



The UK's visa service in India

June 2019

Always check our website to see which visa is right for you, and to make sure you have the latest guidance visit www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa



In the year ending March 2019, **90% of Indian nationals who applied for a UK visa were successful. This totalled almost 600,000 non-settlement visas in that year**



The number of visit visas we grant to Indian nationals continues to rise. In the year ending March 2019 we granted over 490,000 visitor visas (including student visitors), an increase of 12% on the previous year.



We have also granted over 21,000 Tier 4 student visas, a 40% increase on the previous 12 months. This is the highest total since 2011, and also equates to an increase of almost 100% between 2016 and 2019. The issue rate for students is 96%

During the same period, we also granted **over 56,500 Tier 2 skilled work visas** - more than to all other countries combined. This was an increase of 10% or almost 5,000 visas.

A quick and convenient application process

- Last year, **97% of non-settlement visa decisions were made within our 15 working day service standard.**
- Applicants can apply, pay and book visa appointments online www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa
- Customers must submit their biometrics at one of the **UK's 18 visa application centres across India.** Visa application centres are situated in Delhi, Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Mumbai South, Mumbai North, Pune, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Bangalore Whitefield, Hyderabad, Cochin, Kolkata, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Lucknow, Trivandrum and Goa.

Clear guidance and information

- Guides on the visa application process are available in Hindi for visitors. We also provide translated help-text in Hindi on our online application forms for student and work routes. A telephone, and email enquiry service is available in Hindi and English at www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi
- A new online application form is available for Indian visitors. As well as being quicker to complete, customers can print and download a completed Schengen form to apply for their Schengen visas. The new form is available in Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil and Bengali.

How to apply:

1. Go to www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa to complete your visa application form, book an appointment and pay your fee.
2. Prepare your application, using the guidance online to assemble your supporting documents.
3. Visit a visa application centre to submit your application and give your biometric data (fingerprints and photograph).



Premium Services

- Visit, study and work applicants can now use the 5 working day **Priority Visa service**.
- Visit and work applicants in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Pune and Bengaluru can now use the 24-hour **Super Priority Visa service**.
- Settlement visa applicants and their dependents can now use the **Settlement Priority Visa service** which we aim to process within 30 working days.
- Frequent travellers or customers applying for two visas at the same time can use the **Keep my Passport When Applying service**, which allows applicants to retain their passport, while their UK visa is being processed.
- **Premium lounges** offer customers a separate lounge and a faster service in which to submit their documents and biometrics. They are located in Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, New Delhi, Gurgaon, Pune, Chandigarh and Kochi.
- Eligible customers who need to travel urgently or who have missed their appointment can use our new **Walk-in Without Appointment service**.
- Customers requiring assistance with filing out visa application forms on the website can use the **Form Filling Assistance service** where a staff will record verbatim responses on behalf of the customer. Those requiring assistance with payment of visa fee online may use the **Online Payment Assistance service**.
- **Group Appointment service** allows customers travelling in groups to submit their biometrics and application at the same time.

Working with partners

- The invite only **Business Express Programme** allows employees from companies, with significant investment or business connections to the UK, reduced documentary requirements and a dedicated email inbox for a more personalised service.
- We have expanded our **Tour Operator Preferred Partner scheme**, across India. Accredited travel agents benefit from a dedicated UKVI inbox, regular training and suggested document requirements.
- Our **Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events scheme (MICE)** supports large corporate group visits to the UK, through a dedicated account manager and tailored advice and support.
- UKVI supports the GREAT campaign through working with the British Council, Visit Britain and Department for International Trade by providing materials and presenting at their events across India.

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