

Mobility: Immigration alert

February 2023



United Kingdom

India Young Professionals Scheme visa ballot to open on 28 February 2023

Executive summary

On 21 February 2023, the UK government announced that the India Young Professionals Scheme visa ballot will open at 2:30 pm IST on 28 February 2023 and close at 2:30 pm IST on 2 March 2023. Indian nationals who seek to apply for a UK visa under this Scheme must be selected in the ballot before they can submit a visa application.

Background

The [Youth Mobility Scheme](#) is open to certain British nationals (e.g., British overseas citizens) and nationals of [specific jurisdictions](#). Eligible applicants must enter a ballot and get selected before submitting their visa application under the Youth Mobility Scheme. The first ballot in 2023 opened on 17 January and closed on 19 January for nationals and residents of certain jurisdictions, including Japan and South Korea.

The India Young Professional Scheme, which is similar to the Youth Mobility Scheme, is solely intended for Indian nationals. Visas issued under this Scheme allow eligible Indian nationals to live and work in the UK for up to two years.

Key developments

On 21 February 2023, the UK government provided instructions regarding the upcoming ballot for the India Young Professionals Scheme, including how to enter it and how the ballot system will work. Eligible individuals must [apply](#) online during the 48-hour ballot period and are not subject to any ballot application

fee. Successful entries will be selected randomly by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), and the results will be sent to applicants by email within two weeks of the ballot closing.

In order to be eligible for the India Young Professionals Scheme, applicants must be of Indian nationality, between 18 and 30 years of age, have a bachelor's degree or above, have at least GBP 2,530 in savings for at least 28 calendar days prior to filing the visa application, and not have any children under the age of 18 who live with them or for whom they are financially responsible.

Successful ballot applicants will be invited to submit the visa application within 30 days after the invitation has been sent (i.e., after they receive the ballot results via email). Applicants must pay a visa application fee of GBP 259 (plus an immigration health surcharge, if applicable) to the UKVI while filing the visa application.

A total of 2,400 visas will be available in the February 2023 ballot. The next India Young Professionals ballot is likely to be held in late July 2023.

Impact on employers

The India Youth Professionals Scheme does not require an employer to sponsor the visa. It allows prospective employers to hire successful applicants without the need to sponsor them.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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