



UK Research Office  
Brussels

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

**Navigating the UK Immigration  
Landscape**

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**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

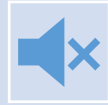
Moderator, Branwen Hide, UK MSCA NCP, UKRO



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# Housekeeping



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



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UK-EU TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Summary

December 2020

# 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**



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Guaranteed  
funding for  
successful  
Horizon Europe  
UK applicants

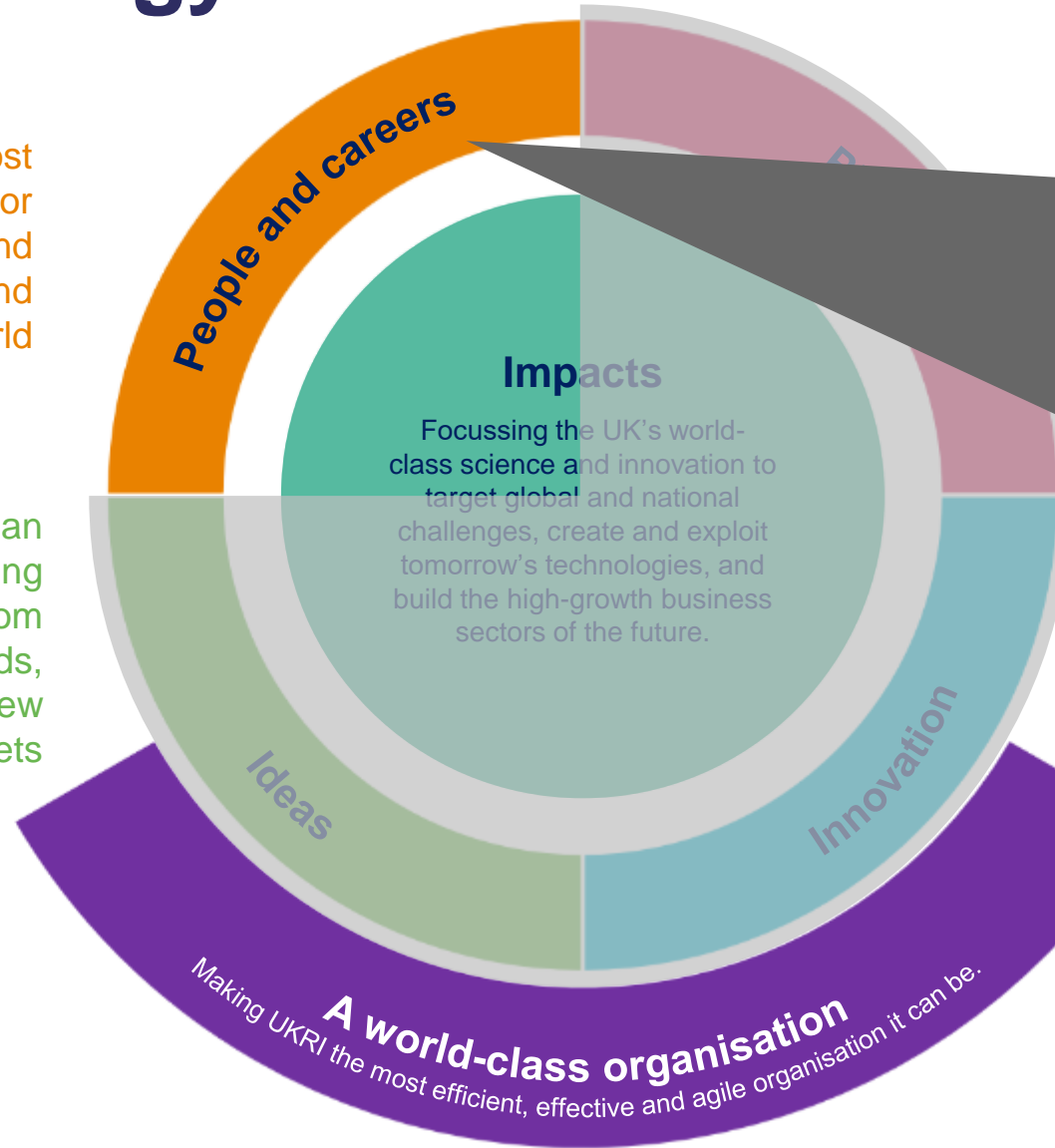
# Introduction to UK Immigration Routes



# 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



# UK Visa System – Work & Study

Visa route	What does it enable?
<b><u>Global Talent Visa</u></b>	<p><b>Global Talent visa</b> – work in the UK if the applicant is a leader or potential leader in one of the following fields (subject to Endorsing Body criteria):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academia or research</li> <li>• Arts &amp; culture</li> <li>• Digital technology</li> </ul>
<b><u>Skilled Worker</u></b>	Skilled workers who have a job offer from an approved employer sponsor.
<b><u>Doctorate Extension Scheme</u></b>	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.
<p><b>Temporary Workers</b>  <b>7 Routes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Agreements</li> <li>• <b>Government Authorised Exchange</b></li> <li>• Charity Workers</li> <li>• Creative &amp; sporting</li> <li>• Religious worker</li> <li>• Season worker</li> <li>• Youth Mobility</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Government Authorised Exchange</u></b> – through approved schemes that aim to share knowledge, experience and best practice through work placements (up to 24 months).</p> <p>Cannot be used to fill job vacancies or to bring unskilled labour to the UK. Sponsorship is available through HEIs or UKRI approved institutes.</p>

# 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](mailto:mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk)



# Using the Global Talent visa



# The Global Talent visa: one visa, four routes to endorsement



# 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)*

Have you been awarded an individual fellowship on the list approved by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and Royal Society?

[www.royalsociety.org/global-talent-visa/fellowships](http://www.royalsociety.org/global-talent-visa/fellowships)

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

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Individual Fellowship
- Marie Skłodowska-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](https://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

Call: **HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01**  
(MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2021)

Topic: **HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01-01**

Type of Action: **HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-GF**  
(HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships)

Proposal number: [REDACTED]

Proposal a  
Type of Model Grant A  
Tab

Section	Title
1	General information
2	Participants
3	Budget
4	Ethics and security
5	Other questions

Ref. Ares(2022)2040542 - 21/03/2022

EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY (REA)  
REA.A – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions & Support to Experts  
A.2 – MSCA European Postdoctoral Fellowships

[Name of University Contact]  
[Name of University]  
[Address]

Subject: **Horizon Europe (HORIZON)**  
Call: **HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01** Project:  
[Grant Agreement Number — Acronym]  
**GAP invitation letter**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing in connection with your proposal for the above-mentioned call.

Having completed the evaluation, we are pleased to inform you that your proposal has passed this phase and that we would now like to start **grant preparation**.

Please find enclosed the evaluation summary report (ESR) for your proposal.

**Invitation to grant preparation**

Grant preparation will be based on the following:

1. **Project:** [Grant Agreement Number — Acronym]
2. **Topic:** HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01-01 — MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2021

# 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.***



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# Thank you

# Questions?



@\_UKRO\_



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