

Opportunities for Tech Talent in the UK

By 1st UK Immigration Lawyers - DM Law Practice



TIER 1 EXCEPTIONAL TALENT VISA

The Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa is for non British and non-EEA nationals who are internationally recognised as world leaders in their field (exceptional talent) or recognised as having the potential to become world leaders in the future (exceptional promise). It enables the brightest and best tech talent from around the world to come and work in the UK's digital technology sector, contributing their cutting-edge expertise, creativity and innovation to maintaining the UK's position at the forefront of the global digital economy.

To be eligible for a Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa, you will first need to receive an endorsement from Tech Nation before applying to the UKVI for the issuance of a Tier 1 Exceptional Talent Visa.



Who is this visa for?

Tech professionals that are able to demonstrate exceptional talent and exceptional promise in the digital tech sector including all tech sub-sectors such as Fintech, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber, and Games.



Eligibility

You must meet the requirement for endorsement by Tech Nation and the requirement of the UKVI for the issuance of the Tier 1 Exceptional Talent Visa.



Duration of visa

You can choose how much leave to apply for, up to a maximum of 5 years. You can subsequently apply to extend your leave if you require further limited leave in the UK. There is no maximum limit on the time you can spend in the UK under the Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa category. Extension applications can be made while you are still in the UK, or alternatively if you need to travel, they can be submitted overseas in any country as long as you have authority to be living in that country (and have been given authority to live there for more than 6 months).

BENEFITS OF TIER 1 EXCEPTIONAL TALENT VISA:

- You can work as self employed/contracted/employed, work in any sector, work for any employer and move between employers without informing the UKVI.
- Bring in your dependant (spouse and children under 18yrs).
- Use the NHS.
- Dependant children will have access to public schools.
- You can study. However, you may need to need to obtain an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate.
- You can apply for settlement after 5 years if you enter the UK on the Exceptional Promise visa or 3 years if you gain an Exceptional Talent Visa.
- You could be eligible to naturalise as a British Citizen 12 months after obtaining permanent residence.

APPLICATION STAGES:



Endorsement with Tech Nation

Tech Nation is the designated competent body for digital technology.



An applicant will be required to first apply to the Tech Nation for an 'endorsement' before applying to the UKVI for the issuance of a Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa.



Tech Nation can endorse 200 applications per year (April to April) but has the ability to endorse up to a further 1000 if required.



Applicants with technical and business skills should make their applications to Tech Nation. Tech Nation have a single set of criteria for applicants.



There are fast track options for individuals planning to contribute to the North of the UK and for individuals with skills which are in particularly short supply.



A team of 5 individuals can make an application under the fast track route, for example, an existing team planning a new venture in the UK.



Tech Nation's endorsement criteria are designed for applicants with the technical and business skills in the digital technology sector. Suitable skill types list below, however please note that this list is not exhaustive and provides an indication of the typical applicant assessed by Tech Nation

Technical skills

Business skills

DevOps / SysOps engineers

Principal software engineers/developers

Experienced data scientists/data engineers

Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning experts (AI, NLP, ML)

Cybersecurity experts

Hardware engineers

Experienced front-end developers

Operating systems engineers

Experienced video game developers

Experienced UX/UI designers

Experienced Mobile App developers

Experienced back end developers leading development of or contributing heavily to major new technologies or open source projects (e.g. blockchain, Scala, Golang, Elasticsearch etc)

CTO or VP engineering experience managing teams of in-house employees at a growing digital business

Virtual and augmented reality developers

Experience of leading substantial VC investment over £25m GBP

Experience as a commercial / business lead (P&L, growth, sales and distribution strategy) in a digital business

Experience of expanding or growing a significant product-led digital technology business

Sector-specific experience e.g. payment infrastructure in FinTech / international expansion in EdTech etc.

Solution sales experts

Experienced Product Manager

SaaS or enterprise sales leadership for digital services

Solution sales skills performed for a growing B2B digital business (i.e. not big-company experience)

Performance marketing experts, performed in house for digital businesses

Experienced and senior VC or PE analysts with track records of leading investments in digital businesses

Experience as C Suite in a SMEs + (CEO, CMO, CIO) or head of operations for a digital business

Please note the following specialisms are not considered suitable:

Service Delivery, Process Delivery, Outsourcing, Consultancy / ERP Consultancy, Systems Admin and all related fields.

Corporate roles or experience of managing large corporate teams.

Junior investors / analysts. Such specialisms must be supported by an investment track record made at a senior level and are not suitable for Exceptional Promise.

Business skills apply to in-house work within product-led digital technology companies, not tech-enabled or service companies such as agencies, outsourcers, marketing firms etc.

To be eligible for Tech Nation's endorsement, there are two options for applicants : **Exceptional Talent** and **Exceptional Promise**. The criteria for both Talent and Promise are listed below. Applicants must meet one of the key, and two of the qualifying criteria from the relevant column in the table below. Applicants cannot mix criteria from the Exceptional Talent and Exceptional Promise columns interchangeably.

Also, in meeting these criteria, **Technical applicants must demonstrate proven technical expertise in building, using, deploying or exploiting a technology stack and building technical infrastructure**. Business applicants must demonstrate proven commercial, investment or product expertise in building digital products or leading investments in significant digital product businesses.

Exceptional Talent	Exceptional Promise
Key	Key
<p>1. Have a proven track record of innovation in the digital technology sector as a director or founder of a digital technology company or an employee working in a new digital field or concept that must be clearly evidenced</p> <p>2. Proof of recognition for work outside your immediate occupation that has contributed to the advancement of the sector (e.g. evidence that you have gone beyond your day to day profession to engage in an activity that contributes to the advancement of the sector)</p>	<p>1. Provide more than one example of innovation in the digital technology sector as a founder of a digital technology sector company or an employee working in a new digital field or concept that must be clearly evidenced</p> <p>2. Proof of recognition for work outside your immediate occupation that has contributed to the advancement of the sector (e.g. evidence that you have gone beyond your day to day profession to engage in an activity that contributes to the advancement of the sector)</p>
Qualifying	Qualifying
<p>1. Have made significant technical, commercial, or entrepreneurial contributions in the digital technology sector as either a founder, entrepreneur or employee of a digital technology company</p> <p>2. Have been recognised as a leading talent in the digital technology sector</p> <p>3. Have undergone continuous learning / mastery of new digital skills (commercial or technical) throughout your career</p> <p>4. Have demonstrated exceptional ability in the field by making academic contributions through research published or otherwise endorsed by a research supervisor or other expert</p>	<p>1. Have made significant technical, commercial, or entrepreneurial contributions in the digital technology sector as either a founder, entrepreneur or employee of a digital technology company</p> <p>2. Have been recognised as having the potential to be a leading talent in the digital technology sector</p> <p>3. Have undergone continuous learning / mastery of new digital skills (commercial or technical) throughout your career</p> <p>4. Provide two or more examples of exceptional ability in the field by making academic contributions through research endorsed by a research supervisor or other expert</p>

How can DM Law practice help with your application?

DM Law Practice is a sought after UK immigration law firm. We have over the years assisted several applicants within and outside of the UK to obtain Tier 1 Exceptional Talent Visas.

Our services will include the following:

- ✓ Provide initial advice on the eligibility for the issuance of the visa.
- ✓ Recommend, review supporting documents prior to the submission of endorsement application and visa application.
- ✓ Assist with the endorsement application process.
- ✓ Assist with Tier 1 Exceptional Talent Visa application to the UKVI.
- ✓ Completion of UKVI online application forms based on your instructions.
- ✓ Assist with conversion of all supporting to PDF and uploading same on the UKVI portal.
- ✓ Advise on conditions and privileges of the visa.

Contact our immigration Lawyers on

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