

Tier 5 (Temporary Worker - Religious Worker) visa

1. Overview

You can apply for a Tier 5 (Temporary Worker - Religious Worker) visa if:

- you want to do religious work, such as preaching or working in a religious order
- you're from outside the [European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#) or Switzerland
- you meet the other [eligibility requirements](#)

Sponsorship

You must 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 your sponsor organisation's work.

How long it will take

The earliest you can apply for a visa is 3 months before the date you're due to start work. This date is on your certificate of sponsorship.

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks.

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 5 (Temporary Worker - Religious Worker) 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 or by post in the UK	Extend or switch in person in the UK (premium service)
You	£235	£235	£825
If you're a citizen of Turkey or Macedonia	£180	£180	£770
All dependants	£235 each	£235 each	£825 each

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'll be given a visa to live and work in the UK for up to 24 months, or up to 28 days more than the time on your certificate of sponsorship. You may be sponsored for a shorter period.

You can enter the UK up to 14 days before the start date of your job.

What you can and can't do

You can:

- study - for some courses you'll need an [Academic Technology Approval Scheme certificate](#)
- work for your sponsor in the job described in your [certificate of sponsorship](#)
- do a second job in the same sector at the same level as your main job for up to 20 hours per week outside the hours of your main job

- do a job on the [Tier 2 shortage occupation list](#) for up to 20 hours per week outside the hours of your main job
 - bring [family members](#) with you
- You can't get [public funds](#).

2. Eligibility

You must have both of the following:

- a certificate of sponsorship reference number from your UK sponsor
- £945 in savings - to prove you can support yourself (you must have had it in your bank account for 90 days before you apply)

You won't need £945 in savings if your [fully approved \('A-rated'\)](#) sponsor has stated on your certificate of sponsorship that they'll certify your maintenance and that you won't claim benefits during your stay.

Certificate of sponsorship

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

Your sponsor will give you the certificate of sponsorship.

Your sponsor must also give you the information they used on your certificate about your job, for example your working hours.

Your sponsor must be recognised by the UK government to issue certificates of sponsorship.

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

Multiple entry

Your sponsor can give you a multiple entry certificate of sponsorship so you can leave and return to the UK.

3. Documents you must provide

When you apply you'll need to provide:

- a current passport or other valid travel identification
- bank statements showing you've had at least £945 in savings continuously for 90 days before you apply - this is to prove you can support yourself and you must have had this in your bank account for 90 days before you apply
- 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 won't need £945 in savings if your [fully approved \('A-rated'\)](#) sponsor has stated on your certificate of sponsorship that they'll certify your maintenance and that you won't claim benefits during your stay.

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

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

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