



**Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology**

Lord Vallance
Minister for Science, Research
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Chi Onwurah MP
Chair of the Science,
Innovation and
Technology Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

23 May 2025

Attracting Global Research Talent to the UK

Dear Chi,

Thank you for your letter of 8 May. I agree global competition for mobile talent is fierce, and I have noted the recent initiatives that other nations have announced.

As you and your Committee will know, the UK already has a compelling and competitive offer open to talent from across the world with prestigious fellowships and professorships delivered through UK Research & Innovation (UKRI), the National Academies, and our Higher Education sector.

The government is supporting talent through our commitment to protecting record levels of R&D investment with £20.4bn allocated in 2025/26. The UK's association to Horizon Europe has also opened more opportunities for British scientists and researchers, providing access to extensive funding streams that attracts top talent.

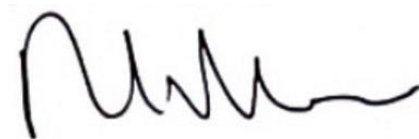
You will have also seen the article on 18 May in the Financial Times describing talent attraction schemes, including with the Royal Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering. These will provide opportunities for teams and individuals to come to the UK from around the world and I would be happy to send you the practical details of these schemes shortly.

DSIT continues to work closely with the Home Office and other Government Departments on implementing the Immigration White Paper published on 12 May, which makes clear the valuable contribution that high-skilled workers make to our science and technology sectors in driving R&D-led growth. We will set out further detail on how we will improve our offer to highly skilled talent in due course.

You'll be aware that the Home Office keeps immigration fees under review, and that UKRI, other research organisations and Horizon Europe funding can cover visa costs as part of research grants.

I hope this provides some clarity on your questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lord Vallance', with a stylized, cursive script.

Lord Vallance

Minister for Science, Research and Innovation