

Tier 2 Visa Applications: Support Information from NHSE (January 2020)

Perhaps your practice are hoping to recruit a new GP or provide supervision for a GP on the international GP Recruitment scheme? Now may be a good time to consider becoming a Tier 2 Visa sponsor.

Background

Tier 2 is an immigration route for non-European Economic Area (EEA) migrants who wish to work in the UK. Initially the focus was on doctors from the EEA but has now been widened to include Australia and New Zealand.

In order to obtain a Tier 2 Visa, these migrants must be sponsored by an organisation or company that holds a Tier 2 licence. A licence is a permission given to an organisation by the Home Office to sponsor workers in its business. This licence lasts for 4 years and the organisation is then recognised as a sponsor.

GP registrars from non-EU countries are looking for posts and the international recruitment programme is expanding into more non-EU countries. Therefore an increasing number of GPs are looking for practices who are able to provide them with Tier 2 sponsorship.

However, the number of GP Practices that are currently Tier 2 Visa sponsors is limited and often non-EEA GP Trainees will be forced to return to their home country if they are unable to find employment with a practice that can continue their sponsorship. Tier 2 Visa sponsorship is therefore an opportunity for practices to open themselves up to a new pool of GPs who would be eligible to apply for their vacancies.

All of the associated costs of becoming a Tier 2 visa sponsor are currently being reimbursed by NHS England. Furthermore, NHSE will support non-EEA GP trainees by matching them with vacancies at practices that hold visa sponsorship licences in their preferred locations.

Individual practices employing international GPs no longer have to complete the Resident Labour Market Test as this has been covered nationally.

Please note that standard recruitment processes would still apply for the vacant roles within these practices.

How to Apply

NHSE has shared the following information packs for practices:

[Becoming a Tier 2 Visa Sponsor – A Guide for GP Practices](#) – updated December 2019 (PowerPoint file)

[Creating and Assigning Certificates of Sponsorship - A Guide for GP Practices](#) – updated December 2019 (PowerPoint file)

If you are interested in becoming a Tier 2 Visa Sponsor Organisation and would like further information or assistance, please contact the following:

For Humber, Coast & Vale - Helen Phillips - helen.phillips25@nhs.net

Funding

NHS England is offering a package of funding to support any practice who wants to become Tier 2 Visa sponsors. Funding available includes: reimbursement of sponsor licence fee (even if unsuccessful), Certificate of Sponsorship fee, the first two years of Immigration Skills Charge and Visa fees for GP trainee and their family.

Please note that becoming a sponsor and getting a certificate of sponsorship for a specific doctor can take 4 to 6 months so if you begin at the point when it is needed it can be too late. The team at Humberside LMCs are able to advise you and help with the application process if needed.

If you would like an informal chat about any of the above then please contact us at humberside.lmcgroup@nhs.net.