Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Navigating the UK Immigration Landscape

mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk

14 June 2022
Agenda

1 Welcome and UK Participation
Dr Branwen Hide, UK MSCA NCP, UKRO

2 Introduction to UK Immigration Routes
Gabrielle Newson, Engagement Manager and Ben Weeks, Strategy Lead – Global Mobility, UKRI

3 Using the Global Talent Visa
Natasha Bevan, Head of International Grants, Royal Society

4 Question and Answer
Moderator, Branwen Hide, UK MSCA NCP, UKRO
All participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar.

A chat function is available and will be monitored.

The session is NOT recorded

Please use the Q&A function to submit questions. Up voting is available.
Horizon Europe participation

On 24 December 2020, the negotiations on the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement concluded

The announcement confirmed that the intention of the UK is to associate to Horizon Europe

This includes full participation in the programme (with the exception of the EIC Accelerator Investment Fund)

UK entities can participate in/coordinate projects and receive funding from Horizon Europe

UKRO website provides latest information on UK participation
Commission Q&A

European Commission’s Q&A confirms UK eligibility to apply:

“UK entities including universities, research centres, scientists, innovative businesses, industry, etc. can participate in the first calls for proposals of Horizon Europe as soon as they are published on the European Commission’s website.”

“…UK applicants are treated as if the UK is an associated country throughout the process, from admissibility and eligibility to evaluation, up until the preparation of grant agreements.”
Delay to UK Association

- Currently a delay to UK association
- During Grant Agreement Preparation Phase (GAP) the UK is considered a Third Country
- Third Country participants cannot sign the grant agreement
- The UK government announced Horizon Europe guarantee Nov 2021
- The guarantee covers all eligible, current applications to calls where grant agreements are expected to be signed before 31 December 2022
  - Includes the 2021 MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship call
Introduction to UK Immigration Routes
People, Culture & Talent (PC&T) themes are core to our UKRI Strategy

Make the UK the most attractive destination for talented people and teams from the UK and around the world

Advancing the frontiers of human knowledge and innovation by enabling the UK to seize opportunities from emerging research trends, multidisciplinary approaches and new concepts and markets

There is broad consensus on people, culture & talent (PC&T) related CHALLENGES in the R&I system

- **Skills** shortages (and a failure to develop and support a diversity of people with potential across varied roles)
- Narrow / stunted career paths
- Variable quality of leadership
- Research culture that’s not deemed to be open & inclusive
- Incentives that reward only a narrow range of contributions / people
- A risk of losing out to global competition for talent
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visa route</th>
<th>What does it enable?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Global Talent Visa**           | **Global Talent visa** – work in the UK if the applicant is a leader or potential leader in one of the following fields (subject to Endorsing Body criteria):  
  • Academia or research  
  • Arts & culture  
  • Digital technology  |
| **Skilled Worker**               | Skilled workers who have a job offer from an approved employer sponsor.                                                                                                                                                 |
| **Doctorate ExtensionScheme**    | Enables a PhD student to apply to stay in the UK to look for work after they have finished their PhD or doctorate at an accredited UK Institution.                                                                        |
| **Temporary Workers**            | **Government Authorised Exchange** – through approved schemes that aim to share knowledge, experience and best practice through work placements (up to 24 months).  
  Cannot be used to fill job vacancies or to bring unskilled labour to the UK.  
  Sponsorship is available through HEIs or UKRI approved institutes.  
  7 Routes:  
  • International Agreements  
  • Government Authorised Exchange  
  • Charity Workers  
  • Creative & sporting  
  • Religious worker  
  • Season worker  
  • Youth Mobility |
Why the Global Talent Visa
Why the GTV?

The Global Talent Visa provides numerous benefits:

- Fast-tracked process
- A flexible visa for up to 5 years, allowing holders to come and go from the UK at will
- Eligibility for settled status after 3 years
- Family members ('dependants') can travel with the Global Talent visa holder or join them later in the UK on a dependant visa
- No requirement to complete an English Test Qualification
- Fee can be claimed back from the grant
Why is it important to use the GTV?

You need to apply for best visa for your situation. If you, you could face:

- lengthy application processes
- unnecessary additional steps
- delays to projects
- unnecessary costs to the project

If you are having trouble navigating immigration related websites contact: mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk
Using the Global Talent visa
The Global Talent visa: one visa, four routes to endorsement

GTV decision tree
Endorsed Funder route

- Researcher & teams working on grants from UKRI recognised Endorsed Funders
- Applicants are required to be employed or hosted at a UKRI approved host organisation
- Use for MSCA COFUND & MSCA Doctoral Networks
- The list of Endorsed Funders is large (>90 funders) and continuously expanding
Fast-track Fellowship route

• Academies’ principles for adding fellowship schemes to GTV fast-track list:

  Awarded through competitive processes, conducted adhering to high quality standards of peer review which are open and transparent, independent and impartial, appropriate and balanced, and robust and rigorous

  Aimed at leaders in their field (Exceptional Talent) or potential leaders in their field (Exceptional Promise)

  Personal fellowships held in name (ad personam awards that cannot be transferred to anyone else)

www.royalsociety.org/global-talent-visa/fellowships

Awards eligible under the individual fellowships route ‘exceptional promise’ category for potential research leaders

- Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Individual Fellowship
- Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowship
- UKRI Postdoctoral Fellowship Guarantee
What Does this mean for me?

- You are eligible to apply for a Global Talent Visa through the Academies’ fast-track fellowship route.

- Eligibility for endorsement opens on the date your award letter is issued and closes five years after the end date of the fellowship.

- Eligibility is open to those who hold/have held this fellowship, regardless of whether you hold it within or outside of the UK – both European Fellowships and Global Fellowships.

- No restrictions on full-time/part-time, time left on fellowship, resign early – we will endorse you and maintain endorsement.
How do I apply for a Global Talent Visa?

- Apply via gov.uk website – two stages
- Stage 1: GTV Endorsement
- Select most appropriate endorsing body for your research discipline:
  - Royal Society – for natural & medical sciences
  - Royal Academy of Engineering – for engineering
  - British Academy – for social sciences & humanities
- Endorsement within 14 working days (normally quicker if all documentation correct), via email

www.gov.uk/global-talent-researcher-academic/individual-fellowship

- Are you applying under exceptional promise or exceptional talent criteria?
- State your field of talent
- Which endorsing body do you wish to support your application for endorsement?
- Are you applying for fast track consideration? I hold a fellowship named in the Global Talent policy guidance
- What is the name of your fellowship?
- I confirm I will provide: evidence from the relevant body confirming the fellowship you have been awarded
Stage 1 Documentation

For successful candidates in MSCA PF 2021 Call:

- You will have your original letter from the European Research Executive Agency inviting you to start the grant agreement preparation phase (i.e. that you were successful)

- You won’t have an EC grant agreement

- You can apply for GTV endorsement using:
  1) Copy of REA GAP Invitation Letter
  2) Copy of your Grant Proposal

Or, if you have submitted your details for guarantee funding, a copy of your UKRI Guarantee Grant Offer Letter

www.royalsociety.org/global-talent-visa/frequently-asked-questions/
Stage 2: Visa application

- You can submit Stage 2 visa application at the same time as you apply for Stage 1 endorsement, or after you have the Stage 1 endorsement confirmed.

- If your permission to stay in the UK is about to expire, applying for the visa (stage 2) will extend it until you’ve been given a decision.

- You’ll *normally* get a Stage 2 decision on your visa within 3 weeks if you’re outside the UK, and 8 weeks if you’re inside the UK*.

- * currently taking longer

Apply for visa from 1-5 years

The length you apply for is for you to decide, it is not tied/restricted to the length of your fellowship – you choose how long you want the visa to be.

There’s no limit to how long you can stay in the UK in total, but you will need to renew (‘extend’) your visa when it expires. Each extension can last from 1 to 5 years - you choose how long you want the extension to be.

You may be able to get indefinite leave to remain so you can settle in the UK after 3 years**. This gives you the right to live, work and study here for as long as you like.

** dependants are after 5 years
Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

Applies to international students and researchers who are subject to UK immigration control and are intending to study or research at postgraduate level in certain sensitive subjects.

Researchers and students in these sensitive subjects must apply for an ATAS certificate before they can study or start research in the UK.

To determine if you need an ATAS certificate and to find out more information on the scheme please visit:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme

*Students and researchers who are nationals of EU countries, the European Economic Area (EEA), Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland or the United States of America do not need an ATAS certificate.*
Thank you

Questions?

@_UKRO_  UK Research Office (UKRO)