



Tier 5 (GAE) visas – Are you eligible?

To be eligible for this visa route, the individual must score a **minimum of 40 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 Certificate of Sponsorship	30
Meeting maintenance requirements	10
	40

Certificate of Sponsorship – 30 points

The Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) is an electronic document issued by a licensed Tier 5 sponsor. As a Higher Education Institution, the University of Cambridge can only issue a Tier 5 (GAE) CoS to ‘sponsored researchers’. A full definition of who is a sponsored researcher, and what work/activity that person can do, can be found here: <https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/hr-services/immigration/working-uk/time-limited-right-work/tier-5-gae>

The decision to grant a Tier 5 CoS to a ‘sponsored researcher’ is at the discretion of the University and must meet the following criteria:

- The work being undertaken is not filling a genuine vacancy in the UK workforce.
- The role holder will receive payment from any third party source (not personal or family) which meets UK national minimum wage requirements (work experience and/or internships are exempt from this requirement):
http://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/files/national_minimum_wage_requirements_2015.pdf
- The job meets minimum **skill level** requirements:
 - As the University can only host ‘sponsored researchers’, the minimum skill level requirement is **always** met.

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 5 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:** it is not possible to certify the maintenance for dependants within this visa route.

General grounds for refusal

Please note that even where an individual scores 40 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