



Employers guide to becoming a licensed sponsor of skilled migrant workers

1. Check your organisation is eligible

- Check the people you want to hire are eligible to come to the UK under the new **points-based immigration system**
- Ensure you are able to provide the **necessary supporting documents** for your sponsor licence application, e.g. details of your organisation and intended jobs you wish to fill
- To get a licence, you cannot have unspent criminal convictions for immigration offences or certain other crimes, such as fraud or money laundering

2. Ensure your organisation can manage its licence

- You need to appoint people within your organisation to manage the sponsorship process when you apply
- They will be responsible for ensuring your organisation remains compliant within the requirements of the licence
- You will need to **keep record of your staff that you sponsor** for reporting to UKVI (UK Visas and Immigration)

3. Apply – allow 8 weeks

1. **Apply online and pay the fee**
 2. The fee is dependent on the type of licence(s) you are applying for and the type and size of your organisation. It will either be £536 or £1,476
 3. Send your supporting documents to UKVI
 4. Confirm how many staff you plan to recruit through the sponsorship system for the current financial year
 5. Each staff member sponsored costs £21 or £199, in addition to the usual visa application fees
- ✓ If successful, your licence will be valid for 4 years

4. Sponsor a worker – 15 days*

1. Once you have selected a candidate, they must make a **visa application** to work in the UK
 2. You must first endorse your prospective employee's visa through your sponsor licence account by requesting then issuing an electronic 'certificate of sponsorship'
 3. Pay the Immigration Skills Charge. This is £1,000 for the first year of work in the UK plus £500 for each additional 6 months, or £364 and £182 respectively for small businesses or charities
 4. The employee must then submit a visa application under the same category as your licence
- ✓ If the prospective employee's visa application is granted, they may travel to the UK and start working



*If sponsoring a migrant worker from outside the EU in 2020 you must normally advertise to the UK labour market for 28 days. If recruiting from 2021, you may immediately advertise globally and non-UK nationals (including those from the EU) will need a visa and your sponsorship to work at your organisation.