

India receives largest share of UK study, work, and visit visas

World news story

India has now overtaken China as the largest nationality being issued sponsored study visas in the UK.



The latest UK Immigration Statistics published today (25 August) show that nearly 118,000 Indian students received a Student visa in the year ending June 2022 – an 89% increase from the previous year. India has now overtaken China as the largest nationality being issued sponsored study visas in the UK.

The UK continues to be a popular destination for Indian holidaymakers too. Indian nationals accounted for the highest proportion (28%) of Visitor visas granted. More than 258,000 Indian nationals received visit visas in the year ending June 2022 – a 630% increase compared to the previous year (when travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic were still in place).

In the year ending June 2022, Indian nationals also received nearly 103,000 Work visas (which includes skilled and seasonal workers) – a 148% increase over the previous year. Indian nationals continue to be the top nationality granted Skilled Worker visas, accounting for 46% of all skilled work visas granted globally.

Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India, said:

India first again. I'm delighted that Indian nationals were issued the largest number of UK study, work and visitor visas in the year ending June 2022. More strength to the unique living bridge that connects our people.

As this shows, we're experiencing unprecedented demand for visas. I encourage students starting courses soon to apply as early as possible.

Further information

All figures quoted above relate to UK immigration statistics from July 2021 to June 2022. The full statistical release is available on [Gov.uk](#) here: [student visas](#), [visit visas](#), [work visas](#).

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[119 hen harrier chicks fledge in England in 2022](#)

Natural England and partners, including the RSPB, have recorded 119 hen harrier chicks fledging successfully from nests across uplands in County Durham, Cumbria, Lancashire, Northumberland and Yorkshire in 2022 – a record number.

This was the first time in over 100 years that more than 100 hen harriers were added to the English population, showing real progress in efforts to protect and restore their numbers.

Hen harriers were once found across upland and lowland Britain including throughout many English counties. However after 1830 they became exceptionally rare breeding birds in England due to persecution, which was made illegal in the 1954 but continues in some places today. The hen harrier now is one of England's rarest breeding birds of prey.

Hen harriers are one of our most distinctive birds with a characteristic owl-like face and stiff facial feathers that direct sound toward their ears to enable them to hunt more effectively.

Natural England chair Tony Juniper said:

It is very encouraging to see the progress made this year on the

recovery of this majestic species, tipping the numbers fledged to more than 100 for the first time in over a century.

It is testament to the dedication of the volunteers, landowners and staff from all our partner organisations who work so hard to protect, support and monitor these vulnerable birds.

Despite this year's success, we clearly still have a long road to travel to see hen harrier numbers truly recover to where they would naturally be without illegal persecution – with many birds sadly still going missing. We are committed to continuing to work with our partners to drive down persecution rates and achieve a permanent long-term recovery.

This is the sixth successive year of increases, following a low in 2016 when only eight chicks fledged. There were 49 nests recorded in 2022, of which 34 were successful in producing chicks. Lancashire remained a stronghold, with 18 nests recorded in Bowland, and there was also a cluster of territories in Northumberland (nine nests). There were 10 nests across the Yorkshire Dales & Nidderdale region, seven in the North Pennines, and five in the Peak District. This represents an encouraging increase in numbers across their range compared with the recent past, when only a few pairs nested each year, mostly in Bowland.

The total number of chicks includes 13 birds taken from four nests on grouse moors, reared and released as part of the Brood Management Trial. This aims to test whether this technique can influence attitudes among the moorland community and reduce persecution, as well as contributing healthy adult birds to the population. Brood-managed birds from previous years also bred successfully, with five birds producing 10 chicks between them in 2022.

Natural England is involved in a number of initiatives to help ensure hen harriers recover including through the [Hen Harrier Action Plan](#) published by Defra in 2016.

These include:

1. Satellite tracking to improve understanding of the birds' movements and behaviour
2. Issuing licences to allow people to provide additional food to breeding Hen Harriers ('diversionary feeding')
3. Setting up a project to reintroduce hen harriers to southern England
4. Working with the National Wildlife Crime Unit, through a secondment of a senior enforcement officer from NE into the police, to deliver improvements in how Natural England, the police, local communities and other relevant stakeholders can work together to prevent, identify, and take effective enforcement action in relation to raptor persecution incidents.

5. Brood management, in which nestlings are taken from grouse moors, reared safely in captivity, and later released, with the aim of contributing healthy adults to the breeding population, changing attitudes and reducing persecution.

The hen harrier is considered vulnerable within Europe and is on the red-list of birds of conservation concern in the UK. It is a species of principal importance for biodiversity conservation in England.

Further information:

- A wide range of organisations have come together to work in partnership to ensure that the hen harrier chicks are well looked after and protected for the future. These include: Natural England, RSPB, Forestry Commission, the Moorland Association, United Utilities, the National Trust, Hawk and Owl Trust, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Northumberland National Park Authority, Peak District National Park Authority, Nidderdale & Forest of Bowland Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, local police forces, individual Estates and their keepers, farmers, and a large number of volunteer raptor enthusiasts.
- The hen harrier is listed on Annex 1 of the EC Birds Directive as it is considered vulnerable within Europe and is on the red-list of birds of conservation concern in the UK. It is a species of principal importance for biodiversity conservation in England under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

[Over 50 new surgical hubs set to open across England to help bust the COVID-19 backlogs](#)

North West Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS FT Clatterbridge Hospital
North West Pennine Acute Hospital NHS Trust NCA Childrens Hub – Royal
Oldham Hospital North West Pennine Acute Hospital NHS Trust Fairfield
General Hospital North West Manchester University NHS foundation trust
Trafford Hospital – Elective Hub North West Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh
NHS FT Wrightington Hospital (GM Specialist Orthopaedic Centre) North
West Manchester University NHS FT Withington Hospital North West
Blackpool Teaching Hospital NHS FT Blackpool Victoria Hospital (Ophthalmology
Surgical Unit) North West Lancaster Teaching Hospital NHS FT Chorley and
South Ribble Hospital North West East Lancashire Hospital NHS Trust
Burnley General Hospital North West East Lancashire Hospital NHS Trust
Royal Blackburn Hospital North West University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay
NHS FT Westmorland General Hospital NEY Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT
Alnwick Infirmary NEY Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT North Tyneside

General Hospital NEY Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT Wansbeck General
 Hospital NEY Northumbria Healthcare NHS FT Hexham General Hospital
 NEY North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT University Hospital of Hartlepool
 NEY Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Castle Hill Hospital NEY
 York Teaching Hospital NHS FT Bridlington and District Hospital NEY
 Harrogate and District NHS FT Harrogate and District NHS FT NEY Northern
 Lincolnshire and Goole NHS FT Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital NEY
 Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS FT Goole and District Hospital NEY
 Barnsley Hospital NHS FT Barnsley Hospital NEY Sheffield Teaching
 Hospitals NHS FT Northern General Hospital (Sheffield DSU) NEY Sheffield
 Teaching Hospitals NHS FT Northern General Hospital (Balborough Treatment
 Centre – Sheffield Hand Centre) NEY Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS FT
 Northern General Hospital – Ophthalmology NEY Calderdale and Huddersfield
 NHS FT Calderdale Royal Hospital NEY Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS FT
 Calderdale Royal Hospital NEY Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Chapel
 Allerton Hospital NEY Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Wharfedale
 Hospital Midlands The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS FT Royal Orthopaedic
 Hospital – Surgical Centre Midlands University Hospitals Birmingham NHS
 FT Solihull Hospital Elective Hub Midlands Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
 Walsall Manor Hospital Midlands The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Cannock
 Chase Hospital Midlands Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust Birmingham
 Treatment Centre (City Hospital) Midlands George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
 George Eliot Hospital – Day Proc Unit and Day Case Theatres Midlands
 University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust University Hospital
 (Coventry) – Rugby Midlands University Hospitals Coventry and
 Warwickshire NHS Trust University Hospital (Coventry) – University Hospitals
 Coventry and Warwickshire Day Surgery Unit Midlands South Warwickshire
 NHS FT SWFT Warwick Hospital Midlands South Warwickshire NHS FT Stratford
 Day Case Midlands University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS FT
 Ilkeston Community Hospital Midlands University Hospitals of Derby and
 Burton NHS FT Sir Robert Peel (SRP) Community Hospital Midlands
 University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS FT Burton Hospital Treatment
 Centre Midlands University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS FT Kings
 Treatment, Royal Derby Hospital Midlands Worcestershire Acute Hospitals
 NHS Trust Alexandra Hospital Elective Hub Midlands University Hospitals
 of Leicester NHS Trust Glenfield Hospital – Elective Hub Midlands
 University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust LLR Alliance Community Hospital –
 Elective Hub Midlands United Lincolnshire Hospital NHS Trust Grantham and
 District Hospital – Elective Surgical Hub Midlands Sherwood Forest
 Hospitals NHS FT Newark Hospital (King’s Mill Hospital) – Elective Hub
 Midlands The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust Royal Shrewsbury
 Hospital – Cataract Suite (Cophthorne Building) East of England Cambridge
 University Hospitals NHS FT CUH at Princess of Wales Hospital East of
 England Cambridge University Hospitals NHS FT Addenbrooke’s Hospital
 (Cambridge Eye Unit) East of England West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS
 Trust St Albans City Hospital Elective Hub East of England Mid and South
 Essex NHS FT Braintree Community Hospital London St George’s University
 Hospitals NHS FT St George’s at Queen Mary’s Hospital London Croydon
 Health Services NHS Trust Croydon University Hospital London Epsom and St
 Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust South West London Elective Orthopaedic
 Centre London King’s College Hospital NHS FT Orpington Hospital

London Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup
London London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust Central Middlesex
Hospital London Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust Charing Cross
Hospital London Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS FT Chelsea and
Westminster London The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS FT Hillingdon – Mount
Vernon Treatment centre London Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS FT
West Middlesex Elective Hub London Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital
NHS Trust Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital London University College
London Hospitals NHS FT UCLH – Grafton Way London Royal Free London NHS
FT Chase Farm Hospital London Moorefields Eye Hospital NHS FT Moorfield
Eye Hospital – St Ann's London Moorefields Eye Hospital NHS FT Moorfield
Eye Hospital – City Road London Royal Free London NHS FT Edgware
Community Hospital London Whittington Health NHS Trust The Whittington
Hospital London Barts Health NHS Trust Whipps Cross – Plane Tree
London Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust King
George Ilford – Queens Hospital London Barts Health NHS Trust Newham
General Hospital – BHOC London Homerton University Hospital NHS FT
Homerton University Hospital South West Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS
FT Sulis Hospital – Bath – Elective Surgery Hub South West Royal Cornwall
Hospitals NHS Trust Royal Cornwall – St Michael's Elective Hub South West
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS FT Nightingale Hospital Exeter – Elective Surgery
Centre South West University Hospitals Dorset NHS FT Christchurch
Hospital – Dermatology Unit South East Royal Berkshire NHS FT West
Berkshire Community Hospital South East Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS
Trust Wycombe Hospital South East Oxford University Hospitals NHS FT
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre (NOC) South East Royal Berkshire NHS FT King
Edward Vii Hospital (Prince of Wales) South East Frimley Health NHS FT
Heatherwood Hospital South East University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust
Lymington Hospital South East Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust
Queen Alexandra Hospital South East Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT Andover
War Memorial Hospital South East Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT Basingstoke
General Hospital South East Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT Winchester County
Hospital South East Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Maidstone
Hospital South East Ashford and St Peter's Hospital NHS FT Ashford
Hospital South East University Hospitals Sussex NHS FT Sussex Orthopaedic
Treatment Centre

PM call with President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi of Egypt: 25 August 2022

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi



The Prime Minister spoke to President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi this afternoon, to welcome the cooperation between the UK and Egypt during his premiership and discuss ways to further boost the relationship between our countries.

The leaders highlighted increased trade, business and education links, including the creation of the UK-Egypt Investment Council and new investment opportunities in Egypt.

They also welcomed our countries' close defence and security cooperation, and the Prime Minister thanked President Sisi for his role in helping to get grain out of Ukraine's ports and on route to countries facing desperate food shortages as a result of Russia's blockade.

The Prime Minister and President Sisi discussed resolving the consular case of Alaa Abdel Fattah, and the Prime Minister expressed his hope for swift and positive progress on the issue.

The leaders also looked ahead to the UK handing over the COP Presidency to Egypt at COP27 in November, emphasising the importance of driving forward the transformative action on climate change agreed in Glasgow last year.

Published 25 August 2022

The situation on the ground demonstrates the urgent need to make progress towards a Two State Solution

Thank you President. I join others in thanking Mr Wennesland, Mr Lazzarini and Mr Levy for their valuable briefings today.

Let me start by welcoming the two-year anniversary of the Abraham Accords this month. The Abraham Accords are a historic milestone that bring us closer to the goal of shared prosperity and peace throughout the region.

President,

As we stated at the emergency session on 8 August, the UK welcomes the ceasefire in Gaza and we reiterate our calls for the parties to make every effort to sustain it. It is critical that humanitarian access in and out of Gaza is ensured, in accordance with International Humanitarian Law.

We were appalled by the terrorist attack in Jerusalem on 13 August. The UK unequivocally condemns any and all acts of terrorism. Our thoughts are with the victims and families of those affected. We reiterate our unwavering commitment to Israel's security. This conflict has taken a terrible toll on both sides. We are concerned at the record number of Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces this year and urge Israel to show restraint in the use of live ammunition and to ensure a thorough and transparent investigation into all fatalities.

President,

We have been clear about our concern over the Israeli government's decision last year to designate six Palestinian NGOs as terrorist organisations. The subsequent raids on the offices of seven Palestinian NGOs, and arrests of their staff, are equally concerning. Civil society organisations play an important role in upholding human rights and democracy and they must be able to operate freely in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We continue to engage with a number of these organisations.

President,

We call on the Israeli authorities to halt plans to advance evictions at Khan Al Ahmar and on the E1 settlement plan. Advancing E1 would seriously hinder a two-state solution. Settlements are contrary to International Humanitarian Law.

This month we also saw demolition orders issued in Masafer Yatta and against a donor-funded school in Ein Samiya. Such demolitions cause unnecessary suffering and in all but exceptional circumstances are contrary to international law.

The UK is a long-standing supporter of UNRWA for the vital role they play in providing core services and humanitarian and protection assistance to Palestinian refugees across the region. We were pleased to announce at the pledging conference in June that we have agreed a new multi-year funding agreement with UNRWA and will provide £15m this year.

The situation on the ground demonstrates the urgent need to make progress towards a Two State Solution that ensures a safe and secure Israel, living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state based on 1967 lines, with Jerusalem the shared capital of both states. The UK remains committed to working with all parties to reduce tensions and take steps towards a sustainable peace.