

## Tier 2 (General) visas – Are you eligible?

Where a non-EEA national has no ties to the UK or EU, either through family or ancestry, the only other way in which it is possible to gain the right to work in the UK is through obtaining a visa through the UK points-based immigration system.

Where the work to be undertaken follows the offer of a 'skilled' job in the UK, the Tier 2 (General) visa route is the most appropriate. To be eligible for this visa route, the individual must score a **minimum of 70 points**, in line with the criteria below. **Failure to score points in one or more of these criteria will result in a visa refusal.**

Criterion	Number of points
Assigned a <b>Certificate of Sponsorship</b>	30
Being paid an <b>appropriate salary</b>	20
Meeting <b>English language</b> requirements	10
Meeting <b>maintenance</b> requirements	10
	<b>70</b>

### Certificate of Sponsorship – 30 points

The Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) is an electronic document issued by a licensed Tier 2 sponsor and is confirmation from that employer that a job offer has been made on the following basis:

- The job has been advertised in line with the Resident Labour Market Test (RLMT) **or** the job is exempt from meeting the RLMT. For further guidance, please see our webpages here: <http://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/hr-services/immigration/visas-and-right-work-uk/time-limited-right-work/tier-2-general/advertising>; and
- A Tier 2 visa application will be lodged within 3 months of the CoS being assigned to the individual; and
- The employment start date is no more than three months after the date of the visa application; and
- The job meets minimum **skill level** requirements.
  - The majority of assistant-staff roles within the University will **not** meet these minimum requirements.
  - All research, academic and academic-related roles **will** qualify.

## **Appropriate Salary – 20 points**

The job offer must meet the Tier 2 minimum salary rate which must be higher than the minimum rate of pay for the type of job you will undertake. Please check the job advertisement for salary details.

For further guidance, please see our webpages here: <http://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/hr-services/immigration/visas-and-right-work-uk/time-limited-right-work/tier-2-general/tier-2-rates>

## **English language – 10 points**

In order to be eligible for a Tier 2 (General) visa, the individual **must** be able to demonstrate a sufficient level of English competence. Full guidance on how to meet these requirements can be found here: [https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/files/tier\\_2\\_english\\_language\\_guidance\\_v.4.pdf](https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/files/tier_2_english_language_guidance_v.4.pdf)

**Please note:** The criteria as set out in the above guidance are the **only** means of proving English language competence for the purposes of this visa.

## **Maintenance – 10 points**

The individual can meet this requirement in one of two ways. Either:

- They must have £945 in savings - this is to prove they can support themselves in the first month of employment until salary is paid. This minimum amount must have been held in a bank account for at least 90 days before the date of the visa application. **Note:** if the individual is also bringing dependents, in addition to the amount above, they must evidence an additional £630 per dependent for at least 90 days prior to the visa application

### **OR**

- As the University is a Premium Tier 2 sponsor, the recruiting department is able to 'certify' the maintenance of sponsored individuals at their own discretion. What this means is that the University provides a guarantee that the individual will have enough money to support themselves for the first month of employment and that the department will assist them in the event that this is not the case. If the department agree to this undertaking, then the CoS will be marked accordingly and the individual will not be required to submit any evidence of funds as part of the visa application. **Note:** where there are dependants, the department can also agree to certifying the maintenance of those dependants, but this is entirely at their own discretion.

## **General grounds for refusal**

Please note that even where an individual scores 70 points as above, it is not a guarantee that the visa application will be successful. The application will still be considered against the General Grounds for Refusal criteria. For further information, please see here:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/general-grounds-for-refusal-modernised-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/general-grounds-for-refusal-modernised-guidance)