



UK Research
and Innovation

MSCA actions - navigating the UK immigration system

Gabrielle Newson – Global Mobility Engagement Lead



International mobility has a positive impact on...

RESEARCHERS

- International network increased (MORE3)
- Advanced research skills increased (MORE3)
- Collaboration with other subfields of research increased (MORE3)

COUNTRIES

- Brain circulation (Royal Society)
- Increased availability of highly skilled workers can increase R&D and economic activity
- Beneficial to UK's soft power (British Academy)

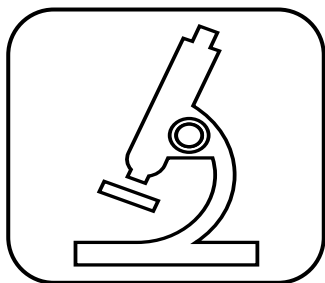
INSTITUTIONS

- Reputational and performance benefits (National Science Foundation)
- Financial benefits (British Academy)
- Diversification of funding streams (British Academy)
- Able to hire good quality researchers with rare/desired research skills (National Science Foundation)
- Improves performance in university rankings (British Academy)

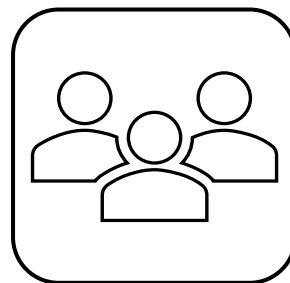
What makes the UK attractive?



Career opportunities
(MORE3)



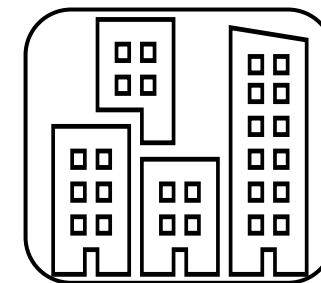
Research infrastructure
(RAND)



High quality peers
(NATURE, Royal Society, Russell Group)



Opportunity to build networks and collaborate (NBER, Royal Society)



British lifestyle
(Nature, Royal Society)



UK Research
and Innovation

The UK's Global Talent visa

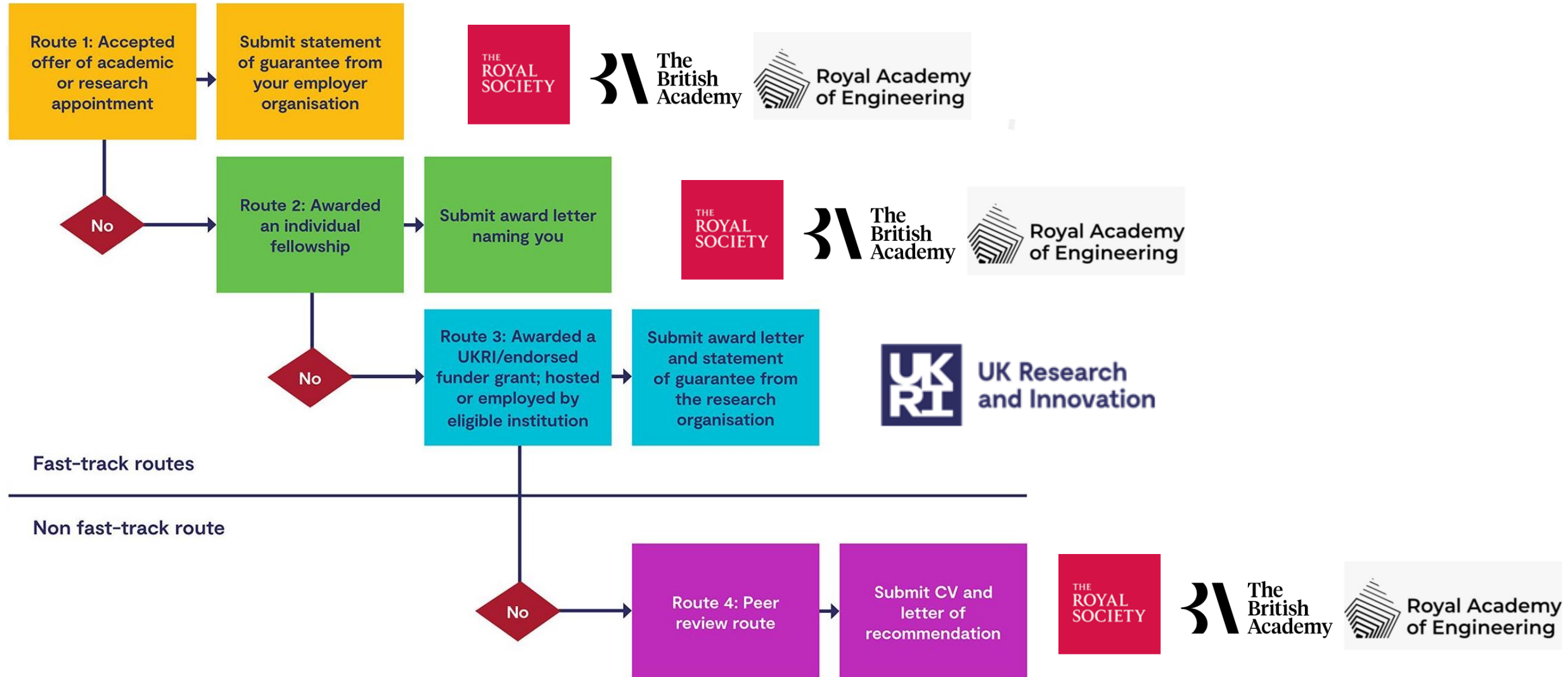


The Global Talent visa

- ✓ Fast-tracked application process
- ✓ Up to 5 years & beyond the length of the award
- ✓ 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
- ✓ No salary threshold
- ✓ Fee, including IHS, can be claimed back from the grant



One Global Talent visa, four routes to endorsement

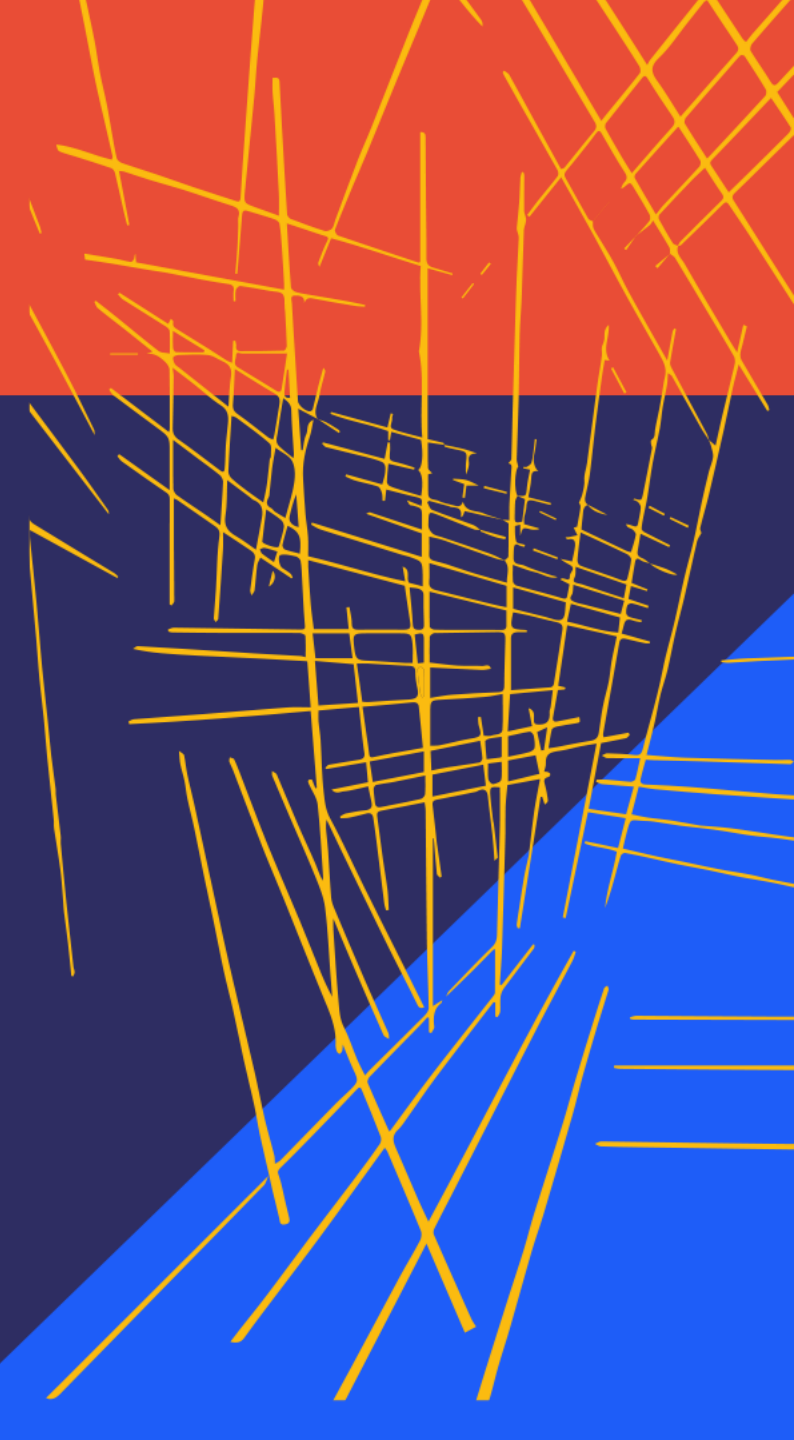




UK Research
and Innovation

MSCA actions

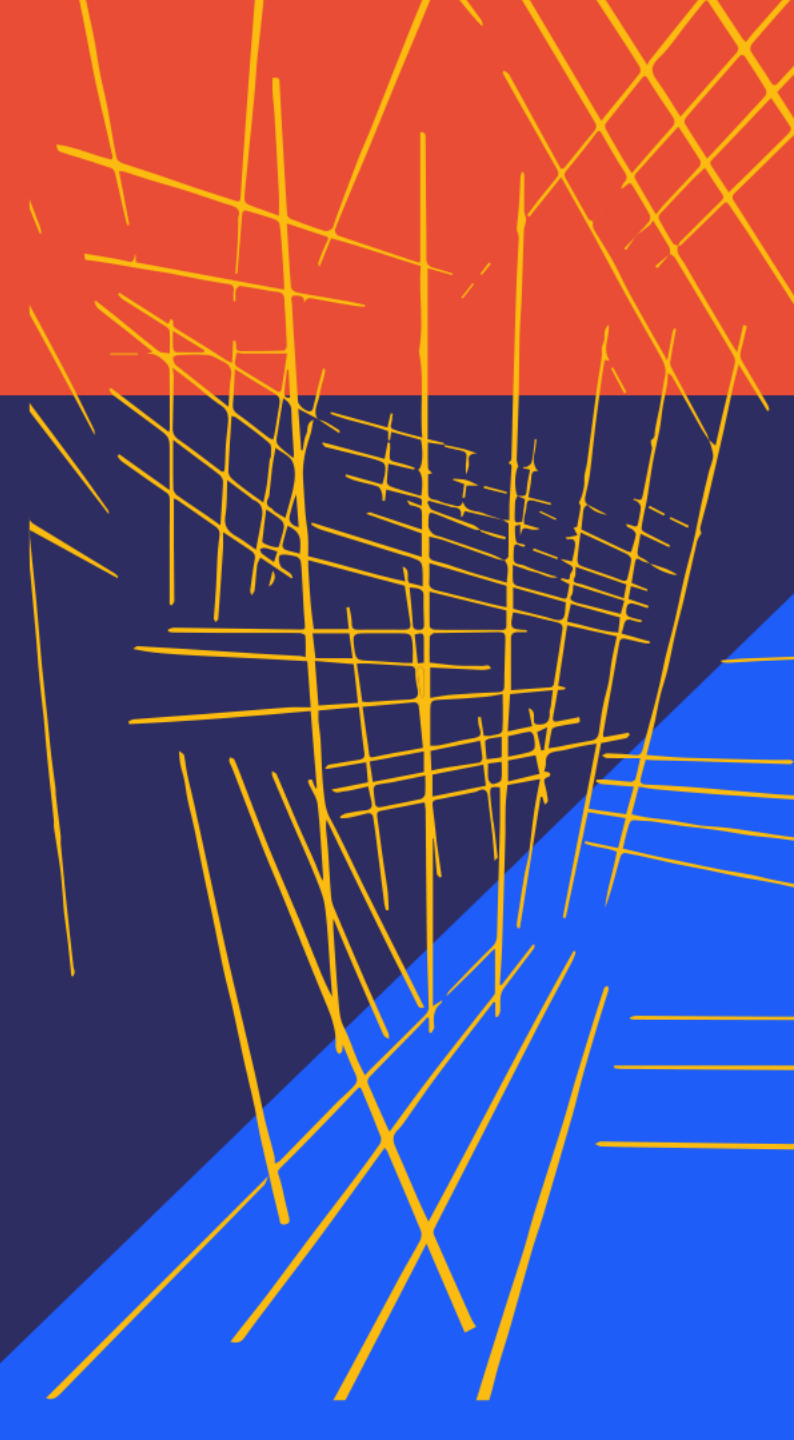
- **Doctoral Networks**
- **Postdoctoral Fellowships**
- **COFUND**



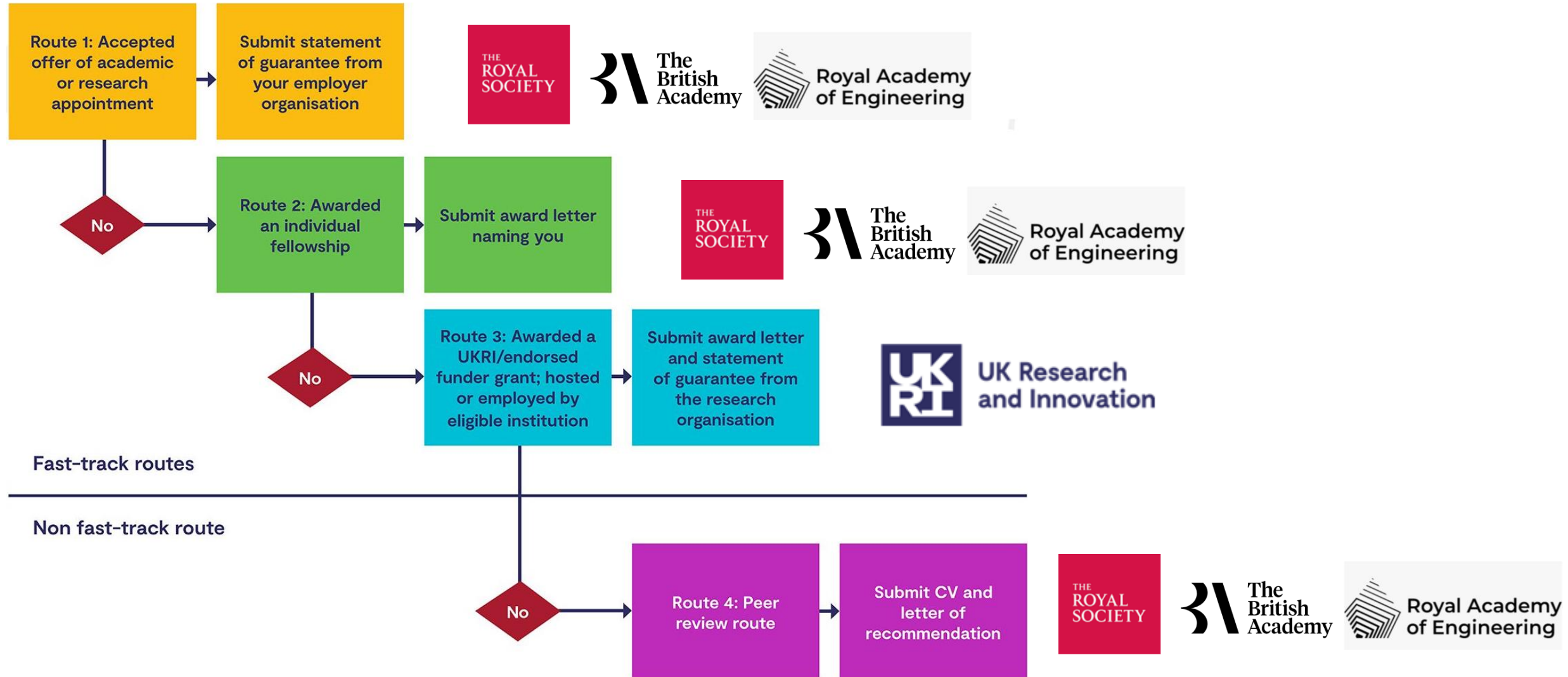


UK Research
and Innovation

COFUND (incl. fellowships) & Doctoral Networks

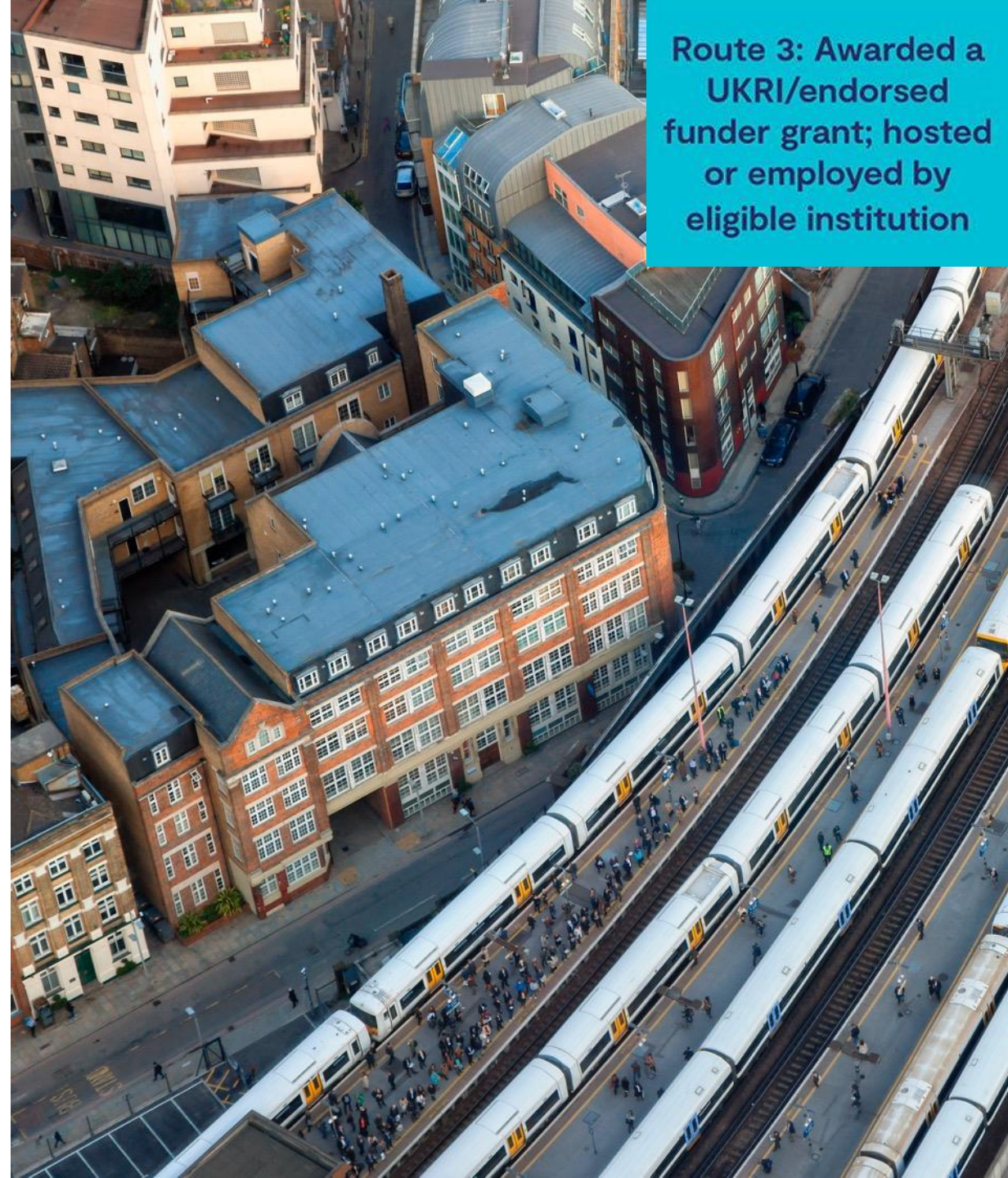


One Global Talent visa, four routes to endorsement



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 (>110 funders) and continuously expanding



Route 3: Awarded a UKRI/endorsed funder grant; hosted or employed by eligible institution

Endorsed Funder route - eligibility

Route 3: Awarded a UKRI/endorsed funder grant; hosted or employed by eligible institution

- The grant must be >£30k, and at least 2 years in duration
- At least 50% of an applicant's time must be on the grant or award from an endorsed funder
- The employment contract or hosting agreement of the applicant must have at least 1 year remaining (was previously 2) at the time of the application for endorsement
- They must independently direct, or direct under the supervision of a Principal Investigator, a unique research or innovation project

OR

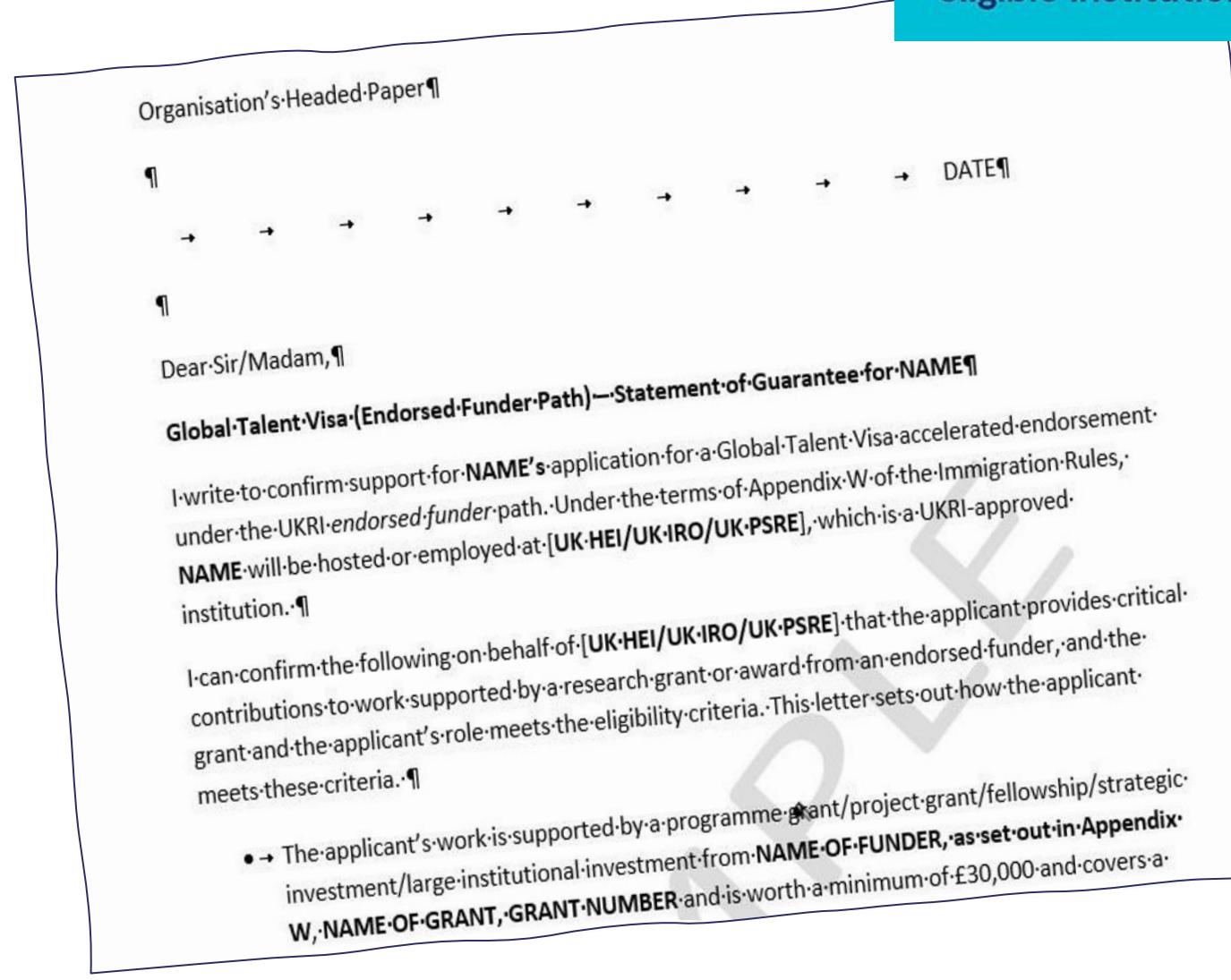
- They must make critical contributions to research through the provision of core technical or domain excellence, or in developing new technologies and methodologies. The applicant will be typically named, or their post listed, on the grant/award under 'directly incurred' costs.

Statement of Guarantee

Route 3: Awarded a UKRI/endorsed funder grant; hosted or employed by eligible institution

Documentation required is straightforward:

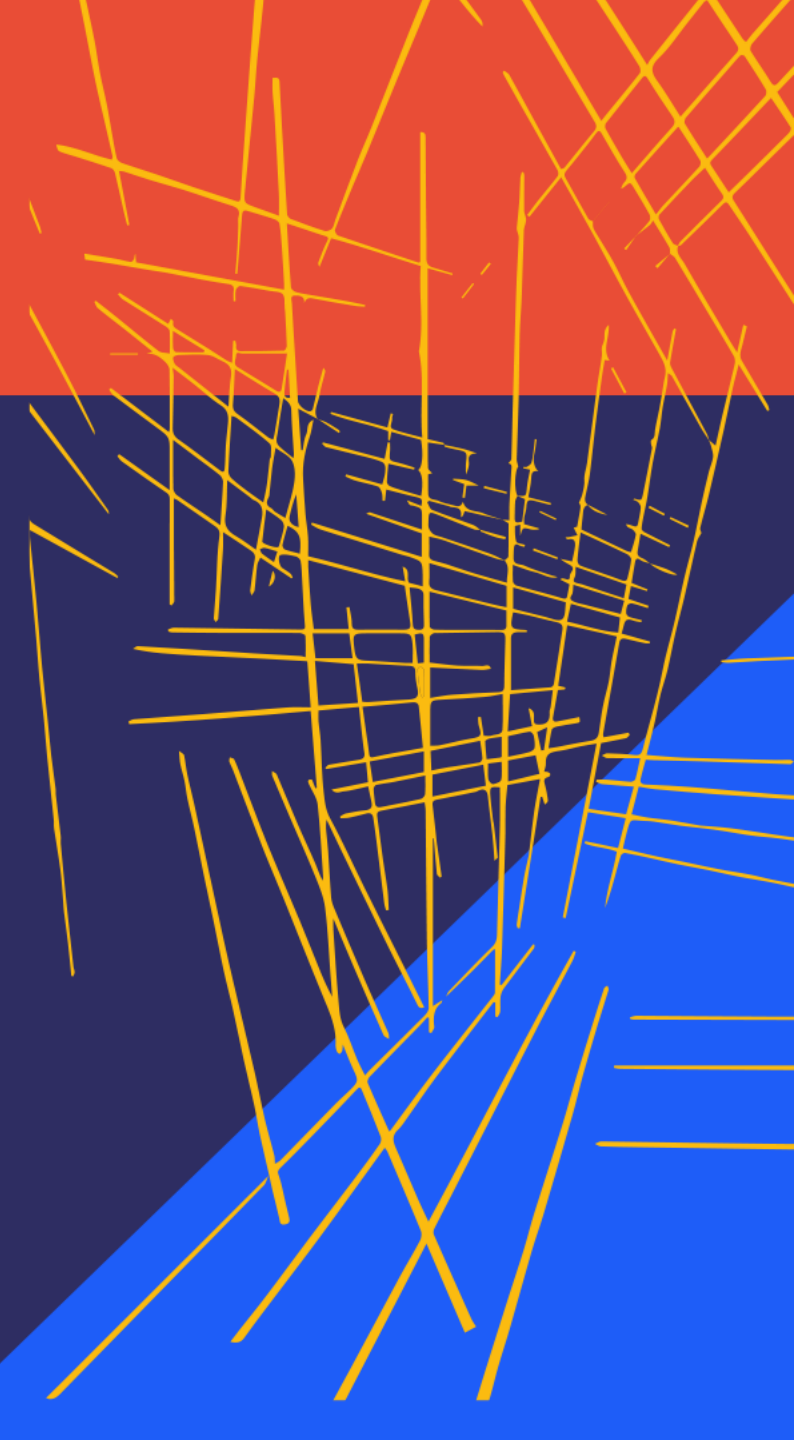
- 1) Award letter
 - Can be linked directly from a database
- 2) Statement of Guarantee
 - Need to confirm each of the eligibility criteria
 - Provided by the host organisation



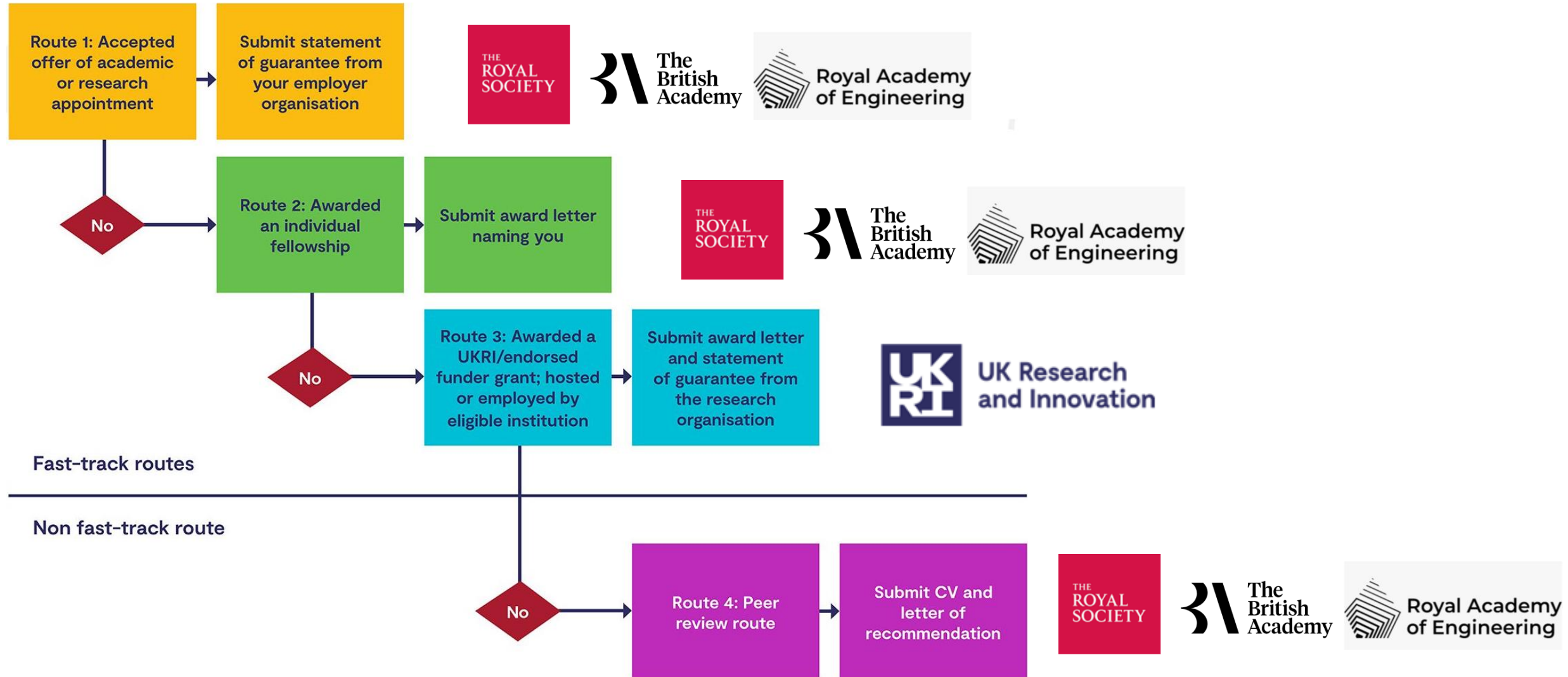


UK Research
and Innovation

Postdoctoral Fellowships



One Global Talent visa, four routes to endorsement






Fast-track fellowship route

Route 2: Awarded
an individual
fellowship

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)

Awards eligible under the '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

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

Fast-track fellowship route

- Eligibility for endorsement opens on the date the award letter is issued and **closes 5 years after the end date** of the fellowship
- Eligibility is open regardless of whether the fellowship is held within or outside of the UK – this is true of both European Fellowships & Global Fellowships
- No restrictions on part-time working, time left on the fellowship, or resigning early – endorsement is maintained
- Over 500 MSCA fellowships endorsed since the start of the GTV in 2020

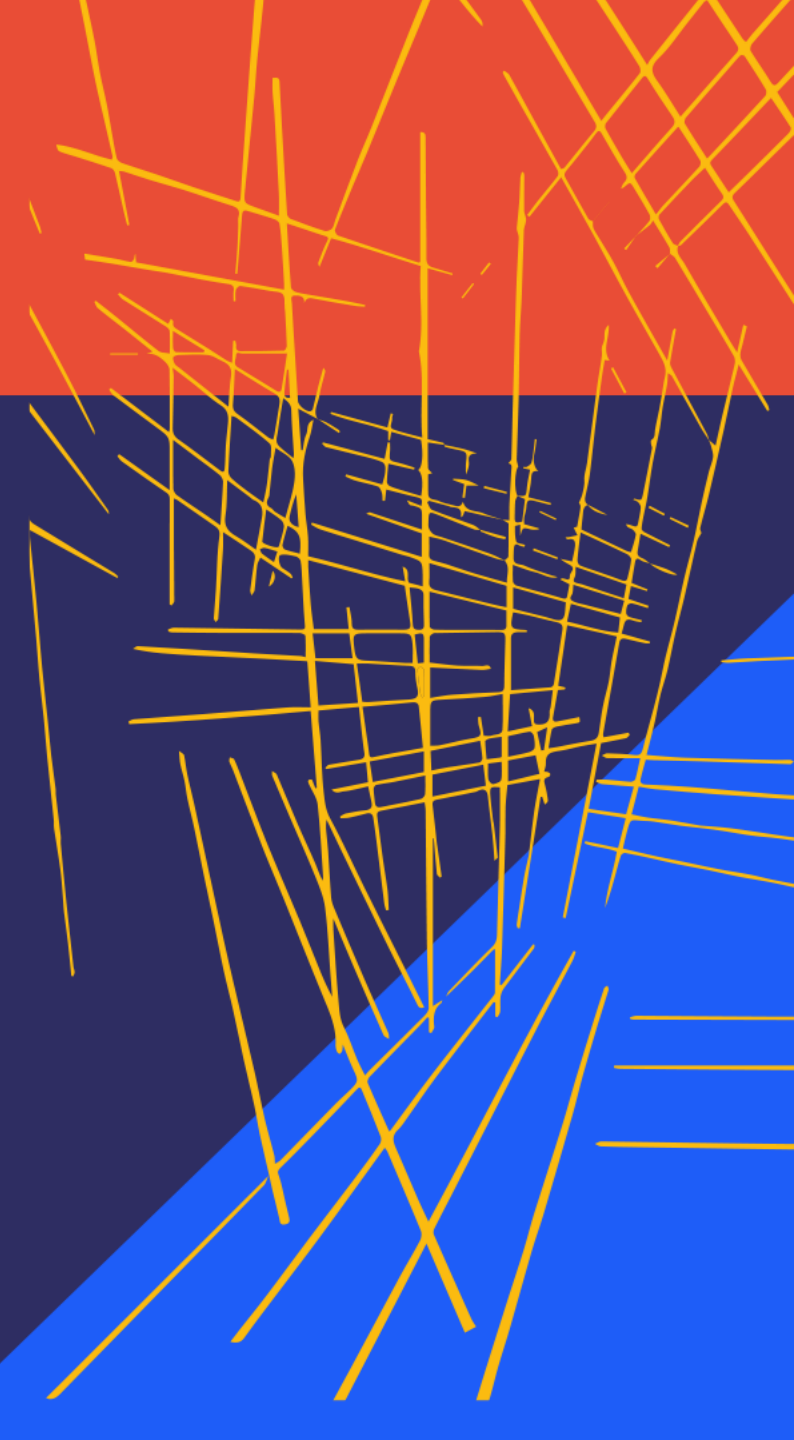
Route 2: Awarded
an individual
fellowship





UK Research
and Innovation

Applying for a visa

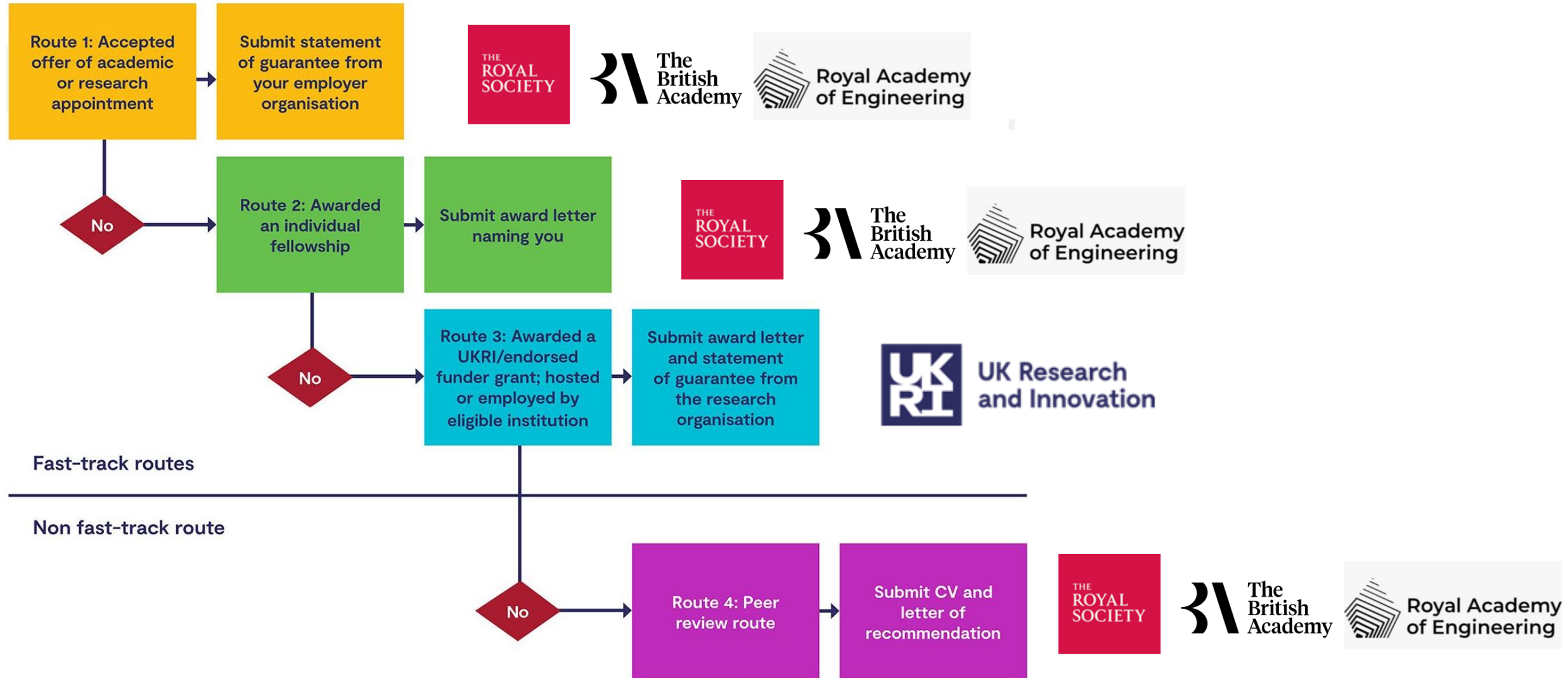


How do I apply for a Global Talent Visa?

- Apply via gov.uk website – two stages
- Stage 1: GTV endorsement
- Stage 2: Visa application
- If a Postdoctoral Fellowship, 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



Stage 1: GTV endorsement



Stage 2: Visa application

- You can submit a 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 a decision has been made
- 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

Choosing your visa length

Visa length is flexible and not tied to the length of the MSCA action – you choose how long you'd like visa to be

There's no limit to how long you can stay in the UK in total, but you will need to 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 in the UK for as long as you would like

**dependants after 5 years*

Why is it important to use the GTV?

Make sure you are applying for best visa for your situation. If you don't, you could face:

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

If you are unsure speak to your coordinator or supervisor, your UK university HR department, relevant endorsing body, or ask the Home Office (UKVI) for further guidance.



One Global Talent visa, four routes to endorsement

