

Mobility: Immigration alert

May 2021



United Kingdom

The UK and India sign a Memorandum of Understanding on a new mobility and migration partnership

Executive summary

Under the Memorandum, several new initiatives have been announced encouraging:

- Regular short stays of nationals of the other participant's country who are actively and sustainably contributing to the vitality of bilateral relations, and the issuance of a short-stay, multiple entry visa, with a longer validity period, where appropriate
- Mobility of students, academics and researchers, and migration for professional and economic reasons
- Exchanges of young professionals and joint action in favor of such exchanges
- Mobility for skilled Indian nationals with a project of an economic, scientific, technological, cultural or humanitarian nature, that is likely to make a significant contribution to the development of relations between the two countries, in accordance with the UK immigration rules
- Mobility of researchers, doctoral students and expert scientists, for the purposes of work or study

Key issues

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 2 years.

This appears similar to the Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS), although the mechanics of this route in the UK are to be confirmed.

The new "Young Professionals Scheme" is designed to create opportunities for young professionals and 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; 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 qualifications 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
- The 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 (similar to the YMS), where relevant, they may be authorized to continue their stay (switch) in the host country provided they obtain an employment contract as per the relevant immigration rules

Qualifying requirements for the Scheme

Applicants must:

- Submit an individual application to the relevant organization responsible for collection and submission of applications for the UK or India
- Comply with all relevant immigration law and regulations
- Be a national of either India or the UK, and hold a valid passport issued by the applicant's country of nationality
- Not have previously taken part in the Scheme
- Be able to demonstrate sufficient financial resources to meet their needs during their authorized period of stay
- Not be accompanied by any dependent(s) under their application
- Hold a valid degree or diploma
- The duration of the authorized period of stay may not exceed 24 months. For UK nationals who wish to remain in India for the maximum total period allowed, this can take the form of two consecutive 12-month periods of stay

The Scheme will not permit nationals of India and the UK to engage as professionals in employment for which they are not qualified or as a professional sportsperson (including as a coach).

Key steps

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

EY | Building a better working world

create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

Ernst & Young LLP is a client-serving member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited operating in the US.

© 2021 Ernst & Young LLP.
All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 003793-21Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

ey.com

Seema Farazi, Partner
Tel: +44 20 7951 7122
Email: Seema.Farazi@uk.ey.com

Kellie Sullivan, Director
Tel: +44 20 7806 9707
Email: Kellie.Sullivan1@uk.ey.com