



**UK Research  
and Innovation**

# **UK immigration system in the context of UK-EU research collaborations**

**Linda Holliday**

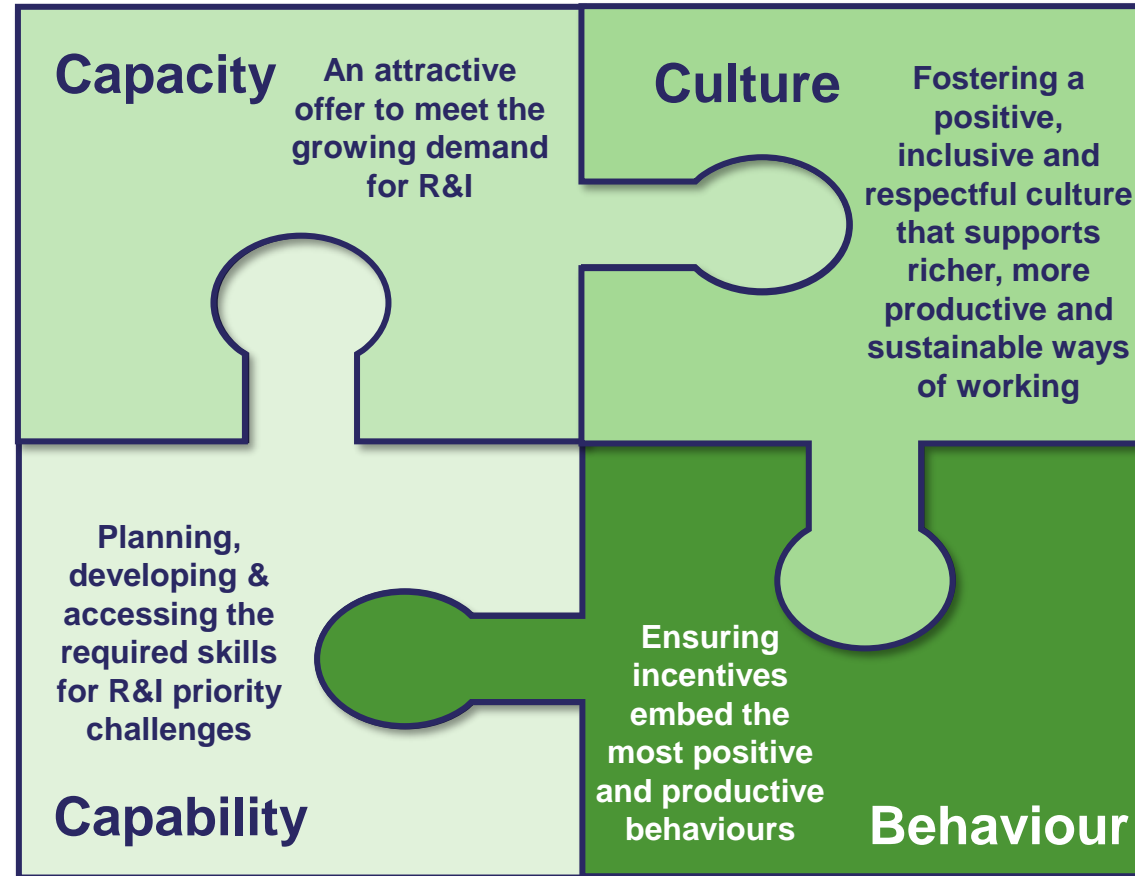
**Deputy Director for Global Mobility & Inclusion at UKRI**



# UKRI's ambitions for systemic change

## HOW

- Ensuring the UK has a competitive offer to researchers, including addressing concerns about precarity
- Enabling more people to move into R&I and between parts of the system
  
- **Attracting and enabling talented people to choose to work in the UK**
- Developing stronger leadership skills at all levels
- Nurturing the talents of a broader diversity of people and across all career stages, connecting sectors, disciplines and working cultures



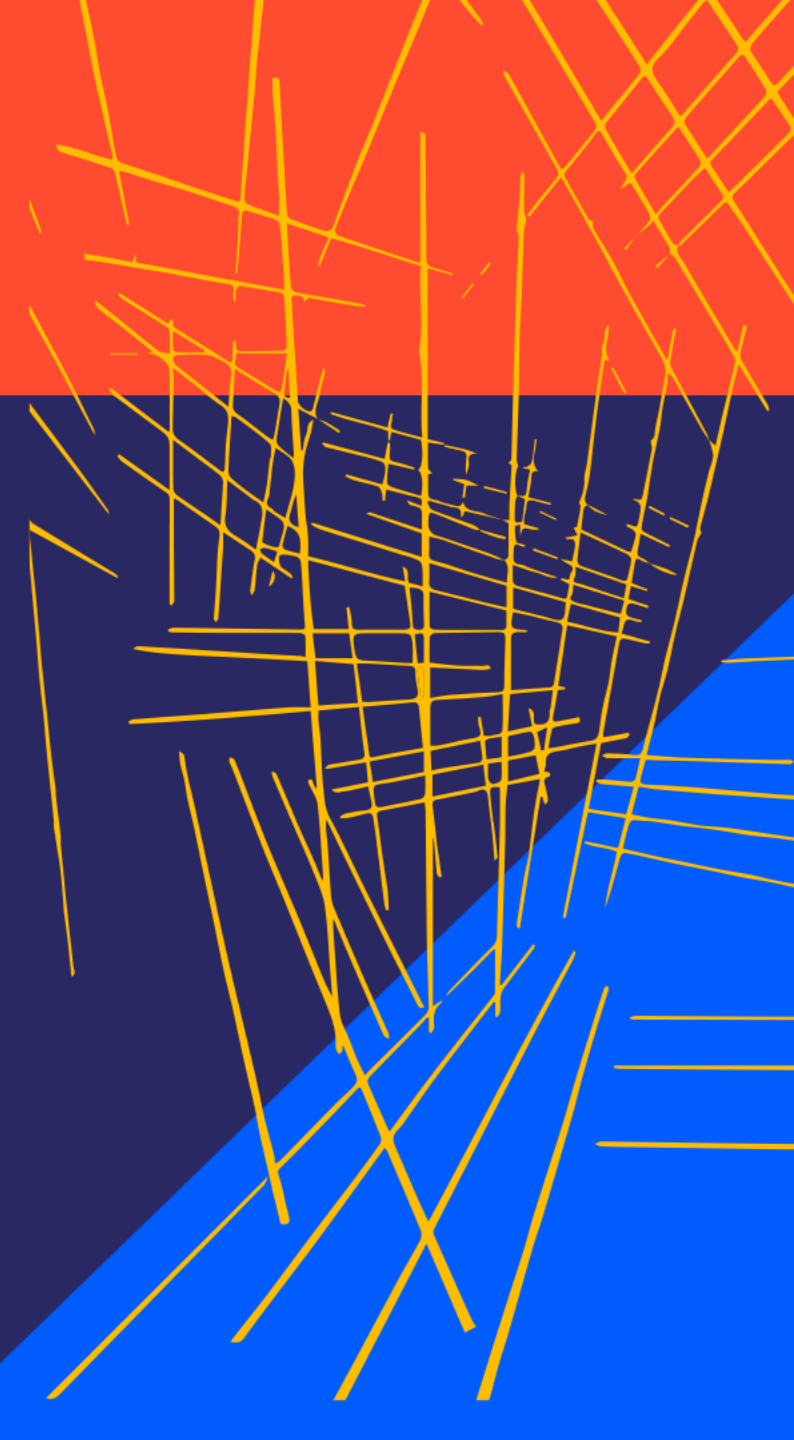
## HOW

- Valuing diversity of thought and building best practices for equality and inclusion
- Encouraging greater & broader participation in R&I – e.g. piloting new approaches to public dialogue and community-led research
  
- Criteria and evaluation systems that enable the valuing of a broader range of skills and experiences - e.g. review of expert peer review, rollout of narrative CV
- Reviewing the expectations and incentives for behaviour set by existing assessment frameworks and policies



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# 1. UK Immigration Routes



# UK Visa System – Work & Study

Visa route	What does it enable?
<b><u>EU Settlement scheme</u></b>	Offers EU, EEA & Swiss nationals (plus eligible family members) that were living in the UK before the end of the transition period the opportunity to protect their residence rights in the UK after the transition period has ended.
<b><u>Global Talent Visa</u></b>	<b>Global Talent visa</b> – work in the UK if the applicant is a leader or potential leader in one of the following fields (subject to Endorsing Body criteria): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academia or research</li><li>• Arts &amp; culture</li><li>• Digital technology</li></ul>
<b><u>Innovator visa</u></b> <b><u>Start up visa</u></b>	<b>Innovator or Start up visa</b> applicant must meet the following (subject to Endorsing Body criteria): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They want to set up or run a business in the UK</li><li>• Are from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) &amp; Switzerland</li><li>• Their business or business idea had been endorsed by an approved body</li></ul>
<b><u>Skilled Worker</u></b>	Skilled workers who have a job offer from an approved employer sponsor. Replaced Tier 2 route from 1 January 2021.

Visa route	What does it enable?
<b><u>Student visa</u></b>	For students aged 16+ from outside the UK who wish to study on a further or higher education course in the UK.
<b><u>Doctorate Extension Scheme</u></b>	Enables a PhD student to apply to stay in the UK to look for work after they have finished their PhD or doctorate at an accredited UK Institution.
<b><u>Graduate visa</u></b>	Available to international students who have completed a degree in the UK from summer 2021. It gives permission to stay in the UK for at least 2 years after successfully completing a course in the UK (3 years for doctoral programmes).
<b>Temporary Workers</b> <b>7 Routes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Agreements</li> <li>• Government Authorised Exchange</li> <li>• Charity Workers</li> <li>• Creative &amp; sporting</li> <li>• Religious worker</li> <li>• Season worker</li> <li>• Youth Mobility</li> </ul>	<p>Main use of the Temporary Workers routes for the sector are:</p> <p><b><u>Youth Mobility</u></b> – This route is for sponsored young people from participating countries or territories who wish to experience life in the UK.</p> <p><b><u>Government Authorised Exchange</u></b> – through approved schemes that aim to share knowledge, experience and best practice through work placements (up to 24 months). Cannot be used to fill job vacancies or to bring unskilled labour to the UK. Sponsorship is available through HEIs or UKRI approved institutes.</p>
<b><u>UK Ancestry</u></b>	The UK Ancestry route allows Commonwealth citizens with a UK-born grandparent to live & work in the UK.



NOT OFFICIAL GUIDANCE



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## 2. Why the Global Talent Visa?





# Why the GTV?

The Global Talent Visa provides numerous benefits:

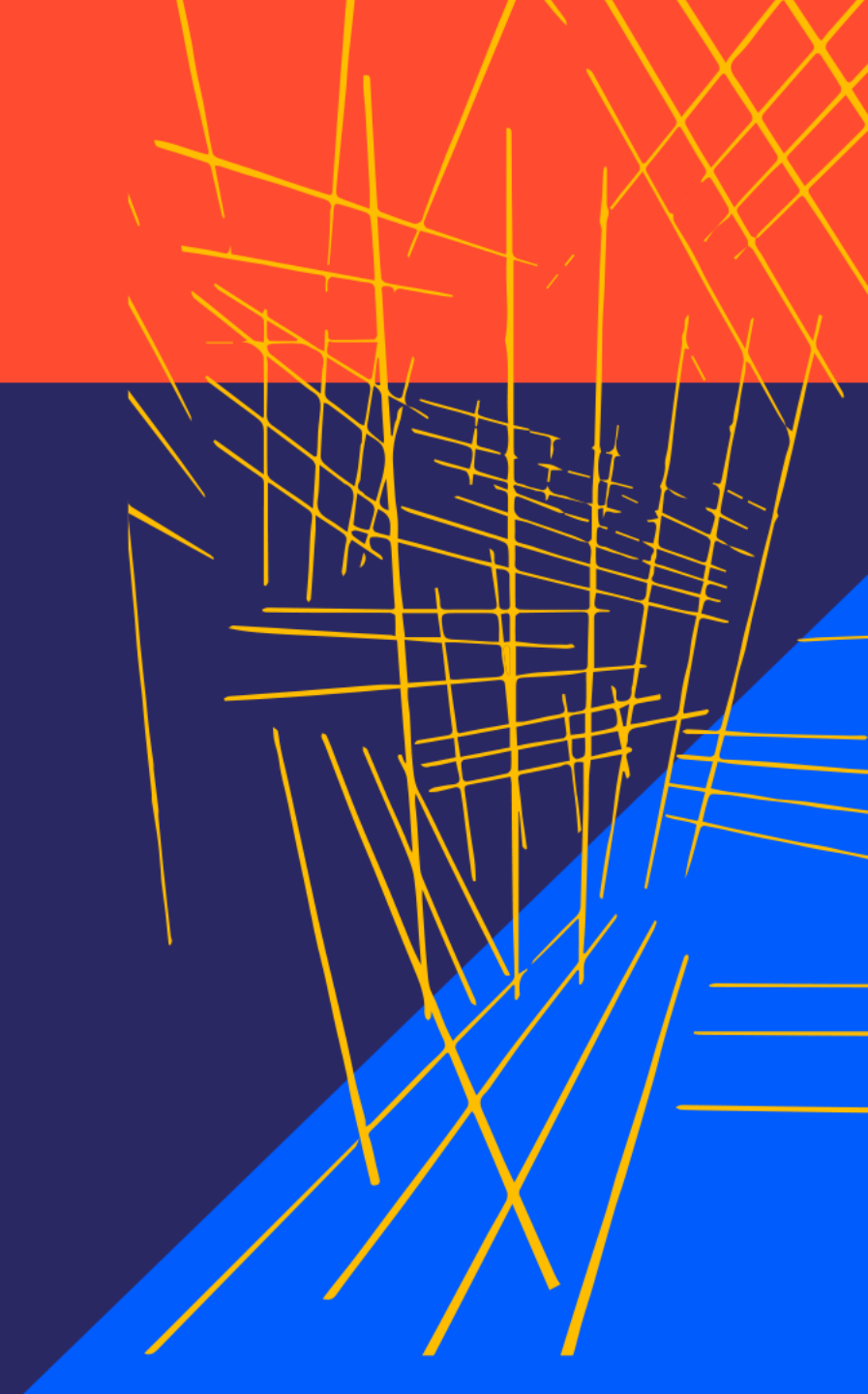
- Personal visa, not tied to employer or host
- Fast-tracked process
- A flexible visa for up to 5 years, allowing holders to come and go from the UK at will
- Eligibility for settled status after 3 years
- No minimum salary requirement
- No requirement to have a confirmed job offer
- No requirement to complete an English Test Qualification
- Affirm existing arrangements to bring dependents with access to the labour market





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# 3. Using the visa





# GTV – one visa, 4 routes to endorsement

## Global Talent one visa, four routes to endorsement\*

Have you accepted the offer of an eligible **academic or research appointment** at an institution approved by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and Royal Society?

YES

If you have been offered a role with responsibility for academic, research or innovation leadership and development **OR** for directing or leading an individual or team research or innovation project or programme of work, you need a statement of guarantee from the HR Director or equivalent at the employing institution confirming that certain recruitment and role requirements have been met to support your application for a fast-track visa.

NO

Have you been awarded an **individual fellowship** on the list approved by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and Royal Society?

YES

If your fellowship is listed and you hold it currently or have done so within the last five years, you must submit a copy of the award letter as part of your fast-track visa application\*\*.

NO

Are you working on a research grant\*\*\* issued by an **endorsed funder** on the list approved by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)?

YES

If you as an individual or your role is named in a successful grant application from an endorsed funder, you need to submit both the award letter and a statement of guarantee from the employing or hosting institution as part of your application for a fast-track visa. The funder and the institution must both be on the approved UKRI list.

NO

Check the eligibility and assessment criteria for standard endorsement and submit an application for **peer review** by the British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering or Royal Society\*\*\*\*.

**UPDATED**

\* Holders of certain prestigious prizes can apply for a Global Talent visa without going through the initial endorsement stage. The list of eligible awards and further information is available on GOV.UK.

\*\* Eligibility for the individual fellowships route opens on the date that the award letter is issued and closes five years after the fellowship has ended.

\*\*\* Eligibility extends to the principal investigator (PIs), co-investigators (Co-Is) and team roles stated in the grant application at graduate level and above – for example, postdoctoral researchers, research assistants, technologists and methodologists. Eligible individuals must spend at least 50% of their work time on fulfilling the grant conditions (PIs and Co-Is holding multiple grants must demonstrate 50% in aggregate). A minimum award threshold of £30,000 applies and the minimum grant duration is 24 months. Individuals must have at least one year left on their employment contract or hosting agreement to be eligible. Temporary exemptions apply to researchers working on COVID-19 related projects.

\*\*\*\* The British Academy reviews standard 'exceptional talent and promise' applications from the humanities and social sciences, the Royal Academy of Engineering covers engineering, and the Royal Society covers natural and medical sciences. If you do not meet the criteria for standard endorsement, you may still be eligible for a Skilled Worker visa. If you are coming to the UK for the purposes of collaboration, training or knowledge exchange, you may apply through the Government Authorised Exchange Worker route.

# Endorsed Funders

1. The UKRI operated Endorsed Funder route allows researcher working on grants from UKRI-recognised Endorsed Funders to be eligible for a GTV
2. The list of Endorsed Funders is large (>80 funders) and continuously expanding. It includes a range of funders both domestic and international.
3. Applicants are required to be employed or hosted at a UKRI approved host organisation

Are you working on a research grant\* issued by an **endorsed funder** on the list approved by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)?





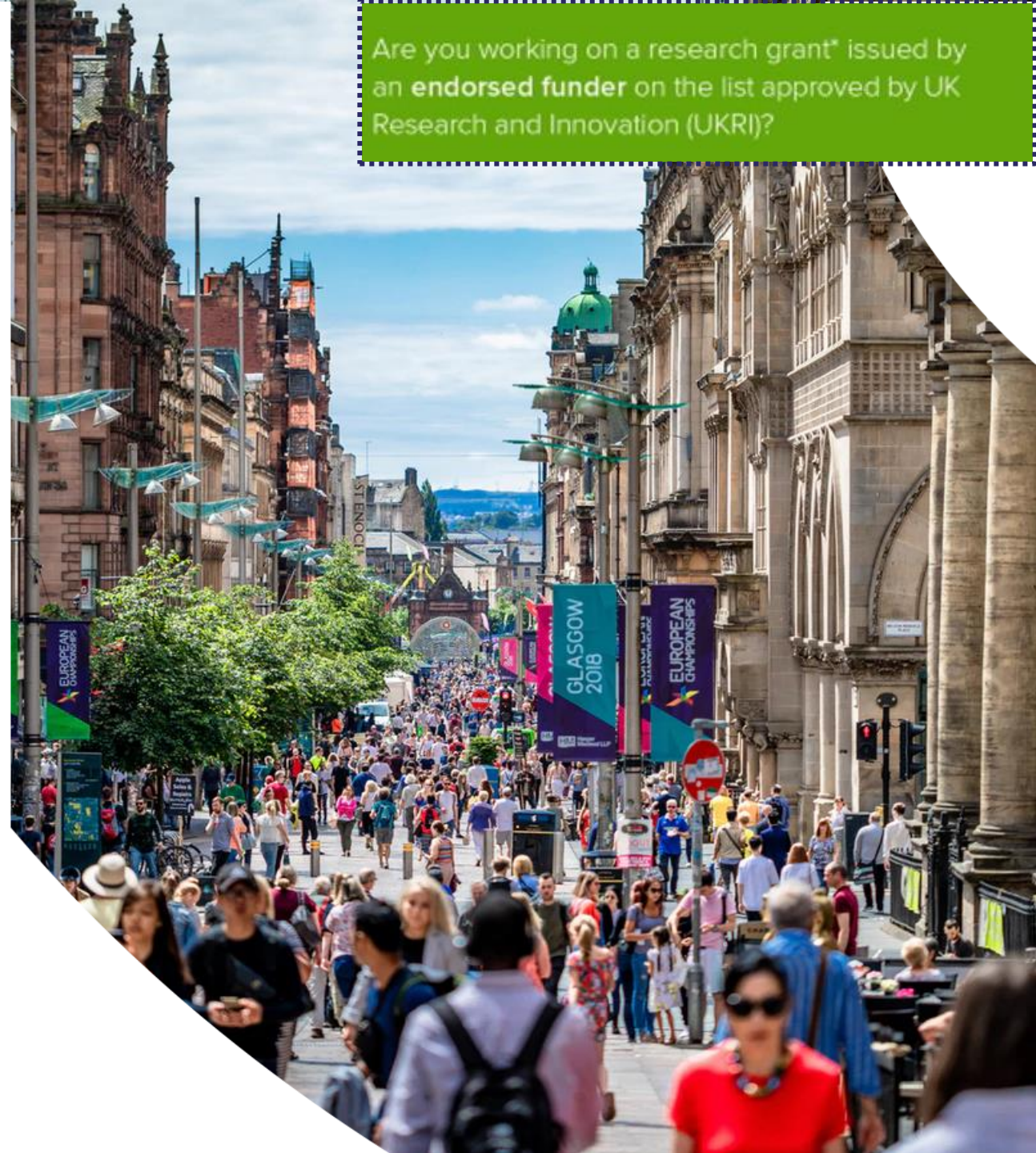
# Who can apply?

Anyone who is either named personally on a grant OR has a defined position on that grant from an endorsed funder

Not just for professors!  
Specialist technical staff working on the grant - as long as they are hosted at a UKRI recognised research organisation

The eligibility criteria can be found in the **Home Office guidance** on their website

Are you working on a research grant\* issued by an endorsed funder on the list approved by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)?





# Endorsed Funders eligibility

Are you working on a research grant\* issued by an endorsed funder on the list approved by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)?

- The grant must be >£30k, and at least 2 years' in duration
- At least 50% of an applicant's time must be on the grant or award from an endorsed funder
- The employment contract or hosting agreement of the applicant must have at least 2 years remaining at the time of the application for endorsement. *UPDATED 6 October: now at least 1 year remaining*
- They must independently direct, or direct under the supervision of a Principal Investigator, a unique research or innovation project.

OR

- They must make critical contributions to research through the provision of core technical or domain excellence, or in developing new technologies and methodologies. The applicant will be typically named, or their post listed, on the grant/award under 'directly incurred' costs.

# Host organisations

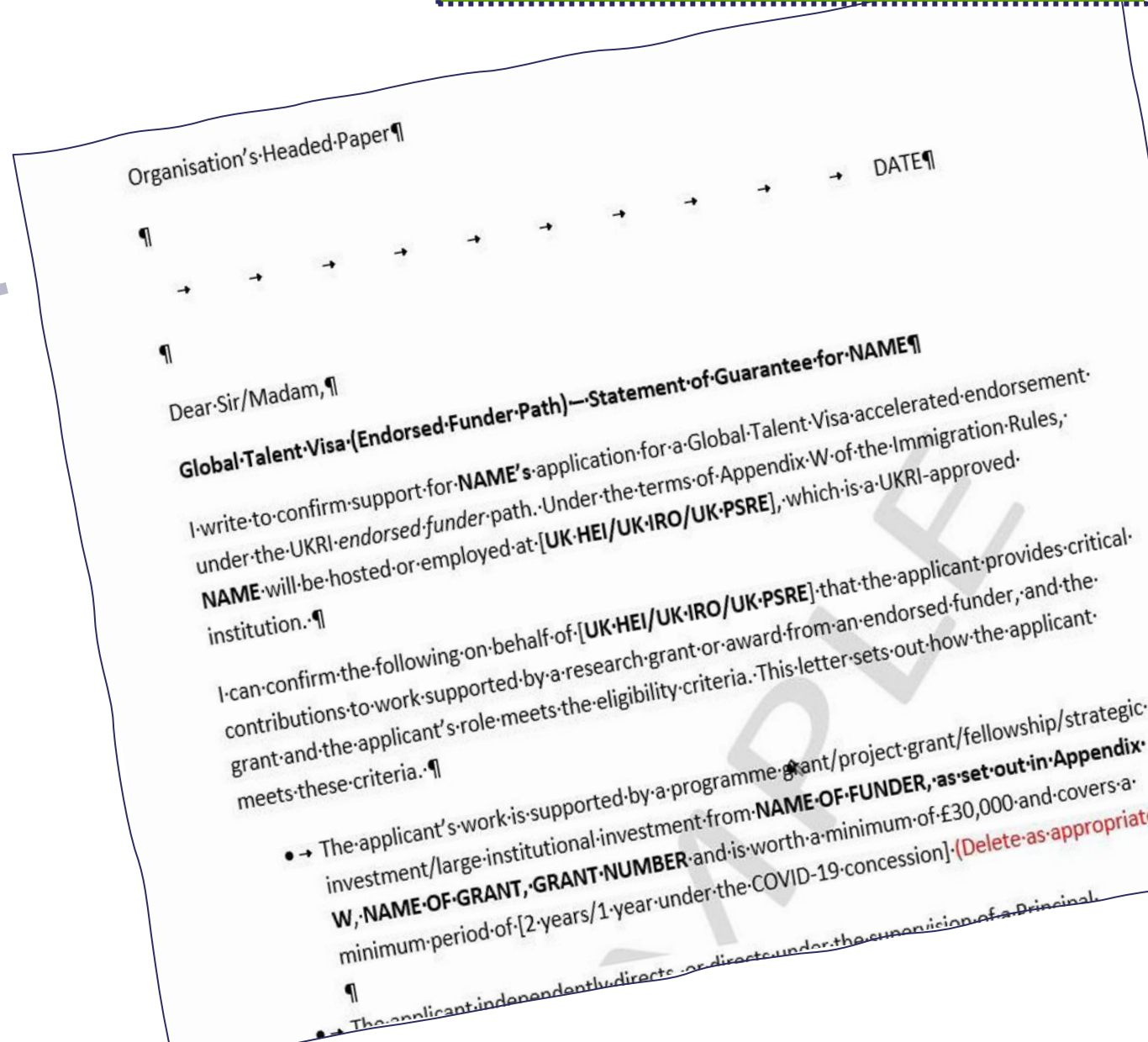
The GTV reduces the amount of bureaucracy and paperwork needed for a visa

Host organisations need to support the applicant by providing:

- Grant award letter (redacted if necessary)  
*from 6 October there's now an option to provide this via a link to UKRI curated grant databases*
- A Statement of Guarantee (see right)
- No ongoing immigration responsibilities

globaltalentvisa@ukri.org

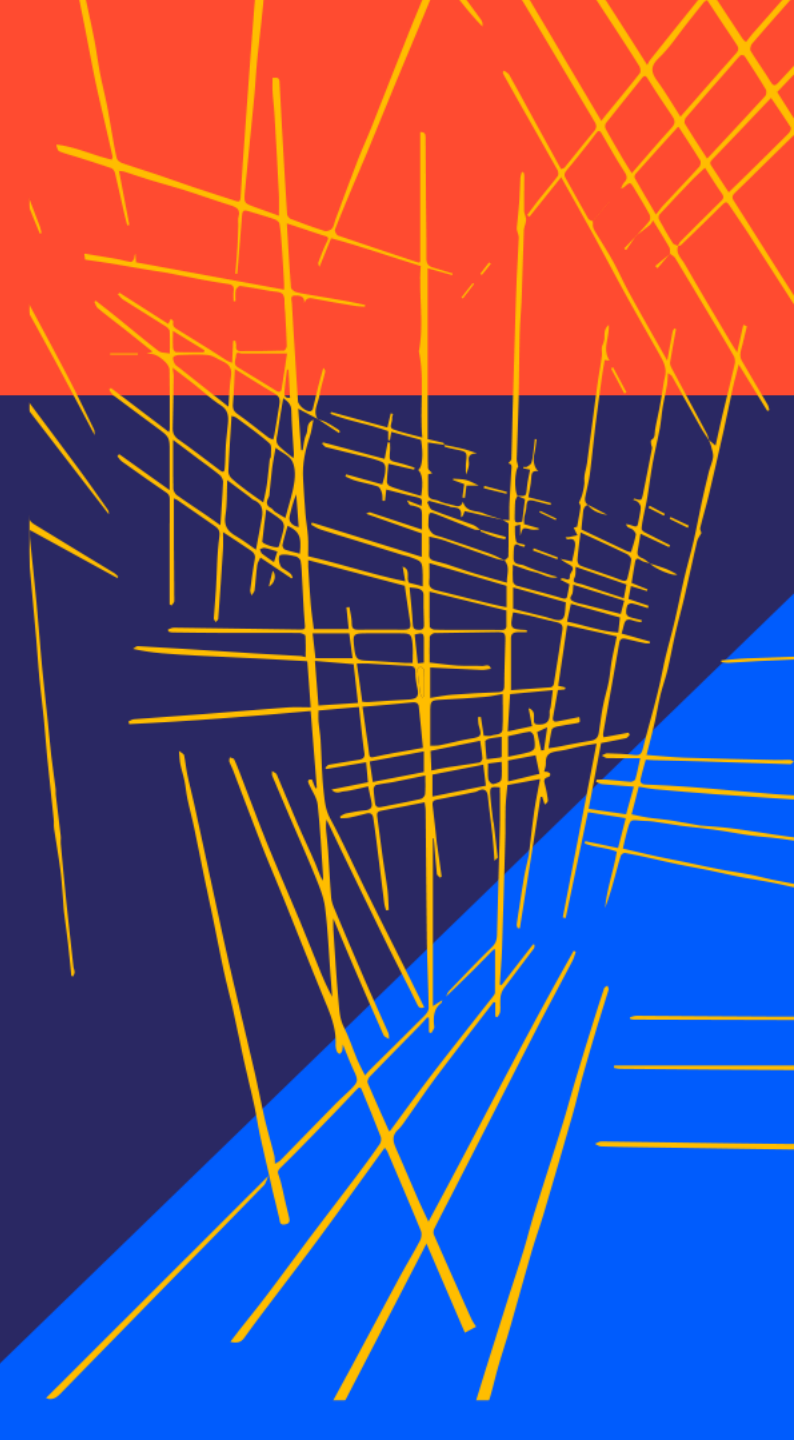
Are you working on a research grant\* issued by an endorsed funder on the list approved by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)?





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# 4. Developing the visa





# Additional funders & host organisations

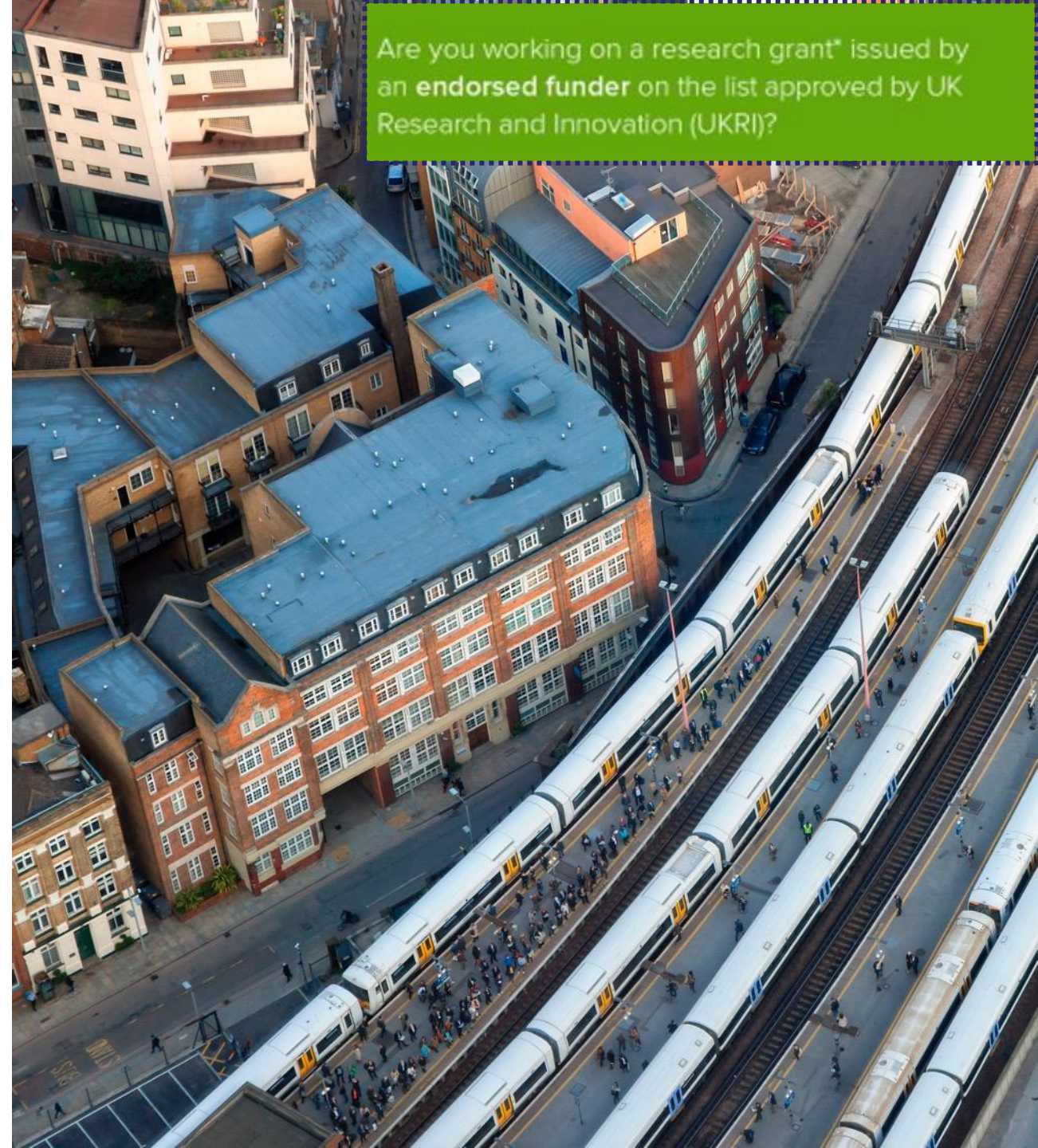
Our External Advisory Board will consider the addition of new funders to this endorsed funder route.

UKRI seek recommendation for new funders via our [Engagement Hub](#)

*Closes: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021*

All suggestions will be evaluated according to our due diligence process. All decisions are subject to sign-off from UKRI & the UK Immigration Minister.

Are you working on a research grant\* issued by an endorsed funder on the list approved by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)?





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# Questions?







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# Thank you

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