

## **Work Permit Arrangements & UK Immigration Rules**

This document gives an overview of the current work permit arrangements within the framework of the United Kingdom Immigration Rules.

### **Visas**

Some applicants will require visas to enter the UK (visa nationals). Identifying the nationality of the applicant will determine whether this is the case.

A full list of visa and non-visa nationals is available on the UK visas website at <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1020786334922>

Having a valid work permit does not absolve any visa national from this requirement.

### **Work permits**

Work permits are issued to UK-based employers for non EU workers with a job offer in the UK. They are issued by the Border & Immigration Agency, a sub-division of the Home Office.

Work permits can be issued on a short-term or long-term basis. Short-term work permits are for less than six months, long-term are for longer than six months.

Short-term work permit holders only require the original or a copy of their work permit for entry to the UK.

### **Resident permits**

All long-term work permit holders must obtain, prior to entry into the UK, an entry clearance known as a resident permit. Without a resident permit, entry to the UK may be refused.

Resident permits can only be obtained in the country of normal residence of a work permit holder, or in a country where that person has a legal right to be. Visits to other countries as a visitor do not constitute a legal right.

Visa nationals with long-term work permits will require a visa and a resident permit for entry to the UK, relative to their visit.

Resident permit applicants (and visa nationals) must also register under the biometrics programme. For more information visit:

<http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1165344659165>

### **Filming on location concession**

A work permit is not required if the individual is coming to work in the UK ON LOCATION only. They must not be working in the UK for more than six weeks, must not work in a studio which involves set construction, and must not be employed by or paid by a UK company.

### **Further information**

Further information about visas can be found at [www.ukvisas.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk)

Further information about working in the UK can be found at

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/>

The Office of the British Film Commissioner strongly recommends that all applicants get advice from a registered UK immigration lawyer.

### **The future**

In 2008 The Home Office is rolling out a points-based system (PBS) for all applicants wishing to work in the UK. Applications will be submitted online, and all applicants will have to register under the biometrics programme **before** travelling to the UK. Details of these processes are being put in place at the time of writing.

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