

Mobility: Immigration alert

November 2023



United Kingdom

UK government announces GBP 118 million artificial intelligence skills package

Executive summary

On 31 October 2023, the UK government published a [press release](#) outlining measures to “future-proof” the UK’s artificial intelligence (AI) skills base, including a new visa scheme and a push for students to take on AI and data courses.

Key developments

As part of its strategy to ensure the UK has the top global expertise and fosters the next generation of researchers needed to seize the transformational benefits of AI, the UK government has announced that it will fund GBP 118 million to boost skills in AI within the UK. The money will be used to fund a range of developments, including:

- ▶ The creation of a £1million “AI Future Grants Scheme” to support top AI researchers and engineers from across the globe to come to the UK to work with UK universities and businesses
- ▶ 15 GREAT scholarships for international students to come to the UK to study science and technology courses including subjects related to AI or life sciences
- ▶ Backing the Invisible Geniuses (BIG) scholarship pilot to attract top STEM talent to the UK’s leading universities

The UK also plans to introduce a new visa scheme which will allow the world’s most talented AI researchers who are starting their careers to undertake internships and placements with the most innovative businesses in the UK.

In addition, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) announced investments in 12 Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) in AI. The aim is to develop the next generation of researchers to explore and identify the benefits of AI technology in the public sector (including schools and healthcare), businesses and everyday life.

Impact on employers

Innovative businesses within the technology and AI sectors may be able to utilize a newly created visa scheme to bring international tech talent who are early in their careers to the UK for work experience, training or research.

The measures announced, coupled with a push for students to take on AI and data courses, are designed to ensure the UK has the skilled workforce it needs for efficiency transformation and productivity across the UK.

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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