

## Research and Innovation Talent Visa

The Research and Innovation Talent Visa enables individuals with exceptional talent and exceptional promise in the fields of science, medicine, engineering, social science and humanities to live and work in the UK.

The British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society are Designated Competent Bodies (DCBs) for the Research and Innovation Talent Visa under the Home Office Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) Visa route. This means they are able to endorse applicants as either leaders in their field (Exceptional Talent) or as potential leaders in their field (Exceptional Promise).

The DCBs advise the Home Office whether an individual who makes an application is demonstrably 'exceptionally talented' or has 'exceptional promise' through an endorsement. If endorsement is granted, the final immigration decision rests with the Home Office.

### Benefits of the Research and Innovation Talent Visa

The Research and Innovation Talent Visa offers many benefits for exceptional researchers. Compared with holders of other visas, those researchers who use this route have greater flexibility both before they come to the UK and in the choices they can make about their work once they are here.

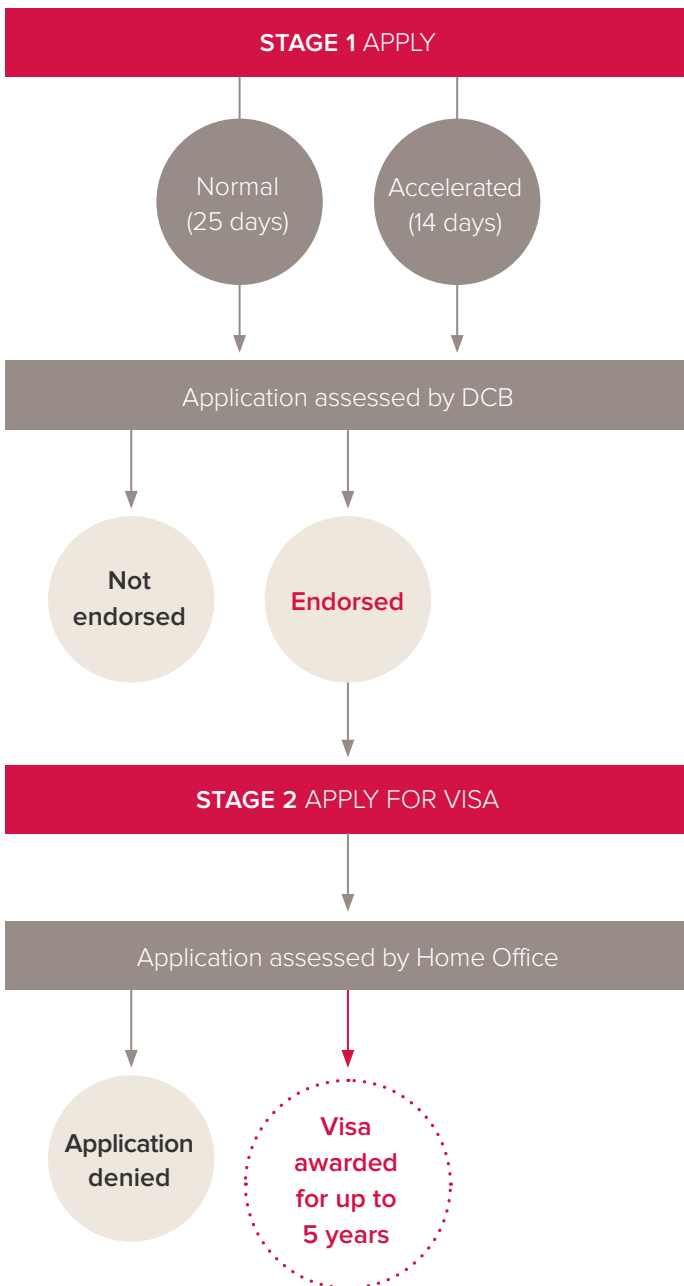
It is much easier for Research and Innovation Talent Visa holders to:

- Change roles within their organisation;
- Be employed by more than one employer;
- Be self-employed or earn additional income from other sources, for example by undertaking consultancy work;
- Take career breaks, academic leave and more than four weeks of unpaid leave each year;
- Create or move to a spin-out company;
- Take any job relevant to their skills, not only those for which an EU citizen could not be found;
- Enter the UK prior to receiving an offer of employment.

Holders of a Research and Innovation Talent Visa that were endorsed through Exceptional Talent are eligible to apply for settlement (Indefinite Leave to Remain) after three years. Holders endorsed through Exceptional Promise are eligible after five years.

Holding a Research and Innovation Talent Visa is also a marker of prestige in itself, showing that the individual has been endorsed as a leader or potential leader in their field by the relevant national Academy.

# The application process



As Stage 1 is not an immigration application, you can travel while it is under consideration. There is no requirement to submit your passport until Stage 2 of your application.

As well as the standard route for endorsement, the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society operate two accelerated processes for exceptional researchers who have already undergone a stringent peer review process considered to be equivalent to those of the Academies:

- for international awardees of specific peer-reviewed fellowships, including from the Research Councils UK (RCUK), British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Wellcome Trust, Academy of Medical Sciences, British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society. The full list can be found [here](#).
- for appointments to senior academic and research positions at UK universities and eligible research institutes. For example, as Professor, Associate Professor or Reader at a university or an equivalent positions such as Senior Group Leader at a research institute. The full list can be found [here](#).

If you are eligible for either of these accelerated options, your application will be automatically endorsed by the relevant DCB, without further peer review, so you will know when you apply that the endorsement will be granted (subject to meeting all specified terms).

## Eligible disciplines

The Academies can endorse applications in the following fields:

British Academy	Royal Academy of Engineering	The Royal Society
Classical Antiquity	Aerospace	Pure and Applied Mathematics, Computer Science
Theology and Religious Studies	Biomedical and Medical	Chemistry, Applied Chemistry, Theoretical Chemistry
African, Asian and the Middle East Studies	Chemical and Process	Astronomy and Physics, Theoretical Physics, and Applied Physics
Linguistics and Philology	Civil, Construction and built environment	Engineering, Technology, Instrumentation, Materials Science, Experimental Fluid Dynamics
Early Modern Languages and Literature	Computing and Communications	Earth Sciences and Environmental Physical Sciences
Modern Languages, Literatures and other Media	Electrical and Electronic	Biochemistry, Structural Biology and Molecular Cell Biology
History of Art and Music	Materials and Mining	Developmental Biology, Genetics (excluding population genetics), Immunology and Microbiology (except medical microbiology)
Archaeology	Energy and Power	Anatomy, Physiology, Neurosciences, Health and Human Sciences
Medieval Studies: History and Literature	Transport and Mechanical	Organismal, Evolutionary and Ecological Science, including soils and agriculture
Early Modern History	Innovation and Policy	Clinical
Modern History	Special (including emerging or multidisciplinary areas of engineering)	
Philosophy		
Economics and Economic History		
Anthropology and Geography		
Sociology, Demography and Social Statistics		
Political Studies: Political Theory, Government and International Relations		
Psychology		
Law		