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**Web www.visainfoservices.com
www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas**

The following provides a summary of the immigration requirements for- **Academics (eg university professor), scientists and sponsored researchers**. This note is not exhaustive and so applicants are strongly advised to read all published guidance before making an application.

Who qualifies as an academic visitor?

The academic visitor category is designed for;

- academics (eg university professors) who have been working as an academic in an institution of higher education overseas, who wish to go to the UK for a period of up to one year for the purposes of carrying out their own research (eg to do research for a book);
- academics (including doctors) who wish to take part in **formal** exchange arrangements with United Kingdom counterparts;
Eminent senior doctors and dentists coming to take part in research, teaching or clinical practice, also qualify as academic visitors.

Applicants for an academic visitor visa must ensure they;

- are not filling a normal post or genuine vacancy in the UK;
- do not engage in any work other than the academic activity;
- academics/scientists will not receive funding for their work from any United Kingdom source;
- are able to maintain themselves and any dependants without having recourse to public funds;
- academic visitors must be able to meet the cost of the return or onward journey from the UK.

Link: Academic visitor - <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/ecg/visitandtransit/academicvisitor>

Those who do not qualify as an academic visitor include;

- Those employed with private research companies;
- post-graduate students/researchers (please see the below on sponsored researchers and business visitors);

- Academics and/or scientists who wish to take part in collaborative research in the UK **do not** qualify as academic visitors (please see the below on sponsored researchers).

N.B. You are **not** classified as an Academic visitor if you are simply seeking to entry the UK to attend a conference or meeting.

Who qualifies as a Sponsored Researcher?

A sponsored researcher is a person who wishes to come to the UK to lead or to take part in any formal research project or collaborative research. Formal or collaborative research projects are those hosted but not necessarily funded by a UK research institution including universities, non-commercial research organisations, charitable organisations and national research councils (such as the Medical Research Council). The sponsored researcher fills a research post and works under the full or partial control of the institution, which will itself benefit from the research. Sponsored researchers can be funded from sources in the UK or overseas.

Sponsored researchers **do not** qualify as Academic visitors. Sponsored researchers should enter the UK under the **Tier 5**, Government Authorised Exchange, of the Points Based System.

Academics, scientists and post-graduate researchers who intend to take part in sponsored/collaborative research may need to apply for entry clearance under Tier 5.

If you believe you may fall within the requirements of a sponsored researcher please visit the following link for further information on Tier 5:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/tier5temporaryworkerguidance.pdf>

Who qualifies as a Business visitor?

Academics, scientists and those in academia, who want to come to the UK simply to share knowledge or experience or to hold informal discussions with their UK counterparts, may qualify as a business visitor.

Academics/scientists may be eligible to enter as a business visitor if they are coming to participate in a conference or seminar where it is a single or occasional event, and the event is not a commercial venture.

To confirm if you qualify as a **business visitor** please refer to the following link from our website:

<http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/ecg/visitandtransit/businessvisitor>

**** Please note if you do not fall within one of the below categories you should contact our commercial partner WorldBridge for further guidance at www.visainfoservices.com**