

The UK - India migration deal

The Young Professionals Scheme will make it easier for young Indian citizens and young Britons to access visas.

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After ending free movement with the EU, the Government is seeking to reduce overall migration whilst encouraging the highest skilled workers to the UK. Further information can be found <u>here</u>.

The government has already announced new trade with India estimated £1 billion that could create more than 6500 new jobs around the UK.

Now, the UK and India have signed an agreement aimed at supporting people to live and work in both countries while addressing the long-standing problems of illegal migration from India to the UK. Under this new the deal the two countries will cooperate around removing unauthorised migrants in the UK in exchange for visas for temporary migration to the UK.

The Young Professionals Scheme will be a new and separate scheme which allows Indian nationals aged between 18 and 30 to live and work in the UK for up to two years and vice versa. There will be a quota of initially 3000 places a year and it will work in a similar way to the current Youth Mobility Scheme offered to young people from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

The details of the differences between the Youth Mobility Scheme and the Young Professionals Scheme are yet to be revealed.

Nevertheless, as a result of the deal, there will be easier access to UK visas for young Indian citizens to work for up to two years & young Britons will be able to do the same in India. Employers should keep an eye out for updates in the future as it is likely businesses will receive applications from those who may be eligible for this UK visa.

These deals will also enhance and accelerate the processes to return Indian nationals with no legal right to stay in the UK. Therefore, it is likely there will be more action being taken by the Home Office to tackle illegal working and organised immigration crime.

Contact



Mark Hickson
Head of Business Development

onlineteaminbox@brownejacobson.com

+44 (0)370 270 6000

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