

Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa

1. Overview

You can apply for a Tier 2 (Sportsperson) visa if all of the following apply:

- you're an elite sportsperson or qualified coach recognised by your sport's governing body as internationally established at the highest level
- your sport's governing body is endorsing your application
- your employment will develop your sport in the UK at the highest level
- you're from outside the [European Economic Area \(EEA\) and Switzerland](#)
- you meet the other [eligibility requirements](#)

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.

You can 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 (Sportsperson) visa depends on your situation, where you are and how you apply.

Who you're applying for	Apply	Extend or switch online	Extend or switch in person (premium service)
You	£587	£677	£1,267
If you're a national 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 (Sportsperson) visa for up to 3 years.

You can apply to [extend](#) this visa for up to another 3 years to a maximum stay of 6 years.

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](#)
- play for your national team in the UK
- work as a sports broadcaster
- 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](#) with you

You can't:

- get [public funds](#)
- start or run a business
- apply for a second job until you've started working for your sponsor

2. Eligibility

You must:

- provide a certificate of sponsorship reference number from your [sponsor](#)
- show you meet the [English requirement](#)
- have proof of £945 in savings, unless you're exempt

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, for example 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 A1 in speaking and listening
- having an academic qualification that was taught in English and is recognised by [UK NARIC](#) as being equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD

You may be able to meet the English language requirement in other ways. Check the [full 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
- proof that you meet the [English requirement](#)
- bank statements showing you've had at least £945 continuously over the last 90 days, unless you're exempt from having [savings](#)
- your [tuberculosis test results](#) if you're from a country where you have to take the test
- a letter of endorsement from your sport's governing body, if you're applying as a sportsperson or coach

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

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

Read the guide for a [full list of documents](#) you can provide.

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