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UK-India Young Professionals Scheme

India to UK • Ballot & Visa Application Procedure

IMPORTANT — 2026 STATUS

According to GOV.UK, all 2026 India Young Professionals Scheme ballots are now closed, and there will be no further ballots in 2026. The 2026 scheme had 3,000 places; the first ballot was held in February and the second in July. This guide is designed to help eligible applicants prepare for the next official ballot and understand the complete application process.

1. What is the India Young Professionals Scheme?

The India Young Professionals Scheme (YPS) is a UK visa route that allows eligible Indian citizens aged 18 to 30 to live and work in the UK for up to 2 years. You must first be successfully selected in the official YPS ballot before you can apply for the visa.

Important: The ballot entry is free. Being selected does not automatically grant the visa — you must still meet all visa requirements and complete the full application.

2. Eligibility Checklist

- Be an Indian national or citizen.
- Be between 18 and 30 years old.
- Be at least 18 when you plan to travel to the UK.
- Hold an eligible qualification at UK bachelor's degree level or above (R.Q.F. level 6, 7 or 8), or an equivalent overseas qualification.
- Have at least £2,530 in personal savings.
- Have held the required funds for at least 28 consecutive days, with day 28 within 31 days of the visa application.
- Must not have children under 18 who live with you or whom you are financially responsible for.
- Must not have previously been in the UK under the India Young Professionals Scheme or Youth Mobility Scheme visa.
- You must be selected in the ballot before applying for the visa.

3. What You Need for the Ballot

- Your full name.
- Date of birth.
- Indian passport details.

- A scan or clear photo of your passport.
- Phone number.
- Email address you regularly check.
- You should only submit one entry per person for each ballot.

The ballot is free. GOV.UK warns that you should only enter if you intend to apply and meet the visa eligibility requirements.

4. Step-by-Step Ballot Registration

1 Check the official GOV.UK ballot page

Before doing anything, check the official India Young Professionals Scheme ballot page for the next opening date and exact instructions. Do not use unofficial websites or agents claiming they can guarantee selection.

2 Check your eligibility

Confirm your age, Indian citizenship, degree-level qualification, financial requirement and family circumstances before entering.

3 Prepare your passport scan

Keep a clear scan or photo of your Indian passport ready. Make sure the details are readable.

4 Enter the ballot when it opens

Follow the official GOV.UK instructions during the published ballot window and provide your name, date of birth, passport details, phone number, email and passport image.

5 Submit only one entry

Only one ballot entry per person is counted for each ballot. Do not send duplicate entries.

6 Save your confirmation

Keep the automated confirmation/email and check your inbox and spam/junk folder.

7 Wait for the random selection

Successful entries are selected at random. GOV.UK says results are sent by email within 2 weeks of the ballot closing.

5. If You Are Selected

8 Read the selection email carefully

If your ballot entry is successful, you will receive an email inviting you to apply for the visa. Check the date of the email and keep it safely.

9 Start the visa application within 90 days

You have 90 days from the date of the selection email to apply online, pay the visa application fee and Immigration Health Surcharge, and provide your biometric information.

10 Prepare your financial evidence

Make sure you can prove you had at least £2,530 available for 28 consecutive days, with the required timing relative to your visa application.

11 Prepare qualification evidence

You must provide evidence of a qualifying bachelor's degree-level or higher qualification. Your college or university may need to provide written confirmation that you completed and graduated with the required qualification.

12 Arrange the TB test if required

If you are living in India when applying, you will need a TB test certificate from an approved clinic, as required by the UK rules.

13 Obtain the Indian police clearance

The current GOV.UK document list requires a police report or clearance certificate from India.

14 Complete the online application

Apply for a Youth Mobility Scheme visa and choose India as your nationality. Follow the instructions to prove your identity.

15 Pay the fees

The current GOV.UK page lists a £340 application fee and an Immigration Health Surcharge of £1,552. Fees can change, so confirm the amount at the time you apply.

16 Complete biometrics / identity check

Depending on your passport and circumstances, you may use the UK Immigration: ID Check app or attend a visa application centre for fingerprints and a photograph.

17 Upload documents and submit

Upload the requested documents, submit the application and keep your application confirmation.

18 Wait for the decision

Once you have applied, proved your identity and supplied your documents, GOV.UK says a decision usually takes about 3 weeks, although some applications take longer.

6. Required Documents Checklist

Document	Purpose
Valid Indian passport	Identity and nationality
Bank statements	Prove at least £2,530 savings and required 28-day holding period
Degree / qualification evidence	Prove bachelor's level or above eligibility
University confirmation	May be required to confirm completion and graduation
TB certificate	Required if living in India or another listed country
Indian police clearance	Character requirement
Certified translations	Required for documents not in English or Welsh

7. What the Visa Allows

- Live in the UK for up to 24 months.
- Work in most jobs.
- Study, subject to applicable course rules.
- Be self-employed and set up a company under the scheme's restrictions.
- Leave and re-enter the UK while the visa is valid.

You cannot extend this visa, access most public funds, include family members on your application, or work as a professional sportsperson. Family members who qualify must apply separately.

8. Important Deadlines

- Ballot: Enter only during the official GOV.UK ballot window.
- After selection: You have 90 days from the selection email to complete the visa application, fee/IHS payment and identity/biometric requirements.
- Travel: You must travel to the UK within 6 months of applying for the visa.

9. Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Entering the ballot more than once.
- Using incorrect passport or personal information.
- Assuming ballot selection means automatic visa approval.
- Not maintaining the required £2,530 funds for the required 28-day period.
- Submitting a qualification that does not meet the degree-level requirement.
- Missing the 90-day deadline after selection.
- Ignoring the TB or police-clearance requirements.
- Forgetting to check spam/junk folders for the selection email.
- Paying an unofficial person or agent who claims they can guarantee ballot selection.

10. Current 2026 Ballot Status

GOV.UK confirms that the 2026 India Young Professionals Scheme ballots have closed. The first ballot opened on 17 February 2026 and the second ballot opened on 21 July 2026. The July ballot closed on 23 July 2026 at 9am. GOV.UK states there will be no further YPS ballots in 2026. Future ballot details will be published on the official GOV.UK ballot page.

11. Official GOV.UK Sources

[India Young Professionals Scheme — Overview](#)

[India Young Professionals Scheme — Ballot System](#)

[Eligibility](#)

[Documents You Must Provide](#)

[Apply](#)

Disclaimer: This guide is for general information and preparation only. UK immigration rules, fees, ballot dates and document requirements can change. Always verify the latest requirements on GOV.UK before entering the ballot or submitting a visa application.

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