

UK Visa Tier System

The UK visa system consists of the following five categories:

- Tier 1 visa Migrants with desirable professional skills.
- Tier 2 visa skilled workers with an offer of employment.
- Tier 3 visa Temporary, low skilled workers.
- Tier 4 visa Students.
- Tier 5 visa Youth mobility schemes/ temporary workers.
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Tiers 1 and 2 of the system will offer potential routes to settlement in Britain and may lead to the opportunity to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR), often known as permanent residency. Although details are yet to be finalized, it is estimated that the option of permanent residence would be available after two years for applicants in the first tier and after five years for applicants in the second. Beyond this, subject to meeting the appropriate requirements, an applicant may be able to undergo British Naturalization as a UK citizen.

In tiers 2-5 applicants will need to obtain a certificate of sponsorship from the relevant sponsoring body. For tier 2 visas this would be a sponsoring British company, for tier 3 visas the operator of a specific worker scheme, for tier 4 visas the educational institution and for tier 5 visas the home Government of the candidate.

(From www.tier12345.co.uk)