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**visa**

The Guide for  
Tier 1 Exceptional Talent Visa  
for Digital Technology

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**This Guide applies to all applications submitted after 6 July 2018 and is subject to review.**

# OVERVIEW

## WHAT IS THE TECH NATION VISA?

The Tech Nation Visa enables the brightest and best tech talent from around the world to come and work in the UK digital technology sector, contributing their cutting-edge expertise, creativity and innovation to maintaining the UK's position at the forefront of the global digital economy.

**Tech Nation** is the Home Office Designated Competent Body (DCB) which assesses applications from individuals with expertise in digital technology who want to come to the UK under the Tier I Exceptional Talent visa.

If you are exceptionally talented or show exceptional promise and want to work in the UK's digital technology sector, the Tech Nation Visa can help you do this.

## CONDITIONS OF THE TECH NATION VISA

- Visa can be granted for up to five years for applications made from inside the UK or five years and four months for applications from outside the UK.
- Applicants can be eligible for Settlement under this visa route. The qualifying period depends on whether your visa is granted under either the criteria for Exceptional Talent (three years) or Exceptional Promise (five years).
- The Tier I Exceptional Talent visa allows you to work and change employers, or to be self-employed, without the need for further authorisation or to be sponsored for employment in a specific post.
- Dependants are allowed subject to requirements.

# ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide outlines the process and criteria for **digital technology** applicants to the Tech Nation Visa. Applicants must demonstrate **proven commercial or technical expertise** in management or exploitation of a technology stack to meet these criteria.

You may qualify under this route if you are already internationally recognised as having made significant contributions as a leader, or have demonstrated the potential to contribute significantly as a future leader, in your field.

Depending on your experience, you can apply to one of the following routes:

**Exceptional Talent:** proven to be a recognised leader.

**Exceptional Promise:** proven to be an emerging leader.

This Guide focuses solely on the requirements for endorsement by Tech Nation.

All applicants should review the [Tier 1 Exceptional Talent website](#) and [Guidance](#) **before starting an application.**

Applications for the Tech Nation Visa are assessed by an independent panel of experts against the endorsement criteria described in this guide.

**Tech Nation cannot advise applicants on eligibility or likelihood of endorsement.**

# THE APPLICATION PROCESS

# HOW DO I START?

There are two stages in the Tech Nation Visa application process. In Stage 1, you apply to be endorsed. If your application is endorsed you will become eligible to apply for a visa on the Home Office website, this is Stage 2 of the application process.

## STAGE 1 – APPLICATION FOR ENDORSEMENT

**Step 1:** You must **first apply to the Home Office** for endorsement by Tech Nation. The Home Office will inform Tech Nation when you have completed this step. Your application will not be processed until we receive this notification.

*Use the button below for a direct link to the relevant application form.*

[APPLY TO HOME OFFICE](#)

**Step 2:** You need to complete the **Tech Nation Visa application form** and provide a number of documents as evidence of your eligibility. Tech Nation's panel of independent experts will assess your application to decide if it meets the criteria. You **will not** be able to make changes or submit additional documents for consideration once you have submitted your application.

*Use the button below for a direct link to the relevant application form.*

[TECH NATION FORM](#)

**Step 3:** You must send a **printed version** of your Tech Nation application form, together with your supporting documents, directly to the Home Office at the following address:

**Tier 1 Exceptional Talent  
Sheffield  
PO Box 3468  
S3 8WA  
United Kingdom**

If your application meets the criteria, it will be endorsed by Tech Nation and recommended to the Home Office for approval. **Tech Nation is unable to disclose the outcome of applications directly to applicants.** The Home Office will let you know the outcome of your application by email. Successful applicants will receive with a Letter of Endorsement by the Home Office.

When you receive your Letter of Endorsement, you can proceed to Stage 2.

## STAGE 2 - APPLICATION FOR IMMIGRATION

Once your Tech Nation application is endorsed, you must apply for immigration on the Home Office website. You should submit your letter of endorsement as part of your application.

You must apply for your visa within three months of receiving your letter of endorsement from the Home Office.

You will not automatically get a visa just by being endorsed. You must also be successful in Stage 2 of your visa application.

You can apply for a visa of up to a maximum of five years and four months in duration if you apply from outside the UK, or five years if you apply from inside the UK.

*Use the button below for a direct link to the relevant application form.*

**STAGE 2 APPLICATION**

**Tech Nation is not involved with Stage 2, we have no influence on this stage of the process and cannot provide advice.**

## WHAT IF MY STAGE 1 APPLICATION FOR ENDORSEMENT IS UNSUCCESSFUL?

If your application does not meet the criteria for endorsement, and you believe that the decision to refuse your application was incorrect, you can apply for a review. You may not submit any new or additional information/documents in support of your request. If you wish to submit new information or documents, you will have to make a fresh application.

You can only apply for one review and the process ends if your application for endorsement is refused a second time. You can still apply via another visa route or re-apply to this route with different supporting evidence.

Tech Nation experts review each application based on its own merits. Tech Nation reserves the right to not recommend endorsement if our panel of experts deem the evidence provided is insufficient to consider the applicant to be a digital technology leader.

## HOW LONG DOES THE APPLICATION PROCESS TAKE?

The application process is in two stages:

**Stage 1:** Application for Endorsement takes up to 8 weeks to be processed.

**Stage 2:** Application for Visa takes up to 3 weeks if you are applying from outside the UK and 8 weeks if you are applying from inside the UK.

## CAN MY APPLICATION BE FAST TRACKED?

It is possible for applications to be fast-tracked through the **Stage 1 endorsement process** if Tech Nation is satisfied that they meet the criteria listed below. There are three separate options for applications to be fast-tracked.

Applications not accepted under a fast track option will still be considered for eligibility under the normal timeline.

To use one of the options, tick the correct box on the application form. In your personal statement, you should also explain why you are requesting the fast-track option. You should also provide evidence that shows you meet the requirements for this option.

You can apply for a fast-tracked endorsement if you meet one of the following criteria.

## 1. REGIONAL LOCATION

You can provide evidence that you intend to settle and work outside Greater London and you are able to demonstrate how this is linked to your plans for employment or entrepreneurship.

## 2. EXPERIENCE OF SCALE

You can provide evidence that you are an existing member of a senior management team or C-suite (CEO, CTO, CFO, COO, CMO) and are able to demonstrate extensive experience in scaling a digital technology business. Ideally this company will have a more than 50 staff members. This fast track option is only available if you are applying under the Exceptional Talent criteria and is not available to applicants for Exceptional Promise.

## 3. ACCELERATOR PARTICIPANT

You can provide evidence of being accepted onto a recognised UK accelerator programme. Tech Nation Visa applications should provide clear details of all your plans while in UK, not just your involvement in the accelerator programme. The following listed accelerators are currently eligible for this fast track:

- Barclays Accelerator
- Bethnal Green Ventures (BGV)
- Collider
- CyLon
- Entrepreneur First (EF)
- Founders Factory
- GCHQ Cyber Accelerator
- Ignite Accelerator
- Microsoft Accelerator
- SETsquared
- Startupbootcamp
- TechStars
- Wayra

**Eligibility for fast-tracking applications is at the discretion of Tech Nation. Applicants will not be informed if their application is being fast-tracked.**

# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

## HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE TECH NATION VISA?

To enter the UK through the **Tier 1 Exceptional Talent / Exceptional Promise** visa route you **must** either be established as a leader in the field of digital technology (Exceptional Talent) or demonstrate the potential to become a leader in the field of digital technology (Exceptional Promise). Each route has its own requirements and you cannot mix criteria from Exceptional Talent and Exceptional Promise.

### ALTHOUGH THERE ARE TWO LEVELS OF EXPERTISE FOR APPLICATIONS, EXCEPTIONAL TALENT AND EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE, THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPORTING EVIDENCE ARE THE SAME.

Have a look at the eligibility criteria and see which option is most appropriate for your level of expertise. In meeting these criteria, you **must** demonstrate proven **commercial** or **technical** expertise in building, using, deploying or exploiting a technology stack.

Tech Nation assesses potential against the evidence provided to ensure applicants meet the required criteria.

## EXCEPTIONAL TALENT: PROVEN TO BE A RECOGNISED LEADER

Applicants who apply under Exceptional Talent are often individuals who have already had significant careers in digital technology and are able to draw on their experience and professional achievements to demonstrate their status as a leader.

A person with **Exceptional Talent** has:

- At least one **KEY** criteria; **AND**
- At least two **QUALIFYING** criteria

### Key Criteria (at least one)

1. Have a **proven track record** of innovation in the digital technology sector as a director / founder of a digital technology sector company or an employee working in a new digital field or concept that must be clearly evidenced (e.g. patent application).
2. **Proof of recognition for work outside your immediate occupation** that has contributed to the advancement of the digital technology sector. For example, evidence that you have gone beyond your day to day profession to engage in an activity that contributes to the advancement of the sector.

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**AND**

### Qualifying Criteria (at least two)

1. Have made significant technical, commercial, or entrepreneurial contributions in the digital technology sector as either a founder, entrepreneur or employee of a digital technology company.
  2. Have been recognised as a leading talent in the digital technology sector.
  3. Have undergone continuous learning / mastery of new digital skills (commercial or technical) throughout your career.
  4. Have demonstrated exceptional ability in the field by making academic contributions through research published or otherwise endorsed by a research supervisor or other expert.
-

## EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE: PROVEN TO BE AN EMERGING LEADER

Applicants who apply under Exceptional Promise are often individuals who are at the start of their careers in digital technology and may not have the same levels of experience as someone endorsed for Exceptional Talent. These applicants believe that they can demonstrate the potential to be a leader in digital technology through their skills and/or achievements.

A person with **Exceptional Promise** has:

- At least one **KEY** criteria; **AND**
- At least two **QUALIFYING** criteria

### Key Criteria (at least one)

1. Provide two or more examples of innovation in the digital technology sector as a **founder** of a digital technology sector company **or an employee** working in a new digital field or concept that must be clearly evidenced, for example patent application.
2. **Proof of recognition for work outside your immediate occupation** that has contributed to the advancement of the digital technology sector. For example evidence that you have gone beyond your day to day profession to engage in an activity that contributes to the advancement of the sector.

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**AND**

### Qualifying Criteria (at least two)

1. Have made significant technical, commercial, or entrepreneurial contributions in the digital technology sector as either a founder or entrepreneur or employee of a digital technology company.
2. Have been recognised as having the **potential** to be a leading talent in the digital technology sector.
3. Have undergone continuous learning / mastery of new digital skills (commercial or technical) throughout your career.
4. Provide two or more examples of exceptional ability in the field by making academic contributions through research endorsed by a research supervisor or other expert.

Once you have decided which route is most appropriate to your expertise, you **must** specify if you are applying as an **Exceptional Talent** or **Exceptional Promise** candidate on the Tech Nation visa application form.

Tech Nation experts will establish whether you meet the necessary criteria to be endorsed for Exceptional Talent or Exceptional Promise. If the eligibility criteria are satisfied, Tech Nation's independent panel of experts will determine whether they consider the application suitable for endorsement. It is at Tech Nation's discretion to assess each application on its own merits and make a recommendation for or against endorsement.

## CAN YOU GIVE SOME EXAMPLES OF RELEVANT TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS ROLES?

Technical roles	Business roles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DevOps / SysOps engineers</li><li>• Principal software engineers/ developers</li><li>• Experienced data scientists/data engineers</li><li>• Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning experts (AI, NLP, ML)</li><li>• Cybersecurity experts</li><li>• Hardware engineers</li><li>• Experienced front-end developers</li><li>• Operating systems engineers</li><li>• Experienced graphics programmers</li><li>• Experienced UX/UI designers</li><li>• Experienced Mobile App developers</li><li>• Experienced back end developers leading development of or contributing heavily to major new technologies or open source projects (e.g. blockchain, Scala, Golang, Elasticsearch etc)</li><li>• CTO or VP engineering experience managing teams of in house employees at a growing digital business</li><li>• Virtual and augmented reality developers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Experience of taking a tech company through IPO</li><li>• Experience as a commercial / business lead (P&amp;L, growth, sales and distribution strategy) in a digital business</li><li>• Experience of scaling a digital product internationally</li><li>• Sector-specific experience e.g. payment infrastructure in FinTech / international expansion in EdTech</li><li>• Solution sales experts</li><li>• Experienced Product Manager</li><li>• SaaS or enterprise sales leadership for digital services</li><li>• Solution sales skills performed for a growing B2B digital business (i.e. not big-company experience)</li><li>• Performance marketing experts, performed in house for digital businesses</li><li>• Experienced VC or PE analysts with track records of leading investments in digital businesses</li><li>• Experience as C Suite in a SMEs + (CEO, CMO, CIO) or head of operations for a digital business</li></ul>

**This not an exhaustive list and we will consider applications from other backgrounds.**

# DOCUMENTS AND EVIDENCE

# WHAT DOCUMENTS AND EVIDENCE DO I NEED TO SUBMIT?

## TO APPLY FOR THE TECH NATION VISA, YOU MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE YOU MEET THE EXCEPTIONAL TALENT / EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE CRITERIA DETAILED IN THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SECTION OF THIS GUIDE:

- ❑ **Completed Home Office application for endorsement** which can be completed online at the [Tier 1 Exceptional Talent website](#).
- ❑ **Completed Tech Nation (Tier 1 Exceptional Talent) application form** which is available on the [Tech Nation Visa website](#). This includes a **personal statement** (maximum 7000 characters in length) written by you to explain the contribution that you will make to the UK digital technology sector. Please see Personal Statement of the guide for additional details.
- ❑ **Short curriculum vitae** outlining your career and publication history (no more than two sides of A4 paper).
- ❑ **Two letters of recommendation from two different recognised experts** who are familiar with your work and contribution to the digital technology sector. They must be qualified to assess your claim to be a potential leader in the field and be able to recommend you with confidence. Please see the letters of recommendation section of this guide for more details.
- ❑ **Up to ten pieces of evidence** to show that you meet to **one** key and **at least two** qualifying criteria listed in the Criteria section of this guide. Examples that may help you determine what documents you can supply are available in the evidence section of this guide.
- ❑ If you have had any active or dissolved digital technology businesses in the last five years or evidence of share ownership in a digital technology sector company, you **must** include evidence of this as part of the documents you submit. This evidence will count as part of the ten supporting documents.
- ❑ If you are applying for the 'Experience of scale' fast track option, you **must** provide your employment contract detailing job title, details of employment and any remuneration such as salary, fees or other options (e.g. equity).

- **Do not forget that printed copies of your Tech Nation Visa application form AND evidence documents should be sent to the Home Office once you have submitted your application. The postal address can be found earlier in this guide or on the Tech Nation website.**
- **Authorised English translations must be provided for all documents that are not originally written in English.**
- **Tech Nation may undertake checks on the information provided and any false or fraudulent applications will be ineligible for consideration. The Home Office will also be informed immediately.**
- **The evidence you supply to demonstrate you meet the key and qualifying criteria must consist of no more than ten documents in total. Each piece of evidence (i.e. document) should not be longer than two sides of an A4 paper. Longer documents should be summarised or condensed to their most important and relevant aspects (e.g. key terms of employment for an employment contract).**
- **Additional information or evidence that exceeds the maximum document length is unlikely to aid your application and may delay consideration.**
- **Evidence you provide in relation to continuous learning will be considered based on how recent it is, with the most recent evidence of learning carrying more weight in assessment than evidence of learning undertaken further in the past.**

# EXAMPLES

# CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME EXAMPLES OF RELEVANT EVIDENCE?

This section contains examples of the types of evidence that could be evaluated by Tech Nation when looking at **key** and **qualifying criteria** for Exceptional Talent / Exceptional Promise.

Tech Nation will judge whether the documentation provided is appropriate evidence of Exceptional Talent / Exceptional Promise.

Tech Nation consider the following points when assessing your application:

- Your track record/career history, including your international standing, the significance of your work and the impact of your activity in a company or as an individual).
- The strength and veracity of supporting statements in letters of recommendation.
- The expected benefits of your contributions to the UK digital technology sector.
- Factors including but not limited to, your academic track record and salary level if employed, the company that will hire you if an employee, the amount of money raised if you are an entrepreneur.

**These examples are not exhaustive and other relevant evidence can be supplied to demonstrate that you meet the criteria.**

**The requirements for supporting evidence for Exceptional Talent and Exceptional Promise are the same.**

# WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO SHOW THAT I MEET THE KEY CRITERIA?

This section outlines possible documentary evidence you could include as part of your application to demonstrate that you meet the eligibility criteria.

## 1. HOW DO I SHOW THAT I HAVE A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF INNOVATION?

You can demonstrate that you have a proven track record of innovation in the digital technology sector as a director / founder of a digital technology sector company or an employee working in a new digital field or concept by providing evidence of any digital technology businesses you have established as a director or founder which is currently active or has dissolved in the last five years.

Examples of relevant evidence include:

- Evidence of innovation / product development, proof of product in market and associated traction through revenue
- Evidence for each business should include your last set of audited accounts, projections for the current financial year and articles of association
- Evidence should be provided regarding the current number of outlets or stockists that carry the products
- Evidence of employment contract and history of earnings

If you are an employee working in a new digital field or concept, this must be clearly demonstrated, for example by providing a patent application

## 2. HOW DO I SHOW THAT I HAVE BEEN RECOGNISED FOR MY WORK OUTSIDE MY IMMEDIATE OCCUPATION?

You can demonstrate this by providing evidence that you have gone beyond your day-to-day profession to engage in an activity that contributes to the advancement of the sector. Examples may include mentoring, advising, organising interest groups, leading on policy, teaching at a university, or participating in clubs or societies for the furthering of the field.

Examples of relevant evidence include:

- Evidence of contributions to an Open Source project
- Your GitHub profile demonstrating active participation in a collaborative project
- Your StackOverflow profile showing significant contribution to discussions around code
- A link to one or more videos of talks or conferences that have had a significant viewership

- An op-ed or news article that exemplifies thought leadership, evidence of mentorship
- Evidence of sharing or teaching skills, such as mentoring if at a workplace

## WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO SHOW THAT I MEET THE QUALIFYING CRITERIA?

This section outlines possible documentary evidence you could include as part of your application to demonstrate that you meet **at least two** of the qualifying criteria.

### 1. HOW DO I DEMONSTRATE THAT I HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT TECHNICAL, COMMERCIAL, OR ENTREPRENEURIAL CONTRIBUTION IN THE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SECTOR EITHER AS AN ENTREPRENEUR, DIRECTOR, OR FOUNDER OF A DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANY?

Tech Nation will assess whether you are a **technical** applicant meaning that your occupation requires you to write code or manage developers or a **business** applicant meaning any occupation within a digital technology company that does not require you to write code.

**Technical examples** of a significant contribution as an entrepreneur, director, or founder of a digital technology company include:

- Having led in the development of high-impact digital products or services
- Starting or contributing to open source projects in a way that has been acknowledged by peers as advancing the field
- Having worked as a key engineer in the core product of a startup, showing evidence as to how you have contributed to its success

Documents that will be considered as acceptable evidence include the following examples. This list is not exhaustive and other appropriate documents can be submitted. Please provide **at least two** pieces of evidence:

- Employment contract if relevant – although you will have to demonstrate how you have gone beyond your day-to-day activities to demonstrate that you have made a **significant** impact in the sector

- A letter from an employer on the company's letterhead -- this is in addition to the required letter of endorsement that should be written by another individual
- Documentation of product designs or architecture diagram clearly showing your contribution. Please ensure this evidence is no longer than two A4 pages. The document must demonstrate your personal work and not that of the company or team of individuals
- GitHub account that contains lines of code clearly showing your continuing contribution

**Business examples** of a 'significant contribution' include:

- Having led or played a key role in the growth of a digital technology company, such as influencing investment and strategy or delivering major products or releases
- Having founded a successful company or other organisation and leading it

Documents that will be considered as acceptable evidence include the following examples. This list is not exhaustive and other appropriate documents can be submitted. Please provide **at least two** pieces of evidence:

- Employment contract
- A letter from an employer on the company's letterhead – this is in addition to the required letter of endorsement that should be written by another individual
- Documents detailing your significant contribution to innovation, such as evidence of sales pipeline built and delivered, growth generated, leads generated, processes developed and implemented

## 2. HOW DO I DEMONSTRATE THAT I HAVE BEEN RECOGNISED AS A LEADING TALENT IN THE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SECTOR?

The following examples may demonstrate that you meet this criteria:

- You have authored a well-reviewed book on digital technology or on programming or published material in a professional or major trade publication. You **must** include the title, date and evidence that you are the author of such published material and any necessary translation
- You led the growth of a company or product, as evidenced by a letter from a co-founder, supervisor or eminent colleague describing your work, or as evidenced by news clippings, lines of code or similar evidence of your choice

### 3. HOW DO I DEMONSTRATE CONTINUOUS LEARNING / MASTERY OF NEW COMMERCIAL OR TECHNICAL DIGITAL SKILLS THROUGHOUT MY CAREER?

- Evidence of having continuously updated technical or commercial skills showing clear progression and achievement – projects or courses completed at university or independently and that demonstrate a clear progression either in depth or breadth are appropriate examples
- Evidence of experimenting with new technologies, coding libraries or languages, or tools, as evidenced for example on your GitHub or Stack Overflow profile
- Evidence of learning processes or tools such as Agile or Scrum or of an up-to-date knowledge of your sector trends, as shown for example by a relevant qualification, or by a talk in a prestigious conference

Evidence you provide in relation to continuous learning will be considered based on how recent it is, with the most recent evidence of learning carrying more weight in assessment than evidence of learning undertaken further in the past.

### 4. HOW DO I DEMONSTRATE THAT I HAVE EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY IN THE FIELD BY MAKING ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH RESEARCH?

Documents that will be considered as acceptable evidence include:

- Evidence of **at least one** significant contribution to the field in the form of a paper published in a top tier journal.
- Evidence of outstanding applied work in the form of awards received for an outstanding project or thesis, supported by excellent academic achievement such as a first-class degree or distinction or their equivalent
- A letter of endorsement from a research supervisor or other expert in your area of expertise affirming their potential world-class standard, in addition to the required letters of endorsement, and written by another individual
- Evidence of an award or prize that has been granted by an organisation of a similar standing and distinction to The Royal Society, as well as the selection criteria for this award or prize

# PERSONAL STATEMENTS

# WHAT SHOULD I SAY IN MY PERSONAL STATEMENT?

Your personal statement should be a maximum 7000 characters in length and written by yourself. You should explain your plans in the UK and the contribution that you will make to the UK digital technology sector.

Make sure your personal statement is included in the Tech Nation Visa online application form and that the information provided is authentic and verifiable.

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I [insert name] wish to submit my application for the Tech Nation Visa (Tier I Exceptional Talent).

The information contained in this application is true to my knowledge and I will confirm the contents of this document at Tech Nation's request.

**Here are the points you must include in your personal statement. Remember to be specific and, where possible, give examples.**

- Details of your previous role and your achievements to date.
- Why do you want to come to the UK; give specific reasons
- Why you are applying for this visa route
- How you believe you have made a significant impact to your current digital community
- How will the UK digital technology sector benefit from your work
- How can the UK digital economy can benefit from your work – give concrete examples, for example the technological advances you will bring, the creation or new markets, the planned growth of a company, the activities you will take part in outside your direct occupation
- What are you going to do in the UK, give details of your planned occupation
- Where are you going to live in the UK
- Are you planning to live and work in a region outside Greater London
- What are your long-term plans in the UK
- Do you think your application should be fast-tracked? Tell us why
- Any other information you think would be relevant to your application

# LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

# WHAT IS A GOOD LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION?

A good Letter of Recommendation must be from a UK or internationally based recognised expert in digital technology.

The author must be an authorised member of the organisation such as the Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, Finance Director, Head of Department, Professor or Head of Course.

The letter must be written on letterhead paper.

The author must include details of their credentials, for example CV/resume/ LinkedIn profile. If evidence is not provided that the author is a credible referee, Tech Nation could refuse your application or request more information, which could cause significant delays.

The letter must have the author's full contact details.

It must be signed and dated (electronic signatures will be accepted in certain circumstances).

**You must provide two letters of recommendation** written in support of your application by two senior members of **two different** established organisations in the digital technology sector. These could be institutions or companies with a well-established national or international reputation and recognised expertise in the digital technology sector. Please note that referees do not necessarily need to be based in the UK.

Acceptable organisations would be those that work with industry experts and are widely acknowledged as having expertise in the digital technology sector. They should be familiar with your work in the digital technology sector, and able to recommend you with confidence.

Tech Nation reserves the right to determine whether organisations or individuals are well established and widely acknowledged as possessing expertise in your field. For example, this may include a UK-based or international expert, or a member of the executive team at a reputable international company, or an academic from a well-established university.

The letters should be dated and written on letterhead paper, wherever possible. They should include:

## LETTERHEAD PAPER / FULL CONTACT DETAILS

DATE dd mm yyyy

### CONFIDENTIAL

For the attention of Tech Nation:

Regarding the application of Mr/Mrs/Ms [name] for Exceptional Talent / Exceptional Promise status in the UK in the field of digital technology.

I [name and position] have come to know the applicant since [insert date] in the capacity of [name and position]

### Here are the points that the expert writing your letter of recommendations should include.

- How you have come to know the applicant and in what capacity
- Full details of the applicant's skills and credentials
- How has this applicant differed from other employees / clients/ students
- How has the applicant demonstrated that he/she is a leader, or shown significant potential, in digital technology
- In your expert opinion how has the applicant made a significant impact in the field of digital technology
- How would the applicant benefit from living in the United Kingdom
- What contribution would the applicant make to the UK digital technology sector
- Do you believe this applicant will have a positive impact to the UK digital economy? If so, please state full details as to why

### SIGNED

Name of Author

Title

Full contact details, including personal email address and direct telephone number

**Letters of recommendation must be written specifically for this purpose and include all the information detailed above. A general all-purpose reference letter is not acceptable.**



# The UK network for ambitious tech entrepreneurs

<https://technation.io/visa>

 @TechNation