

Mobility: Immigration alert

May 2021



India

New migration and mobility agreement with the United Kingdom

Executive summary

On 4 May 2021, India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a new Migration and Mobility Partnership with the United Kingdom. The MoU is expected to lead to reciprocal, speedier issuance of visas between the two countries. It also represents an opportunity for young Indian citizens to gain work experience in the UK, and for UK employers to gain greater access to the Indian labor market.

Objectives

The Partnership is expected to:

- ▶ Relax restrictions on mobility of Indian students, academics, researchers and young professionals for the purposes of work or study in the UK
- ▶ Strengthen cooperation on issues relating to illegal migration and human trafficking in both countries
- ▶ Offer employment opportunities for young Indian professionals in the UK, without being subject to labour market tests.

The Young Professionals Scheme

The UK and India have agreed to facilitate the exchange of young professionals already in employment or entering working life, who wish to improve their career prospects through the experience of salaried work in a company registered in accordance with the laws and regulations of the other participant's country, for up to a maximum period of two years.

The Scheme is designed to create opportunities for young professionals, and it will apply as follows:

- ▶ It will be capped at 3,000 participants per year
- ▶ It will be open to young professionals between the ages of 18 and 30
- ▶ It will allow participants to take up employment (where regulated professions are concerned; the young professionals are subject to the criteria defined by the host country)
- ▶ Participants must hold a diploma/degree which validates the completion of at least three years of higher education corresponding to the qualification required for the employment on offer, or have professional experience of comparable level in the sphere of activity concerned and be able to express themselves in the language(s) of the host country
- ▶ Authorized work period under the Young Professionals Scheme will be a period of 24 months for all eligible applicants
- ▶ Young UK or Indian professionals may not continue to reside in the host country after the authorized work period expires but where relevant, they may be authorized to continue their stay (switch) in the host country provided that they obtain an employment contract as per the relevant immigration rules

Qualifying requirements for the Scheme

Applicants must:

- ▶ Submit an application to the concerned visa center authorized by the competent authority (Indian High Commission in UK, UK Mission in India)
- ▶ Comply with all applicable immigration laws and regulations
- ▶ Be a citizen of either India or the UK, and hold a valid passport of the corresponding country
- ▶ Demonstrate sufficient financial resources to meet their financial needs during their authorized period of stay
- ▶ Hold a valid degree or diploma

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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