## SKILLED WORKER VISA UK: KEY INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

The Skilled Worker visa is a prominent immigration route in the United Kingdom designed to attract skilled workers from around the world to fill shortages in the UK labor market. This visa category replaced the Tier 2 (General) visa in December 2020, offering a streamlined process for employers and applicants alike.

## Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for a Skilled Worker visa UK, applicants typically need to meet the following criteria:

- 1. Job Offer from a Licensed Sponsor: Applicants must have a job offer from a UK employer who holds a valid sponsor license issued by the UK Home Office. The job offer must be for a position that meets the skill level and salary requirements set by the UK government.
- **2. Minimum Skill and Salary Thresholds**: The job must be at RQF Level 3 or above (equivalent to A-levels) and meet the minimum salary threshold set by the UK government. The specific salary threshold can vary depending on the occupation and is regularly updated.
- **3. English Language Proficiency**: Applicants must demonstrate their English language proficiency at the required level, typically by passing a secure English language test (SELT) unless exempted.
- **4. Financial Maintenance**: Applicants may need to show they have enough personal savings to support themselves upon arrival in the UK, although this requirement can be waived if the employer certifies maintenance on the CoS.



## **Application Process**

The application process for a Skilled Worker visa involves several steps:

- 1. Job Offer and Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS): The employer must assign a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) to the applicant. This is a virtual document with a unique reference number that confirms the job offer and the details of the position.
- **2. Online Application**: Applicants complete an online application form, providing biographical information, details of their job offer, and supporting documents.
- **3. Biometric Appointment**: Applicants may need to visit a visa application center to provide biometric information (fingerprints and photograph).
- **4. Decision and Visa Issuance**: Once the application is processed, applicants receive a decision on their visa application. If approved, they will receive a vignette (visa sticker) in their passport, allowing them to enter the UK.

## Conclusion

The <u>Skilled Worker visa UK</u> is a valuable opportunity for skilled professionals worldwide to contribute their expertise to the UK economy. By meeting the stringent eligibility requirements and successfully navigating the application process, applicants can embark on a path towards long-term residency and potentially British citizenship, enriching their careers and contributing to the diverse workforce of the United Kingdom.