The UK's changing immigration policies

Following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, the Government has introduced a points-based immigration system similar to the policy in Australia. The new policy is meant to attract talent to the UK and help to fill key jobs. It is also aimed at reducing overall immigration numbers.

The new regulations apply from the start of 2021 and will apply to both EU and non EU citizens.

Anyone moving to the UK for work will have to show that the job they are taking has a skill level of RDF3 or above (A level) and a minimum salary of £25,600. If the job is in shortage sector, or requires a PhD, then the job seeker can trade points for a minimum salary of £20,480.

Student visa routes have been opened up to EU, EEA and Swiss citizens. You can apply for a visa to study in the UK if you:

- have been offered a place on a course
- can speak, read, write and understand English
- have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course

A new graduate immigration route will be available to international students who have completed a degree in the UK from summer 2021. Students will be able to work, or look for work, in the UK at any skill level for up to 2 years after the end of their course, or 3 years for PhD graduates. The UK government is aiming for up to 600,000 overseas students a year by 2030 as part of its new International Education Strategy.

The 2021 update to the Strategy focuses on five countries for overseas recruitment - India, Nigeria, Indonesia, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia and suggests other markets such as EU, Brazil, Mexico, Pakistan, China and Hong Kong.