

Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) visa

1. Overview

You can apply for a Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) visa if:

- you've been offered a job within a faith community (for example as a minister of religion, missionary, or member of a religious order) in the UK
- you're from outside the [European Economic Area \(EEA\) and Switzerland](#)
- you meet the other [eligibility requirements](#)

Getting sponsored

You need to be sponsored (you have a [certificate of sponsorship](#) from a licensed sponsor) before you can apply to come to the UK to work.

The work you do in the UK must relate to the work of your sponsor organisation.

How long it will take

You can apply for a visa up to 3 months before the day you're due to start work in the UK. This date is listed on your certificate of sponsorship.

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks when you apply from outside the UK.

Check the [guide processing times](#) to find out how long getting a visa might take in your country.

Fees

How much you pay for a Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) visa depends on your situation, where you are and how you apply.

Who you're applying for	Apply (outside the UK)	Extend or switch online in the UK	Extend or switch in person in the UK (premium service)
You	£587	£677	£1,267
If you're a citizen of Turkey or Macedonia	£532	£622	£1,212
All dependants	£587 each person	£677 each person	£1,267 each person

You'll also have [to pay the healthcare surcharge](#) as part of your application. Check how much you'll have to pay [before you apply](#).

How long you can stay

You can come to the UK with a Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) visa for a maximum of up to 3 years and 1 month, or the time given on your certificate of sponsorship plus 1 month, whichever is shorter.

You can apply to [extend your stay](#).
You must apply before your visa expires.

Your time in the UK must start no more than 14 days before the start date on your [certificate of sponsorship](#).

What you can and can't do

You can:

- work for your sponsor in the job described in your certificate of sponsorship
- do a [second job](#)
- do voluntary work
- study as long as it doesn't interfere with the job you're sponsored for
- travel abroad and return to the UK

- [bring family members \('dependants'\)](#) with you

You can't:

- own more than 10% of your sponsor's shares (unless you earn more than £159,600 a year)
- get [public funds](#)

2. Eligibility

You need to:

- provide a valid certificate of sponsorship reference number from your sponsor
- show you meet the [English language requirement](#)
- have proof of £945 in savings, unless you're exempt
- follow additional rules if you're [switching to this visa](#) from a Tier 4 (General) visa

Certificate of sponsorship

A certificate of sponsorship is a reference number which holds information about the job and your personal details. It's not an actual certificate or paper document.

Your sponsor will give you your certificate of sponsorship reference number.

They must also give you some other information to help you to apply, such as how much you'll be paid.

You'll need to add your certificate of sponsorship reference number to your application form - you can only use it once.

Your certificate of sponsorship is valid for 3 months from the date it is assigned to you.

Savings

You must have £945 in your bank account for 90 days before you apply. This is to prove you can support yourself.

You won't need savings if you have both a:

- [fully approved \('A-rated'\) sponsor](#)
- certificate of sponsorship stating that your sponsor will give you at least £945 to cover your costs for a month if you need it

If you're already in the UK

You won't need savings if you're in the UK and you have a Tier 2 visa.

3. Knowledge of English

You may need to prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply.

You can prove your knowledge of English by either:

- passing an [approved English language test](#) with at least CEFR level B2 in reading, writing, speaking and listening
- having an academic qualification that was taught in English and is recognised by [UK NARIC](#) as being equivalent to a UK bachelors degree, master's degree or PhD

You may be able to meet the English language requirement in other ways. Check the [full visa guidance](#) for detailed information.

Exceptions

You won't need to prove your knowledge of English if you're a national of one of the following countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia

- the Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- USA

You also may not have to prove your knowledge of English in other circumstances - check the [visa guidance](#).

4. Documents you must provide

When you apply you'll need to provide:

- a current passport or other valid travel identification
- evidence that you [meet the English language requirements](#)
- bank statements showing you've had at least £945 in savings continuously over the last 90 days, unless you're exempt from having [savings](#)
- your [tuberculosis \(TB\) test results](#) if you're from a country where you have to take the test

You need a page in your passport that's blank on both sides for your visa.

You must provide the original plus a photocopy of every document you provide.

You'll need to provide provide [a certified translation](#) of any documents that aren't in English or Welsh.

Read the [list of evidence you can provide](#).

You may need to provide additional documents depending on your circumstances.