



Overseas Working Requirements

Overseas worker requirements

General Information For All Applicants

1. Applicants require a **Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS)** from their licensed UK employer before applying for the Tier 2 Health and Social Care Visa. This is an electronic document provided by your UK employer.
2. Applicants must have proof of **English proficiency** (if required). Commonly accepted tests include the **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** or **Occupational English Test (OET)**.
3. Applicants require a **police clearance check** from all countries where they have lived or worked.
4. Applicants require a **valid passport**, which must be valid beyond the expected duration of the initial stay in the UK.
5. Applicants must supply satisfactory **previous employment references**.
6. Applicants must provide verification of **educational qualifications** relevant to the role.
7. Applicants must supply a **health declaration** and a Tuberculosis test (if required), verifying both physical and mental fitness for the role.

Social Work Specific

All candidates must complete registration with **Social Work England** before applying for jobs.

Social Work England is the specialist regulator for social work in the country, an independent public protection body that sets professional, educational, and training standards for social workers.

To ensure people receive the best possible support whenever they might need it in life, and to raise standards through collaboration with everyone involved in social work.

Step 1: Register with Social Work England

To apply to Social Work England, you will need to upload your **passport**, **qualifications** (evidence of social work equivalent to UK standards), and **previous registration** information to the Social Work England website.

Step 2: Qualification and Experience Verification

Once your documents have been uploaded to the Social Work England website, your application will be reviewed, and the supporting documents will be verified to ensure your qualifications and experience align with UK standards.

You may be required to provide additional documentation or clarifications.

Step 3: English Language Proficiency

If English is not your first language, you must provide evidence of English proficiency. This can be done via the **IELTS or OET**.

Exemptions: If you have completed social work training in an English-speaking country or recently practiced social work for at least one year in a country where English is widely spoken, you may be exempt from this requirement.

Step 4: Final Social Work England Registration Requirements

Once your qualifications and language proficiency (if required) are confirmed, complete the final steps of Social Work England's registration by submitting a **health declaration, police clearance check, and English language documentation** (if required).

All documents must be uploaded to your Social Work England account before arrival in the UK.

Step 5: Arriving in the UK and Starting Work

Once your registration with Social Work England is approved and you have received a job offer, you can travel to the UK to begin your social work career

Nurses Specific

Candidates must apply to the **UK Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)**.

Anyone interested in living and working in the UK as a nurse needs to register with the NMC. The NMC regulates the nursing and midwifery profession in the UK, setting standards that ensure high-quality patient care.

Nurses from outside the UK can apply to be on the NMC Register if they meet its standards. The NMC will compare your training to that required in the UK.

Step 1: Register with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

To apply, you will need to upload your **passport, nursing qualifications, and current nursing registration/licence** from your country of practice to the NMC website.

Step 2: English Language Proficiency

If English is not your first language, you must provide evidence of English proficiency via the **IELTS or OET**.

Exemptions: If you have completed nursing training in an English-speaking country or recently practiced nursing for at least one year in a country where English is widely spoken, you may be exempt.

Step 3: Test of Competence - Part 1

After the NMC reviews your documentation and English proficiency, they will invite you to take **Part 1 of the Test of Competence**. This is a **computer-based test (CBT)** assessing theoretical practice-based knowledge, consisting of multiple-choice questions available at test centres worldwide.

Book and pay for the CBT with Pearson Vue. Information about the CBT can be found here:

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/registration/joining-the-register/na-test-of-competence/>

Step 4: Final Registration Requirements Before Arrival

After completing the above steps, candidates must finalise their NMC registration by providing a **health declaration, police clearances, and English language proficiency** evidence before arriving in the UK.

These documents **MUST** be uploaded to your account before you travel.

Step 5: Test of Competence - Part 2

Upon arrival in the UK, you must book the **part 2 of your Test of Competence** at an approved test centre (your employer may book this for you). This is a practical exam called an **Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)**, simulating scenarios nurses may encounter in clinical settings.

Step 5: Full NMC Registration

After completing all of the above, your NMC registration will be finalised, allowing you to practice as a registered nurse in the UK.