

Scale-up visa will propel high-growth businesses

The UK's top high-growth businesses will have greater flexibility and power to entice the world's top talent through the new [Scale-up visa](#), the government announced today (22 August).

UK businesses experiencing impressive success will be eligible to sponsor talented individuals, from scientists and engineers to architects and programmers, to support their growth and contribute to boosting the UK's economy.

Unlike other sponsored visas, the Scale-up visa allows businesses to employ high-skilled individuals who will receive 2 years' leave to remain in the UK without requiring further sponsorship or permission beyond the first 6 months.

This will further enhance the government's overall offer to businesses through the points-based immigration system to hire eligible employees from anywhere in the world. The Scale-up visa will give them greater flexibility to hire, often in-demand, talent they need so they can go to the next level, while boosting the UK's high-skilled pool.

Minister for Safe and Legal Migration Kevin Foster said:

Rapidly growing businesses, like small enterprises, tech and financial services, need the right level of support to go to the next level. Through our Scale-up visa, we're enabling businesses to focus on their growth and innovation by giving them more freedom to bring in the diverse skills and experience they need, making them more attractive on an international stage.

By supporting our high-growth tech, financial services and small businesses, we are ensuring the UK remains a global hub for emerging technologies and innovation while enhancing productivity across the economy – creating jobs, growth and prosperity across Britain.

Irene Graham OBE, CEO of the ScaleUp Institute said:

The ScaleUp Institute welcomes the launch of the Scale-up visa. This is something we have recommended since our inception and should provide a much-needed fast track service to enable local growth companies to access the talent they need more quickly.

Scaleups add over £1 trillion a year and more than 3 million jobs to the UK economy, and are present in every community, hiring

people from at home and abroad, as they drive growth into their local areas and beyond.

The visa should help with the skills demands. We look forward to continuing to work with the government as this service evolves to ensure it fully addresses scaling business needs and works effectively.

Scaling up is an important phase for high-growth businesses to continue growing and drive their international competitiveness. By bringing in sought-after expertise and skills, enterprises can boost their innovation and productivity and in turn keep contributing to the UK's economy.

Companies, including small businesses and those in the tech and financial services sectors, that have achieved growth of 20% or more in either employment or turnover year-on-year for at least 3 years and employed a minimum of 10 people at the start of the 3 years will be eligible to sponsor talented individuals through the Scale-up visa.

Eligible businesses will be able to attract highly skilled talent including:

- scientists
- engineers
- programmers
- software developers
- research and development professionals
- economists
- architects
- technicians
- financial and investment advisers

Crime news: duty rotas for January 2023 under 2022 crime contract

News story

Providers without duty rota slots starting on 1 October need to return CRM12 forms.



We need all providers who know that they have passed verification to return CRM12 forms for duty rota slots under the 2022 Standard Crime Contract.

You may have completed verification but missed the deadline for duty rotas beginning on 1 October 2022. If that applies to you then the next available rota starts on 3 January 2023.

Duty solicitor CRM12 forms

All providers who have completed the verification process but have yet to secure a rota slot will receive a Bravo message with a CRM12 form to complete. Providers who have not completed verification will also have received a CRM12 form. They will need to complete verification by 1 October to join the January rota.

Use Bravo to contact us if you haven't received a CRM12 but believe you should have done.

Deadline is 5 September

All forms attached to the message need to be completed with duty solicitor details and returned by 11.59pm on Monday 5 September 2022.

Eligibility for January rota

Providers will only be eligible to join the January rota if they have accepted their contract by 1 October 2022.

Duty rota changes

Providers with members on October duty rotas should keep an eye on GOV.UK for the deadline to make changes in time for January 2023 rotas.

Further information

[LAA eTendering system](#) – to access Bravo message boards

[Duty solicitors: rotas, information and guidance](#)

[Crime contract 2022 tender](#)

[Standard Crime Contract 2022](#)

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Boost for farming innovation

Artificial Intelligence technology to optimise welfare in pigs, agri-robots to help speed up vegetable harvests and automation to increase fruit crop yields are just some of research and development projects to receive funding through the Farming Innovation Programme, it was announced today (Monday 22 August).

Details of these new innovative projects comes as further support was announced for farmers and growers with novel ideas to help grow food production, encourage sustainable practices and increase productivity, with the next rounds of the [Feasibility Projects](#) and the [Small R&D Partnership Project competitions](#) due to open shortly.

The £16.5 million of funding will help drive innovation in agriculture and horticulture and is part of the Government's £270 million [Farming Innovation Programme](#).

It is run in partnership with UK Research and Innovation, building upon their successful [Transforming Food Production challenge](#).

Farming Innovation Minister Steve Double said:

We want to help unlock greater potential in our already brilliant farming and horticulture sector. Today's first round of projects demonstrate how – with the right funding and support – there are great productivity and environmental sustainability gains to be made.

Our £270 million investment in farming innovation is designed to help take the UK's world-leading research ideas and turn them into practical solutions to support healthy soils, abundant pollinators and clean water alongside profitable food production.

Katrina Hayter, challenge director for the Transforming Food Production challenge, said:

You only need look at the sheer breadth of projects that have received funding to see there are so many opportunities for

innovation across the food sector. From animal health to crop productivity, the introduction of strategic support technology and the precise application of chemicals, it's exciting to see so many concepts beginning to come to life.

When brought together, it shows how the whole food system can benefit from new ideas, with knowledge-sharing and collaboration at its core. We are keen to ensure farmers and growers remain at the heart of projects, bringing their valuable real-life experiences to the project consortia to ensure that each innovation stays focused on helping improve the day-to-day challenges faced by those in the food sector. We now look forward to supporting these projects further as they develop.

The Farming Innovation Programme aims to spark new ideas and collaboration across the sector to address long-term challenges such as producing nutritious food more efficiently whilst helping the sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve net zero goals. Farmers, growers, foresters, businesses and researchers are being invited to collaborate and submit applications for these two new competitions:

- A £5.5 million competition for 'Feasibility projects' will offer grants for projects worth between £200,000 and £500,000 to support research and development through the difficult testing phase of an idea to see if it is worth investing in further
- Winners of the 'Small R&D Partnership' competition will receive a share of the £11 million grant funding for industrial research projects worth between £1 million and £3 million to further develop new solutions that will ultimately address major on-farm or immediate post farmgate challenges or opportunities such as enhancing productivity and sustainability.

Details of the successful applications from the first round of Small R&D Partnership Projects, Feasibility Projects and Research Starter Projects, that were launched in October 2021 [were shared by UKRI today](#). These include:

- Farmsense's use of innovative sensor technology and AI to optimise welfare in pigs;
- Blue Planet II, a new project which aims to build upon its highly successful autonomous technology to further increase fruit crop yield and quality;
- A new project from 'Muddy Machines', whose agri-robot concepts aim to speed up vegetable harvesting with sustainability and reliability at their core.

Altogether Defra expects to spend around £600 million on grants and other support for farmers to invest in productivity, animal health and welfare, innovation, research and development over the next three years.

jHub Fellowship Scheme: “We define innovation as doing something different that adds value.”

News story

Innovation is often described as doing something new or different, but at jHub it's essential that these new approaches add value.



Major Jonathan, Innovation Scout at the jHub, is responsible for scoping out areas for development and then bringing them together with industry experts.

Once an opportunity has been established, jHub will work with industry partners to establish a pilot scheme aimed at making an immediate impact. Only once it is deemed as viable, is the product taken to the next stage:

If it's successful and we see it being a viable solution going forward we'll take it to the UK Strategic Command Innovation Sub-Committee where we'll seek funding to bring it in as a core capability.

Even if a project is deemed viable, and approved by the committee, it's only considered a success when it actually delivers the intended capability in the hands of the user.

Although set up to focus on areas of capability within defence, the jHub doesn't shy away from casting a larger net in their hunt to provide innovative solutions:

Of course, we primarily look across defence for areas of capability but in some cases, we also look at the wider security architecture across government.

As well as producing innovative products and solutions to users Major Jonathan shares that the role has offered him the chance to work closely with colleagues from the civil service, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force:

It has been incredibly refreshing and being able to see first-hand the way in which everyone contributes has been fantastic.

He goes on to explain perhaps the most attractive feature of working at the jHub, is:

The opportunity to represent defence, as an ambassador with industry and to work on some really impactful projects that can deliver real benefits going forward has been really rewarding.

And who can say better than that?

You can find more information about working for the jHub and their new Innovation Fellowship by reading the [Innovation Fellowship Launches](#) article.

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[Walking, wheeling and cycling to be offered on prescription in nationwide trial](#)

- trials in 11 areas across the country to help people's mental and physical health
- GPs will issue social prescriptions such as walking, wheeling and cycling, backed by £12.7 million
- schemes will include cycling and walking groups, cycle training and free bike loans

Social prescriptions, including walking, wheeling and cycling, will be offered by GPs as part of a new trial to improve mental and physical health and reduce disparities across the country, the government has announced today (22 August 2022).

The government has awarded £12.7 million in multi-year funding to 11 local authority areas in England. The funding will go towards several pilot projects in each location, including:

- adult cycle training
- free bike loans
- walking groups

Other schemes include all-ability cycling taster days where people who may not have cycled before can try to in a friendly environment, or walking and cycling mental health groups where people can connect with their communities as they get active.

The pilots must be delivered alongside improved infrastructure so people feel safe to cycle and walk.

The 11 local authority areas that will trial social prescriptions are:

- Bath and North East Somerset
- Bradford
- Cornwall
- Cumbria
- Doncaster
- Gateshead
- Leeds
- Nottingham
- Plymouth
- Suffolk
- Staffordshire

The pilots, a commitment in the government's [Gear Change plan](#) published in 2020, aim to evaluate the impact of cycling and walking on an individual's health, such as reduced GP appointments and reliance on medication due to more physical activity. For the first time, transport, active travel and health officials will work together towards a whole systems approach to health improvement and tackling health disparities.

Walking and Cycling Minister, Trudy Harrison, said:

Walking and cycling has so many benefits – from improving air quality in our communities to reducing congestion on our busiest streets.

It also has an enormous positive impact on physical and mental health, which is why we have funded these projects which will get people across the country moving and ease the burden on our NHS.

National Active Travel Commissioner, Chris Boardman, said:

As a nation we need healthier, cheaper and more pleasant ways to get around for everyday trips. Active Travel England's mission is to ensure millions of people nationwide can do just that – so it's easier to leave the car at home and to enjoy the benefits that come with it.

Moving more will lead to a healthier nation, a reduced burden on the NHS, less cancer, heart disease and diabetes, as well as huge cost savings. This trial aims to build on existing evidence to show how bringing transport, active travel and health together can make a positive impact on communities across England.

The pilots will be delivered between 2022 and 2025 with on-going monitoring and evaluation to support continued learning.

The project is bringing together a range of government departments and agencies including:

- NHS England
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
- Sport England
- National Academy for Social Prescribing
- Defra
- Department for Health and Social Care