

## **TIER 1 EXCEPTIONAL TALENT VISA EXPANDED WITH CAP REMOVED**

- Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa is being expanded and renamed as [the Global Talent visa](#)
- There will be no cap on the number of Global Talent visas granted and the visa route continues to be for 'highly-skilled' entrepreneurs and employees
- The route is being expanded to make provisions for Science and Research, while continuing to be open to applicants within digital technology, arts and culture
- Tech Nation remains the body responsible for endorsing applications on behalf of the Home Office for the digital technology sector

The Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa route is being expanded and renamed as the Global Talent visa. The expansion of the route is being introduced specifically to make provisions for Science and Research, while continuing to be open to talented and promising applicants within digital technology and arts and culture.

The cap on the visa route has been removed, ensuring that the UK can attract the best talent from around the world.

[Tech Nation](#), the UK network for tech entrepreneurs, remains the endorsing body responsible for processing applications on behalf of the Home Office for the digital technology sector. The endorsing body for Science and Research will be UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

These changes will enable the UK's leading digital technology sector to continue to attract exceptional tech talent from around the world. Digital jobs and skills are underpinning the growth of the UK's thriving tech sector. Over the past 4 years, demand for experienced and highly skilled people to work in the digital and tech industry in the UK has grown dramatically, demand for jobs rose almost 3x as much as the Financial services industry. Demand for a Full Stack Developer has more than tripled between 2015 and 2018.

Tech Nation's Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visa has seen rising interest, recording a 44% rise last year in applications compared to the previous year. Since its inception in 2014, the visa has received over 2,400 applications, and endorsed over 1,200 visas from over 50 countries worldwide. The countries that recorded the highest amount of visa applications were the US, India, Nigeria and Russia.

As a result of the outstanding quality and demonstrable talent of applicants, 98% of the applications endorsed by Tech Nation were awarded a visa. The top applications by specialist skills were: Software Engineers, Business Development and Solution Architects. The most popular applications by sector were: Apps & Software Development, AI & Machine Learning and Fintech.

The Tech Nation Global Talent visa is supported by Legal Partners; Kemp Little, Kingsley Napley and Lewis Silkin. These law firms can provide expert immigration advice, application support, and advice on settlement.

**Gerard Grech, Chief Executive, Tech Nation, commented:** "2019 saw the UK attracting 33% of all European Tech investment and a 44% rise in visa applications for digital technology expertise from over 50 countries. Today's announcement of expanding the route to include deep science and

research expertise and abolishing the cap will help ensure the best and brightest talent can continue to contribute to the UK's thriving digital tech sector."

**Natalie Black, HM Trade Commissioner, Asia Pacific, commented:** "The Global Talent Visa will enable the brightest and best talent from around the world to work in the UK. As this new route is launched today, I hope even more exceptional talent from Asia Pacific will choose the UK to start and grow their business."

**Issam Abu-aisheh, Director of Innovation & Investments at Whitespace Ventures Ltd, Tech Nation Visa Ambassador, commented:** "This visa is beyond helpful because it gives talented people who are passionate about tech the opportunity to add value to the tech ecosystem in the UK in so many different ways while having complete flexibility."

**Jessica Mendoza, Founder & CEO, Mondadd, Tech Nation Visa Ambassador, commented:** "At Mondadd we are preventing waste generation from misdelivered items by facilitating address change across the UK. The Tech Nation visa opened doors in the UK within the technology sector, including mentors and business connections. It also connected me to a network of driven and talented individuals from around the world who helped me along the journey from settling into a neighbourhood to starting a business. I feel lucky to come into a new country and directly into a network that encourages me to pursue my career aspirations from day one."

**Ekpemi Anni, UX Consultant at Bold Health, commented:** "The Tech Nation visa has been invaluable in providing access to a ready made and supportive network. It has been particularly important to me, especially in terms of mental health, and allowing me to grow in my career as a UX professional in the UK tech sector."