

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF UK TECH VISAS

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**Note: This comparative table is to be used as a guide only. For immigration advice, please seek the services of an Immigration solicitor.

	Global Talent Visa	Start Up Visa	Innovator Visa
Criteria	<p>Founder, employee of a company or talent working in the field that can be endorsed by an Endorsing body</p>	<p>Innovation The applicant has a genuine, original business plan that meets new or existing market needs and/or creates a competitive advantage.</p> <p>Viability The applicant has, or is actively developing, the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and market awareness to successfully run the business.</p> <p>Scalability There is evidence of structured planning and of potential for job creation and growth into national markets.</p>	<p>Innovation The applicant has a genuine, original business plan that meets new or existing market needs and/or creates a competitive advantage.</p> <p>Viability The applicant has the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and market awareness to successfully run the business.</p> <p>Scalability There is evidence of structured planning and of potential for job creation and growth into national and international markets.</p>
2 stage process? (Endorsing body must approve your application first BEFORE the applicant applies for the visa)	yes	yes	yes

Maximum years under the visa	5 years (inside and outside UK)	2 years	3 years
Extension	Yes	No - see Innovators visa	yes
Apply for settlement (Indefinite leave to remain)	Exceptional talent - 3 years Exceptional promise - 5 years UKRI - 3 years	No	Yes (after 5 years)
Endorsement Fee	£456	Nil (endorsing body cannot charge an endorsement fee)	Nil (endorsement body can't charge an endorsement fee)
Visa Fee	£152	£363 (outside UK) £493 (inside UK)	£1021 (outside UK) £1277 (inside UK)
Endorsing Body	<p>1. Tech Nation, for digital technology; 2. The Royal Society for science and medicine; 3. The Royal Academy of Engineering for engineering; 4. The British Academy, for humanities; 5. Arts Council England, for arts and culture, fashion, architecture and film and tv. 6. UKRI</p> <p>If your qualifying field is fashion, architecture or film and television, Arts Council England will pass on your application for review to:</p> <p>British Fashion Council, for fashion</p>	<p>A list of UK universities, accelerators and organisations https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endorsing-bodies-start-up</p>	<p>A list of UK universities, accelerators and organisations https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/endorsing-bodies-innovator</p>

	Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), for architecture Producers Alliance for Cinema and Television (PACT), for film and television		
Timeline for Endorsement	8 weeks	Depends on the endorsing body	Depends on the endorsing body
Timeline for Visa	Approximately 3 - 8 weeks	Approximately 3 weeks	Approximately 3 weeks
Proof of funds	No	Yes 1. Minimum £945 in your bank account for 90 consecutive days before you apply.	Yes 1. Minimum £945 in your bank account for 90 consecutive days before you apply. 2. You cannot use either of the following to support yourself: a. money from your investment funds money earned while working in the UK illegally You must also have at least £50,000 in investment funds if you want to set up a new business. You do not need funds if your business is already established and has been endorsed for an earlier visa (e.g start up visa)
English language requirement	No	Yes You can prove your knowledge of English by either: 1. passing an approved English language test with at least	Yes You can prove your knowledge of English by either: 1. passing an approved English language test with at least CEFR

		<p>CEFR level B2 in reading, writing, speaking and listening; or</p> <p>2.having an academic qualification that was taught in English and is recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD</p> <p>*You do not need to prove your knowledge of English if you've already proved it to be level B2 or above in an earlier successful application.</p>	<p>level B2 in reading, writing, speaking and listening; or</p> <p>2.having an academic qualification that was taught in English and is recognised by UK NARIC as being equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD</p> <p>*You do not need to prove your knowledge of English if you've already proved it to be level B2 or above in an earlier successful application.</p>
You can	<p>1.work - for an employer, as a director of a company or be self-employed change jobs without telling the Home Office</p> <p>2.do voluntary work travel abroad and return to the UK</p> <p>3.bring family members with you</p>	<p>1.bring family members with you</p> <p>2. switch to this visa from some other visa categories</p> <p>3. work in another job, as well as working for your business. You must work a "majority" of your time in your business.</p>	<p>1.set up a business or several businesses</p> <p>2.work for your business - this includes being employed as a director, or self-employed as a member of a business partnership</p> <p>3.bring family members with you</p>
You can't	<p>1.get public funds</p> <p>2.work as a doctor or dentist in training work as a professional sportsperson or sports coach</p>	<p>1.get public funds</p> <p>2.work as a doctor or dentist in training work as a professional sportsperson, for example a sports coach</p> <p>3.settle in the UK on this visa</p>	<p>1.get public funds</p> <p>2.work as a doctor or dentist in training work as a professional sportsperson, for example a sports coach</p> <p>3.do any work outside your business, for example work where you're employed by another business</p>
More information	https://www.gov.uk/global-talent	https://www.gov.uk/start-up-visa	https://www.gov.uk/innovator-visa

Examples of Criteria for University endorsing bodies for Start up and Innovator's visa

<http://www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/international/ukworkafterstudy/startupvisa/>

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/startup/internationalstudents/>

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/careers/students/enterprise/startup/international/>

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/b-enterprising/international/startupvisa.aspx>

<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/students/len/visa/>

<https://www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/start-visa>

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/immigration/working-in-the-uk/after-studies/start-up-visa>

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/business/businesscentres/hgi/ingenuity-lab/member-support/start-up-visa/start-up-visa.aspx>

<https://www.city.ac.uk/business-services/entrepreneurship/launch/start-up-visa>

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/pre/collaborate/start-up-visa>

<https://www.arts.ac.uk/students/student-careers/funding-and-mentoring/international-start-up-visa>

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/careers/students/enterprise/graduate-entrepreneur-visa.page>

<https://warwick.ac.uk/study/international/immigration/othervisas/tier1/startup/>

<https://www.gold.ac.uk/immigration/after/start-up-visa/>

<https://www.henley.ac.uk/research/research-centres/henley-centre-for-entrepreneurship/visa-endorsement>

<https://student.londonmet.ac.uk/international/start-up-visa/>

<https://www.brighton.ac.uk/careers/start-your-own-business/start-up-visa-scheme/index.aspx>



This table was prepared by [Michelle Hua](#), Consultant, Speaker and Digital Technology Global Talent Visa recipient.

In 2016, Michelle was endorsed with Exceptional Talent and is the former #TechNationVisa Ambassador.

Michelle consults for highly skilled tech entrepreneurs and people working in digital technologies on how they can receive the endorsement for exceptional talent or exceptional promise through her packages of support [here](#).

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