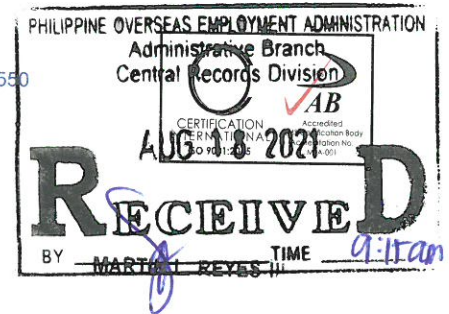




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United Kingdom's New Immigration System for Skilled Workers

The United Kingdom introduced in January 2021 a New Immigration System which allows employers to recruit people to work in the said country in a specific job in an eligible skilled occupation. It also now provides equal treatment for European Union and Non-European Union citizens.

The new immigration system mainly features a points-based assessment wherein anyone coming to the UK for work must meet a specific set of requirements for which they will score points. Visas are then awarded to those who gain enough points. The system provides flexible arrangements for UK employers to recruit skilled workers from around the world through a number of different immigration routes.

Another change in the system includes that of the route for skilled workers wherein the previous Tier 2 (General Work Visa) was replaced by Skilled Worker Visa that allows workers to do an eligible job in the UK with an employer licensed as Sponsor by the UK government through its Home Office.

The following are four main requirements for a Skilled Worker Visa:

- 1) The applicant must have a job offer and a certificate of sponsorship from a licensed sponsor;
- 2) The job offer is at the required skill level - RQF 3 or above (A level and equivalent);
- 3) The salary must be at a certain threshold depending on the occupation or the type of work to be done; and
- 4) The English language skills requirement must be satisfied.

An applicant for a Skilled Worker Visa must obtain at least 70 points under a new points-based system to qualify. Of this, 50 points are for non-negotiable requirements such as sponsorship, job at an appropriate level and English language skills. The remaining 20 points are for those classified as tradeable points which may include having an offer for a job listed in the eligible skilled occupations or in a health and education occupation or a job in the shortage occupation list (SOL), or the applicant has PhD relevant to the job, among others.

To check eligible occupations and codes, interested applicants may visit the following link:

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations/skilled-worker-visa-eligible-occupations-and-codes>

To check the list of Registered Sponsors who are licensed to sponsor workers on the Worker and Temporary Worker immigration routes, please visit the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers>

For more details, please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

Sources:

POLO-London

POLO London-OWWA FB Page

Official website of the United Kingdom: www.gov.uk/

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-skilled-worker>

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