

Entering the UK - The new points-based system

The Office of the British Film Commissioner will be on hand to help guide you through the process but the facts are as follows:

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) is rolling out a points-based system (PBS) for all applicants wishing to work in the UK.

From 27th November 2008, any migrant wishing to enter the UK will have to use this system.

1) The system

The new system has five tiers. The two applicable to the film industry are:

- Tier 2: Skilled workers with a job offer to fill gaps in the UK labour force.
- Tier 5: Youth mobility and temporary workers: people allowed to work in the UK for a limited period of time to satisfy primarily non-economic objectives.

2) Sponsors

Under the new system migrant workers will only be able to enter the UK to work if they have been given a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) by a Sponsor Company. In order to sponsor migrants to work in the UK, employers will need to register with UKBA. The sponsor company needs to satisfy the requirements of the relevant tier and accept various responsibilities in relation to helping with immigration control.

3) How to apply for a licence

The application process to become a sponsor company is an online process. Applicants will need to provide UKBA with certain information. If the UKBA grants you a license, you will be able to issue certificates of sponsorship.

How to start?

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points/sponsoringmigrants/applyforlicence/>

Are you ready? Sponsor's checklist of requirements:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points/areyouready/checklist/>

Several case studies are available on UKBA's website:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points/casestudies/>

The Office of the British Film Commissioner has interactive tutorials on CDs – please contact us on 020 7861 7912 for a copy.

4) Tier 2

This tier is for skilled workers with a job offer in the UK. Certificates of sponsorship issued under Tier 2 can be extended beyond 12 months and the category leads to settlement in the UK if the worker stays in the UK for sufficient time.

5) Tier 5

This tier is for short-term workers in the UK and is *not* a route to settlement. Tier 5 is a fast track category, but provides only a temporary status and does not lead to settlement. Leave to remain in the UK is for a maximum of 12 months.

6) Visas

Some applicants will require visas to enter the UK (visa nationals). All applicants will have to register under the biometrics programme **before** travelling to the UK.

A full list of visa and non-visa nationals is available at UKBA's visa services website at:

<http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1020786334922>

Information on biometrics can be found at UKBA's visa services website at:

<http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/> and <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/biometricvisa/>

For further guidance, contact the Office of the British Film commissioner on +44 (0)20 7861 7912,
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