11. Figures for UK visa extensions reflect five-year extensions both for those switching into, and already on, the Global Talent (GT) route. However, extensions of this length are less common among individuals already on the GT route.

Student visa costs

From 2024 to 2025, costs for students applying for a visa to study in the UK increased by 1.2% from £2,818 to £2,852 (-2.1% after adjusting for inflation). As of 2025, visa fees for new UK student visa applicants were:

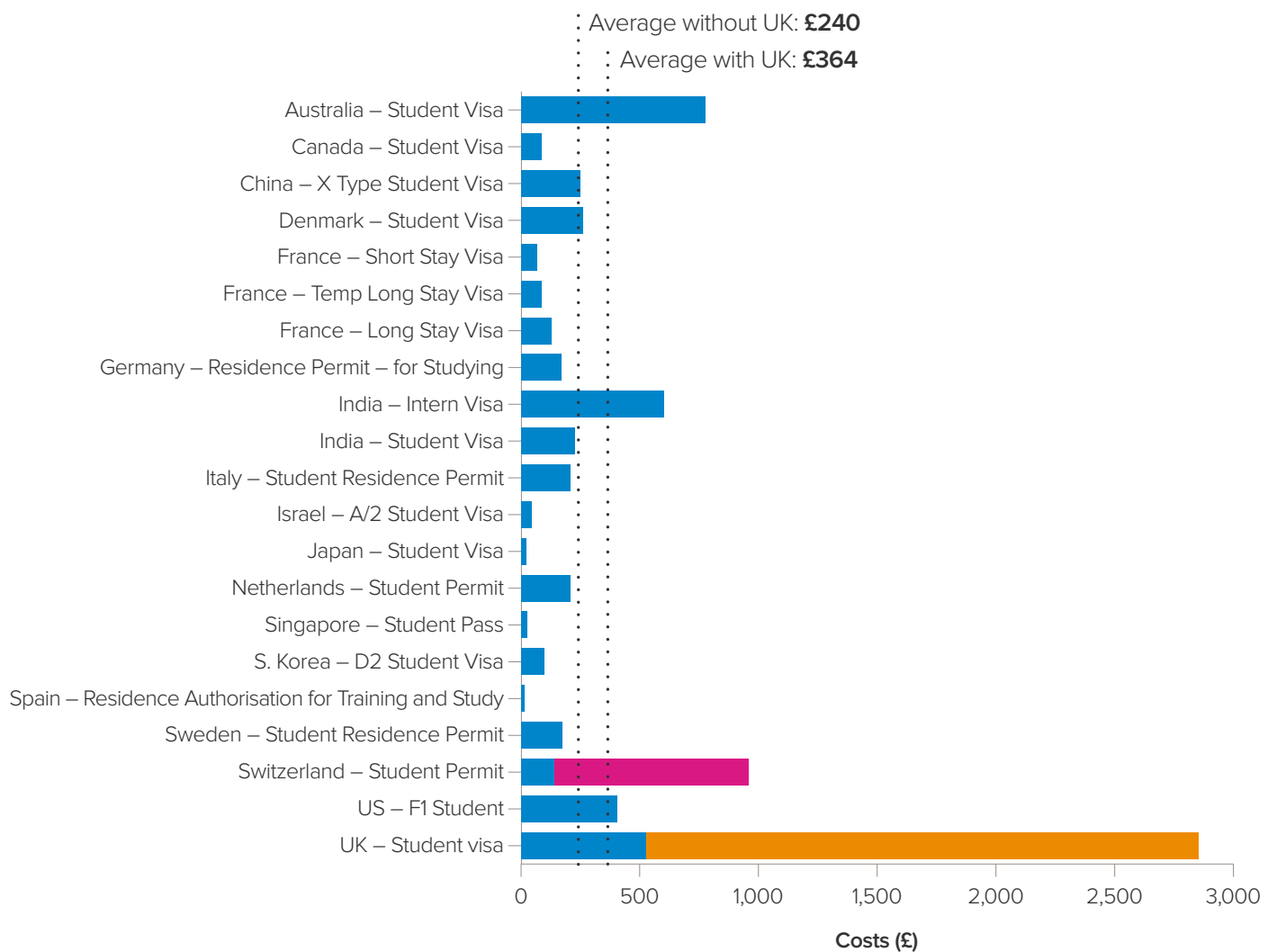
- 1,091% higher than the average visa costs across all other leading science nations when excluding the UK from the international average (1,327% when adjusting for PPP).
- 684% higher than the average visa costs across all other leading science nations when including the UK in the international average (774% when adjusting for PPP).

FIGURE 5

Costs for a UK Student visa compared to study visas in other leading science nations, 2025

KEY

Applicant cost (£) UK IHS (£) Employer cost (£)



What does it cost to bring a family to the UK?

An adult with three family members coming to the UK on a five-year Skilled Worker visa will pay a maximum of £24,186 in upfront costs, with the employer being charged up to £5,525, while the maximum cost to the family entering the UK on the Global Talent visa is £21,174.

TABLE 1

Upfront costs for an adult with three family members coming to the UK on a five-year skilled worker visa, 2025

	Main applicant	Dependant (partner)	Dependant (under 18)	Dependant (under 18)	Total cost for a family of four
Individual visa application fee	£1,519*	£1,519	£1,519	£1,519	£29,711 (sub-PhD level role)
Employer visa application fee	£5,525**	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Immigration Health Surcharge	£5,175 (£1,035 x 5 years)	£5,175 (£1,035 x 5 years)	£3,880 (£776 x 5 years)	£3,880 (£776 x 5 years)	£24,711 (PhD level role)***

* Includes compulsory charge for biometrics. ** Employer cost includes the Immigration Skills Charge (ranging £364 – £1,000 depending on employer's size) and £525 for the certificate of sponsorship, which since 31 December 2024 must also be paid by employer). *** The employer is exempt from the Immigration Skills Charge, but they must still pay the certificate of sponsorship fee of £525.

TABLE 2

Upfront costs for an adult with three family members coming to the UK on a five-year Global Talent visa, 2025

	Main applicant	Dependant (partner)	Dependant (under 18)	Dependant (under 18)	Total cost for a family of four
Individual cost	£766	£766	£766	£766	£21,174
Immigration Health Surcharge	£5,175 (£1,035 x 5 years)	£5,175 (£1,035 x 5 years)	£3,880 (£776 x 5 years)	£3,880 (£776 x 5 years)	

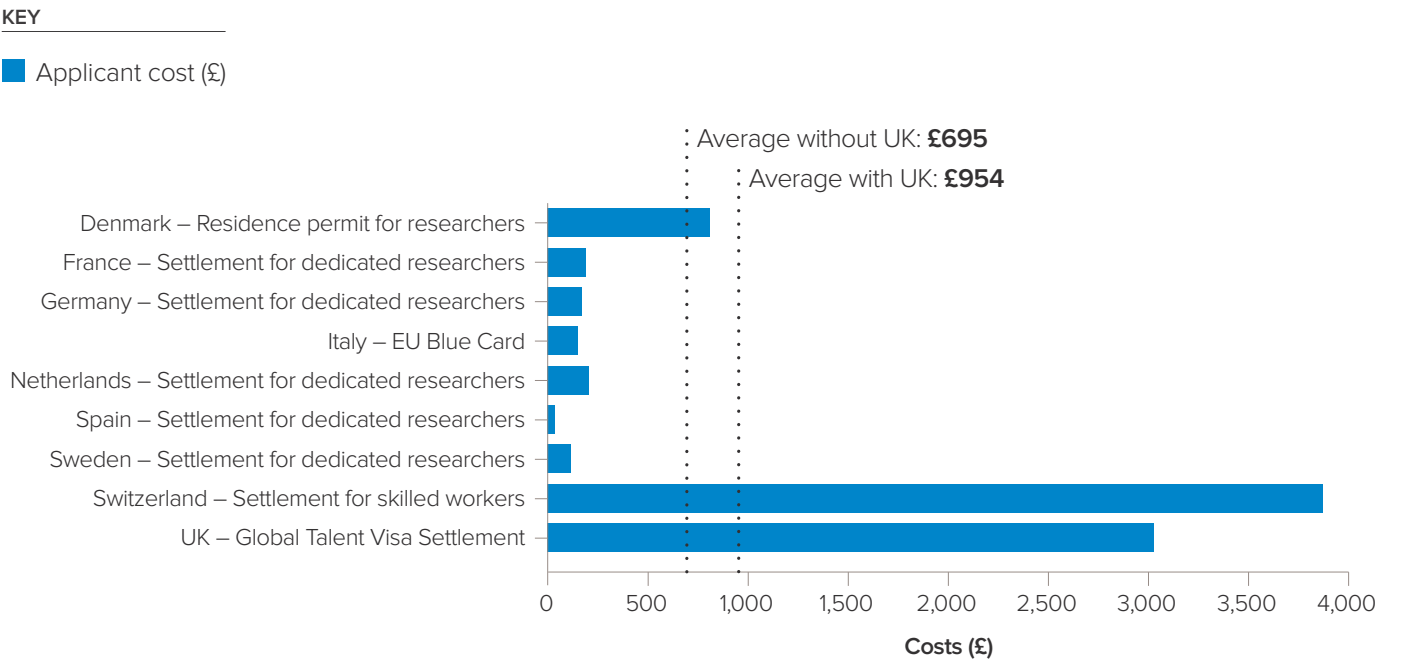
Settlement costs

Settlement fees payable by the applicant continued to rise in the UK increasing to £3,029 by 5% in 2024 – 2025 and by 27% in 2021 – 2025, equivalent to 2% in real terms after adjusting for inflation. Figure 6 shows a comparison of 2025 settlement costs between the UK and those for applicants holding dedicated researcher or skilled worker visas in other leading science nations.

In 2025, visa holders incur 336% (404% when adjusting for PPP) higher costs to apply for settlement in the UK as compared to the average costs for permanent residence in other European countries, and 217% (248% when adjusting for PPP) higher if the UK are included in the international average. The UK required the highest settlement fees compared to other European nations in 2025 when controlling for PPP – without PPP adjustment, it ranked second to Switzerland, which topped the list at £3,871.

FIGURE 6

Cost of settlement in the UK compared to other European science nations, 2025



The most expensive visas – an international PPP comparison

Figure 7 shows the top five most expensive visas per type after adjusting for PPP. The UK Skilled Worker and Global Talent visas are the two most expensive at 79% and 133% more expensive than the USA H1B Specialty Occupation visa (third most expensive) and Australia's Temporary Skill Shortage visa (fourth most expensive). When excluding the IHS from the calculation, the Skilled Worker and Global Talent visas are 5% and 36% more expensive than these USA and Australia visa categories.

Similarly, the Global Talent visa has the highest costs among all dedicated researcher visas at 755% and 1,413% more expensive than the Denmark Residence Permit for Researchers (second highest) and Australia Research Student and Temporary Activity visas (third/fourth highest). When not accounting for the IHS, the UK Global Talent visa still costs 10% and 95% more than its equivalents in Denmark and Australia, respectively.

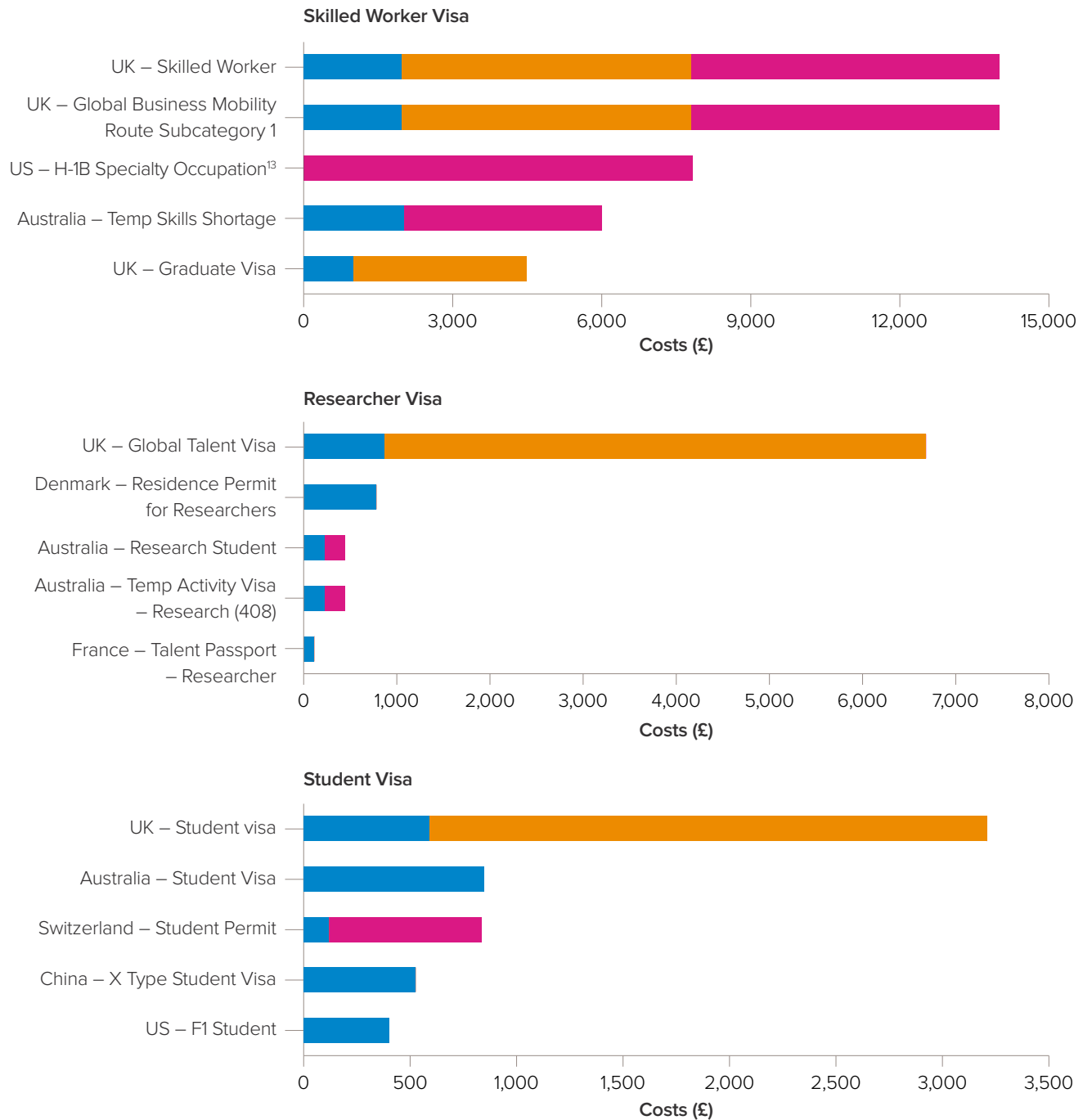
The UK Student visa is the most expensive student visa at 279% and 284% more expensive than the Australia Student visa (second highest) and Switzerland Student permit (third highest). However, when excluding the IHS, the UK Student visa becomes the third most expensive, charging the applicant 30% less than Australia and imposing no employer costs, unlike Switzerland.

FIGURE 7

Top 5 most expensive visas per visa type after adjusting for PPP in 2025¹²

KEY

■ Applicant cost (£) ■ UK IHS (£) ■ Employer cost (£)



12. Data refer to the following visas: UK Skilled Worker, Global Business Mobility Route Subcategory 1, Global Talent Visa, Graduate, and Student; US – H1B Specialty Occupation and F1 Student; Australia Temp Skills Shortage, Research Student, Temp Activity – Research (408), and Student; France Talent Passport – Researcher; Denmark Residence Permit for Researchers; China X Type Student; and Switzerland Student Permit.

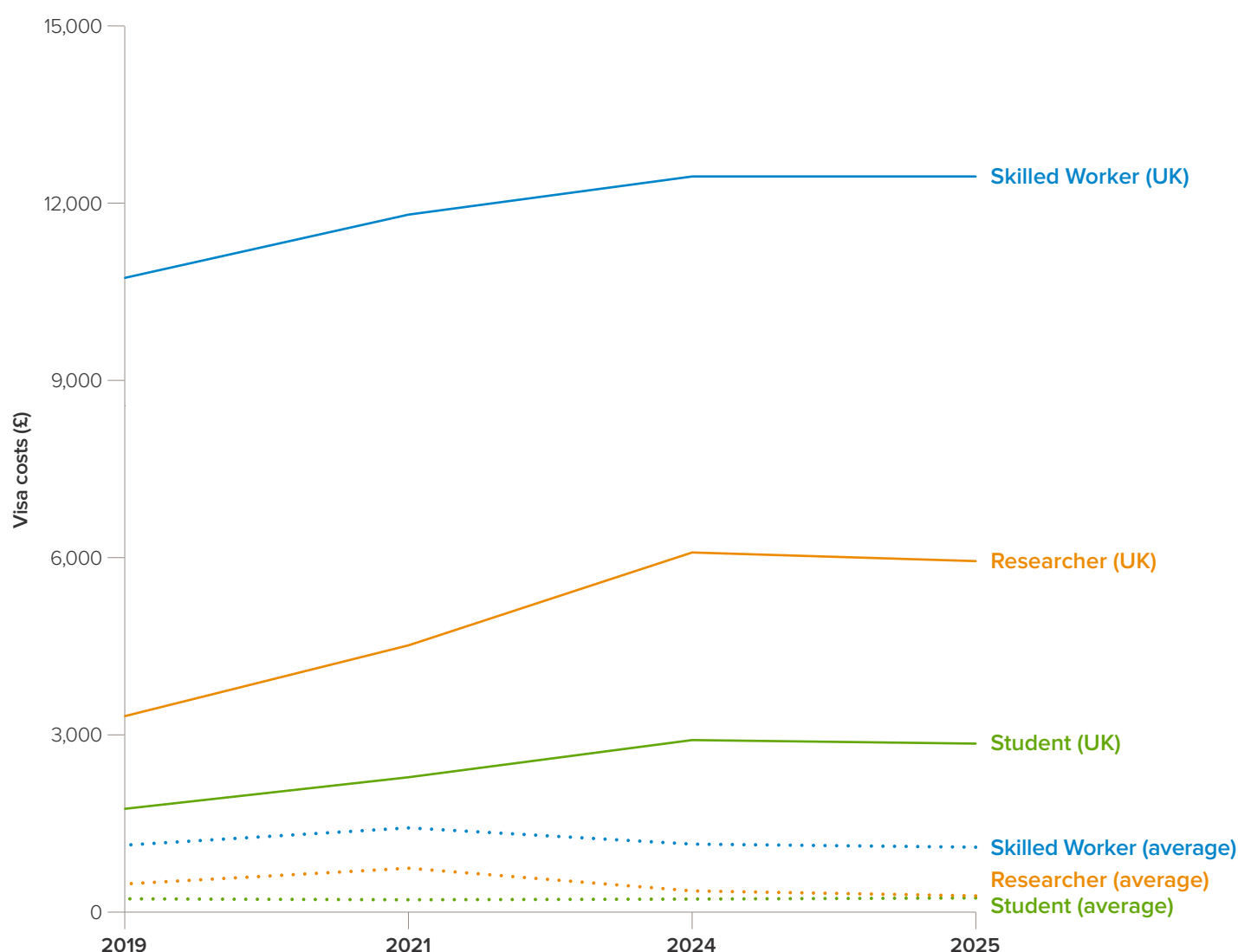
13. *Op. cit.* 9

Figure 8 illustrates the trajectory of UK visa costs and the average (excluding the UK) of visa costs of all countries in the analysis across 2019, 2021, 2024 and 2025. While the average skilled worker and researcher visa costs among other countries peaked in 2021 at £1,426 and £743, visa costs in these categories have consistently declined since, by 23% and 63% respectively. Meanwhile, average student visa costs remained low over the six-year period, at approximately £224.

In contrast, UK Skilled Worker visa costs increased steadily throughout the 2019 – 2025 period by 16%, reaching £12,451. UK researcher and student visa costs peaked in 2024 at £6,087 and £2,912, having increased by 83% and 66% from 2019, respectively. Between 2024 and 2025, UK Global Talent and Student visa costs remained approximately flat in real terms with a nominal increase in line with inflation.

FIGURE 8

Trajectory of visa costs in the UK and the rest of countries included in the analysis (average excluding the UK, adjusted for inflation), 2019 – 2025



Annex: Supplementary tables

TABLE 3

Currency conversion rates, 2024 and 2025¹⁴

Country	2024	2025
Australia	0.52	0.48
Canada	0.58	0.54
China	0.11	0.10
Denmark	0.11	0.11
France	0.86	0.85
Germany	0.86	0.85
India (USD)	0.79	0.75
Israel	0.21	0.21
Italy	0.86	0.85
Japan	0.01	0.01
Netherlands	0.86	0.85
Singapore	0.59	0.58
Spain	0.86	0.85
South Korea (USD)	0.79	0.75
Sweden	0.07	0.08
Switzerland	0.87	0.91
US	0.79	0.75

¹⁴Local costs for India and South Korea are given in US Dollars (USD).

14. Source: XE currency conversion. Foreign exchange rates to GBP for 2024 and 2025 were applied in May 2024 and May 2025, respectively.

TABLE 4

Skilled worker visa costs, 2024

Skilled work visa category	Applicant cost (£)	Applicant cost (local)	UK IHS (£)	Employer cost (£)	Employer cost (local)	Payable by either (£)	Payable by either (local)	Total cost (£)	Total cost (local)
Australia – Temp Skills Shortage	1,949	3,735	–	3,930	7,530	–	–	5,879	11,265
Australia – Temp Graduate	989	1,895	–	–	–	–	–	989	1,895
Canada – LMIA GTS	140	240	–	582	1,000	–	–	722	1,240
Canada – Post-Grad Open Work Permit	148	255	–	–	-	–	–	148	255
China – Cat B Permit with Residence	–	–	–	175	1,600	–	–	175	1,600
China – Cat A Permit with Residence	–	–	–	197	1,800	–	–	197	1,800
Denmark – Skilled Occupation Scheme	–	–	–	–	–	722	6,290	722	6,290
France – Talent Passport – Young Grad (3 – 12 months)	278	324	–	–	–	–	–	278	324
France – Talent Passport – EU Blue Card	278	324	–	–	–	–	–	278	324
Germany – Job-Seeker Residence Permit	–	–	–	–	–	172	200	172	200
Germany – EU Blue Card	–	–	–	–	–	172	200	172	200
India – Employment Visa	–	–	–	–	–	632	800	632	800
Israel – The B-1 Work Visa	–	–	–	2,660	12,410	–	–	2,660	12,410
Israel – The long-term B-1 Work Visa	–	–	–	2,660	12,410	–	–	2,660	12,410
Italy – EU Blue Card	253	294	–	27	32	–	–	280	326
Japan – Specialist Residence Status	–	-	–	21	4,000	–	–	21	4,000
Netherlands – Highly Skilled Migrant	–	-	–	–	–	326	380	326	380
Netherlands – Job-Seeker Residence Permit	196	228	–	–	–	–	–	196	228
Netherlands – EU Blue Card	–	-	–	–	–	326	380	326	380

TABLE 4 (continued)

Skilled worker visa costs, 2024

Skilled work visa category	Applicant cost (£)	Applicant cost (local)	UK IHS (£)	Employer cost (£)	Employer cost (local)	Payable by either (£)	Payable by either (local)	Total cost (£)	Total cost (local)
Singapore – Employment Pass and S Pass	–	–	–	211	360	–	–	211	360
S. Korea – D7 Expat Assignee	24	30	–	–	–	–	–	24	30
Spain – Entrepreneurs Act Local Hire Permit	69	80	–	60	70	–	–	129	150
Spain – Work and Residence Permit	–	–	–	359	419	–	–	359	419
Sweden – Work and Residence Permit	–	–	–	–	–	165	2,200	165	2,200
Switzerland – L&B Permit	131	150	–	786	900	–	–	917	1,050
Switzerland – Post Study Transfer	131	150	–	786	900	–	–	917	1,050
UK – Skilled Worker	1,636	1,636	5,175*	5,000	5,000	239	239	12,050	12,050
UK – Global Business Mobility Route Subcategory 1	1,636	1,636	5,175*	5,000	5,000	239	239	12,050	12,050
UK – Graduate Visa	822	822	3,105*	–	–	–	–	3,927	3,927
US – H1B Specialty Occupation	–	–	–	8,219	10,400	–	–	8,219	10,400
US – OA1 Individuals with Extraordinary Ability	–	–	–	–	–	3,687	4,665	3,687	4,665

* The IHS is charged at £1,035 annually and provides healthcare coverage for up to five years (three years) to Skilled Worker and GBM visa (Graduate visa) applicants.

TABLE 5

Skilled worker visa costs, 2025

Skilled work visa category	Applicant cost (£)	Applicant cost (local)	UK IHS £	Employer cost (£)	Employer cost (local)	Payable by either (£)	Payable by either (local)	Total cost (£)	Total cost (local)
Australia – Temp Skills Shortage	1,850	3,815	–	3,651	7,530	–	–	5,501	11,345
Australia – Temp Graduate	1,084	2,235	–	–	–	–	–	1,084	2,235
Canada – LMIA GTS	131	240	–	544	1,000	–	–	675	1,240
Canada – Post-Grad Open Work Permit	139	255	–	–	–	–	–	139	255
China – Cat B Permit with Residence	–	–	–	248	2,400	–	–	248	2,400
China – Cat A Permit with Residence	–	–	–	248	2,400	–	–	248	2,400
Denmark – Skilled Occupation Scheme	–	–	–	–	–	692	6,055	692	6,055
France – Talent Passport – Young Grad (3 – 12 months)	276	324	–	–	–	–	–	276	324
France – Talent Passport – EU Blue Card	276	324	–	–	–	–	–	276	324
Germany – Job-Seeker Residence Permit	–	–	–	–	–	170	200	170	200
Germany – EU Blue Card	–	–	–	–	–	170	200	170	200
India – Employment Visa	–	–	–	–	–	602	800	602	800
Israel – The B-1 Work Visa	–	–	–	2,689	12,850	–	–	2,689	12,850
Israel – The long-term B-1 Work Visa	–	–	–	2,689	12,850	–	–	2,689	12,850
Italy – EU Blue Card	251	294	–	27	32	–	–	278	326
Japan – Specialist Residence Status	–	–	–	21	4,000	–	–	21	4,000
Netherlands – Highly Skilled Migrant	–	–	–	–	–	324	380	324	380
Netherlands – Job-Seeker Residence Permit	207	243	–	–	–	–	–	207	243
Netherlands – EU Blue Card	–	–	–	–	–	345	405	345	405
Singapore – Employment Pass and S Pass	–	–	–	209	360	–	–	209	360
S. Korea – D7 Expat Assignee	23	30	–	–	–	–	–	23	30

TABLE 5 (continued)

Skilled worker visa costs, 2025

Skilled work visa category	Applicant cost (£)	Applicant cost (local)	UK IHS £	Employer cost (£)	Employer cost (local)	Payable by either (£)	Payable by either (local)	Total cost (£)	Total cost (local)
Spain – Entrepreneurs Act Local Hire Permit	68	80	–	62	73	–	–	131	153
Spain – Work and Residence Permit	-	-	–	357	419	–	–	357	419
Sweden – Work and Residence Permit	–	–	–	–	–	172	2,200	172	2,200
Switzerland – L&B Permit	137	150	–	820	900	–	–	956	1,050
Switzerland – Post Study Transfer	137	150	–	820	900	–	–	956	1,050
UK – Skilled Worker	1,751	1,751	5,175*	5,525	5,525	–	-	12,451	12,451
UK – Global Business Mobility Route Subcategory 1	1,751	1,751	5,175*	5,525	5,525	–	-	12,451	12,451
UK – Graduate Visa	880	880	3,105*	–	–	–	–	3,985	3,985
US – H1B Specialty Occupation	–	–	–	7,829	10,400	–	–	7,829	10,400
US – OA1 Individuals with Extraordinary Ability	–	–	–	–		3,512	4,665	3,512	4,665

* The IHS is charged at £1,035 annually and provides healthcare coverage for up to five years (three years) to Skilled Worker and GBM visa (Graduate visa) applicants.

TABLE 6

Skilled worker visa cost extensions, 2025

Skilled work visa category	Cost of extension (£)	Cost of extension (local)	UK IHS (£)	Total cost of extension including IHS (£)
Australia – Temp Skills Shortage	1,850	3,815	–	1,850
Canada – LMIA GTS	544	1,000	–	544
China – Cat A Permit with Residence	248	2,400	–	248
China – Cat B Permit with Residence	228	2,400	–	228
Denmark – Skilled Occupation Scheme	692	6,055	–	692
France – Talent Passport – EU Blue Card	192	225	–	192
France – Talent Passport – Young Grad (3 – 12 months)	192	225	–	192
Germany – EU Blue Card	82	96	–	82
India – Employment Visa	602	800	–	602
Israel – The B-1 Work Visa	2,689	12,850	–	2,689
Israel – The long-term B-1 Work Visa	2,689	12,850	–	2,689
Italy – EU Blue Card	152	178	–	152
Japan – Specialist Residence Status	151	200	–	151
Netherlands – EU Blue Card	345	405	–	345
Netherlands – Highly Skilled Migrant	345	405	–	345
Singapore – Employment Pass and S Pass	148	255	–	148
S. Korea – D7 Expat Assignee	1,016	1,350	–	1,016
Spain – Entrepreneurs Act Local Hire Permit	67	79	–	67
Spain – Work and Residence Permit	67	79	–	67
Sweden – Work and Residence Permit	172	2,200	–	172
Switzerland – L&B Permit	1,822	2,000	–	1,822
Switzerland – Post Study Transfer	1,822	2,000	–	1,822
UK – Global Business Mobility Route Subcategory 1	7,276*	7,276*	5,175**	12,451
UK – Skilled Worker	7,276*	7,276*	5,175**	12,451
US – H1B Specialty Occupation	1,355	1,800	–	1,355
US – OA1 Individuals with Extraordinary Ability	3,512	4,665	–	3,512

* Extension costs associated with both UK GBM and Skilled Worker visas include 1) visa application fee: £1,751 (more than three years), 2) Certificate of Sponsorship: £525, and 3) Immigration Skills Charge: £1,000 per year. See footnote 10.

** IHS costs are charged at £1,035 per year. The figure shown reflects the upfront payment required for a five-year visa, as applicants must pay the full IHS amount in advance, depending on the visa's duration.

TABLE 7

Researcher visa, 2025

Country – Research Visa category	Applicant cost (£)	Applicant cost (local)	UK IHS (£)	Employer cost (£)	Employer cost (local)	Total cost (£)	Total cost (local)
Australia – Temp Activity Visa – Research (408)	577	1,105	–	219	420	796	1,525
Australia – Research Student	577	1,105	–	219	420	796	1,525
Denmark – Residence permit for researchers	722	6,290	–	–	–	722	6,290
France – Talent Passport – Researcher	84	99	–	–	–	84	99
Germany – Scientific Visa for Researchers	172	200	–	–	–	172	200
India – Research Visa for all levels	632	800	–	–	–	632	800
Israel – Research Visa	–	–	–	371	1,730	371	1,730
Italy – Research Permit	210	244	–	27	32	237	276
Japan – Researcher Visa	–	–	–	21	4,000	21	4,000
Netherlands – Researcher	–	–	–	196	228	196	228
S. Korea – E3 Research Visa	103	130	–	–	–	103	130
Spain – Residence Permit for Researchers	82	96	–	62	72	144	168
Sweden – Residence Permit for Visiting Researchers	112	1,500	–	–	–	112	1,500
UK – Global Talent Visa	716	716	5,175	–	–	5,891	5,891
US – J1 Research Scholar	320	405	–	–	–	320	405

TABLE 8

Researcher visa, 2025

Country – Research Visa category	Applicant cost (£)	Applicant cost (local)	UK IHS (£)	Employer cost (£)	Employer cost (local)	Total cost (£)	Total cost (local)
Australia – Temp Activity Visa – Research (408)	201	415	–	204	420	405	835
Australia – Research Student	201	415	–	204	420	405	835
Denmark – Residence Permit for Researchers	692	6,055	–	–	–	692	6,055
France – Talent Passport – Researcher	276	324	–	–	–	276	324
Germany – Scientific Visa for Researchers	170	200	–	–	–	170	200
India – Research Visa for all levels	602	800	–	–	–	602	800
Italy – Research Permit	208	244	–	27	32	236	276
Israel – Research visa	–	–	–	362	1,730	362	1,730
Japan – Researcher Visa	–	–	–	21	4,000	21	4,000
Netherlands – Researcher under Directive	–	–	–	207	243	207	243
S. Korea – E3 Research Visa	98	130	–	–	–	98	130
Spain – Residence Permit for Researchers	82	96	–	62	73	144	169
Sweden – Residence Permit for Visiting Researchers	117	1,500	–	–	–	117	1,500
UK – Global Talent Visa	766	766	5,175	–	–	5,941	5,941
US – J1 Research Scholar	305	405	–	–	–	305	405

TABLE 9

Researcher visa cost extensions, 2025

Country – Research Visa category	Cost of extension (£)	Cost of extension (local)	UK IHS (£)	Total cost of extension (£)
Australia – Temp Activity Visa – Research (408)	541	1,115	–	541
Australia – Research Student	541	1,115	–	541
Denmark – Residence permit for researchers	692	6,055		692
France – Talent Passport – Researcher	192	225	–	192
Germany – Scientific Visa for Researchers	82	96	–	82
India – Research Visa for all levels	226	300	–	226
Israel – Research visa	375	1,790	–	375
Italy – Research Permit	109	128	–	109
Japan – Researcher Visa	151	200	–	151
Netherlands – Researcher under Directive	207	243	–	207
S. Korea – E3 Research Visa	1,016	1,350	–	1,016
Spain – Residence Permit for Researchers	67	79	–	67
Sweden – Residence Permit for Visiting Researchers	117	1,500	–	117
UK – Global Talent Visa	766*	766*	5,175**	5,941
US – J1 Research Scholar	Not included as programme fees vary from sponsor to sponsor.			

* Extension costs associated with the Global Talent visa include UK Government's fee: £766 (£561 for endorsement and £205 for the visa) per year. See footnote 10.

** IHS costs are charged at £1,035 per year. The figure shown reflects the upfront payment required for a five-year visa, as applicants must pay the full IHS amount in advance, depending on the visa's duration.

TABLE 10

Student visa costs, 2024

Country – Student Visa category	Applicant cost (£)	Applicant cost (local)	UK IHS (£)	Employer cost £	Employer cost (local)	Total cost £	Total cost (local)
Australia – Student	371	710	–	–	–	371	710
Canada – Student Study	90	155	–	–	–	90	155
China – X Type Student Visa	175	1,600	–	–	–	175	1,600
Denmark – Student Visa	286	2,490	–	–	–	286	2,490
France – Short Stay Visa	69	80	–	–	–	69	80
France – Temp Long Stay Visa	85	99	–	–	–	85	99
France – Long Stay Visa	85	99	–	–	–	85	99
Germany – Residence Permit – for Studying	172	200	–	–	–	172	200
India – Intern Visa	632	800	–	–	–	632	800
India – Student Visa	237	300	–	–	–	237	300
Israel – A/2 Student Visa	42	195	–	–	–	42	195
Italy – Student Residence Permit	210	244	–	–	–	210	244
Japan – Student Visa	21	4,000	–	–	–	21	4,000
Netherlands – Student Permit	196	228	–	–	–	196	228
Singapore – Student Pass	18	30	–	–	–	18	30
S. Korea – D2 Student Visa	103	130	–	–	–	103	130
Spain – Residence Authorisation for Training and Study	14	16	–	–	–	14	16
Sweden – Student Residence Permit	165	2,200	–	–	–	165	2,200
Switzerland – Student Permit	131	150	–	786	900	917	1,050
US – F1 Student	423	535	–	–	–	423	535
UK – Student visa	490	490	2,328	–	–	2,818	2,818

TABLE 11

Student visa costs, 2025

Country – Student Visa category	Applicant cost (£)	Applicant cost (local)	UK IHS (£)	Employer cost (£)	Employer cost (local)	Total cost (£)	Total cost (local)
Australia – Student	776	1,600	–	–	–	776	1,600
Canada – Student Study	84	155	–	–	–	84	155
China – X Type Student Visa	248	2,400	–	–	–	248	2,400
Denmark – Student Visa	258	2,255	–	–	–	258	2,255
France – Short Stay Visa	68	80	–	–	–	68	80
France – Temp Long Stay Visa	84	99	–	–	–	84	99
France – Long Stay Visa	127	149	–	–	–	127	149
Germany – Residence Permit – for Studying	170	200	–	–	–	170	200
India – Intern Visa	602	800	–	–	–	602	800
India – Student Visa	226	300	–	–	–	226	300
Italy – Student Residence Permit	208	244	–	–	–	208	244
Israel – A/2 Student Visa	42	200	–	–	–	42	200
Japan – Student Visa	21	4,000	–	–	–	21	4,000
Netherlands – Student Permit	207	243	–	-	-	207	243
Singapore – Student Pass	26	45	–	–	–	26	45
S. Korea – D2 Student Visa	98	130	–	–	–	98	130
Spain – Residence Authorisation for Training and Study	14	16	–	–	–	14	16
Sweden – Student Residence Permit	172	2,200	–	–	–	172	2,200
Switzerland – Student Permit	137	150	–	820	900	956	1,050
US – F1 Student	403	535	–	–	–	403	535
UK – Student visa	524	524	2,328	–	–	2,852	2,852

TABLE 12

Costs of settlement across leading European science nations, 2024 and 2025

Visa category	2024		2025	
	Applicant cost (£)	Applicant cost (local)	Applicant cost (£)	Applicant cost (local)
Denmark – Residence permit for researchers	858	7,475	812	7,110
France – Settlement for dedicated researchers	194	225	192	225
Germany – Settlement for dedicated researchers	172	200	170	200
Italy – EU Blue Card	153	178	152	178
Netherlands – Settlement for dedicated researchers	196	228	207	243
Spain – Settlement for dedicated researchers	38	44	37	44
Sweden – Settlement for dedicated researchers	112	1,500	117	1,500
Switzerland – Settlement for skilled workers	3,711	4,250	3,871	4,250
UK – Global Talent Visa Settlement	2,885	2,885	3,029	3,029