

On June 30, 2008, Tier 1 (general) was introduced through the rest of the world and the remaining immigration rules for entry clearance as a highly skilled migrant, were deleted. Under Tier 1 (general), applicants must score at least 75 points for attributes. Of that, 10 points are for English language and 10 points for maintenance. Attributes include qualifying MBA degrees, other qualifications, previous earnings, UK experience and age. Thus in the end, the benchmark to qualify for the applicants is 95 points. All out-of-country applicants should hold a sum of 2800 pounds with a further 1600 pounds needed for each dependent accompanying them or planning to join them within 12 months of their arrival in the UK. Successful applicants will be granted three years leave to remain, then two years and then indefinite leave to remain.

Documents Required

The applicant must ensure s/he provides all of the necessary supporting documents at the time s/he

- ▶ Innovators
- ▶ People in the UK under the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme
- ▶ International Graduates Scheme and Science and Engineering Graduates scheme participants
- ▶ Postgraduate Doctors and Dentists
- ▶ Students
- ▶ Student Nurses
- ▶ Students Re-sitting Examinations
- ▶ Students Writing Thesis'
- ▶ Work Permit holders

information, where the applicant is self-employed the authorities will try to establish the business presence, for example by checking business and/or tax registration. The immigration authorities may request that their compliance team visits the applicant's employer (if the applicant is currently a work permit holder) or educational institution (if the applicant is a student) before a decision is made on the application.

Sponsorship

There is no sponsorship required for Tier 1. Most of the other tiers will require a migrant to be sponsored in order to come to the UK under PBS. Sponsorship is meant to enable the UK Border Agency to have a greater control of economic migration in two ways. Firstly, only those who are approved by the UK Border Agency will be permitted to sponsor migrants to come to the UK. Secondly, sponsors will be required to ensure that sponsored migrants are performing the work or studies for which they have

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GIFT FOR CHILDREN

LEELA RAO, the founder and president of an international medical child life centre that benefits children going through bone marrow transplant and other chronic illnesses, has started a charity for young patients in the memory of her daughter. "As I entered the pediatric oncology ward of a cancer hospital, I saw hopelessness; the children were terrified and their families were racked with despair. One parent told me that the sunset was something to look forward to each day." These were the words of an NRI mother, who had lost her child to leukemia, at the largest Cancer Hospital in Mumbai in 2001. Six years thereafter, Ms Rao started the Priyanka Child Life Services programme at Manipal Hospital in Bangalore in memory of her daughter Priyanka Rao. Ms Rao also represents the committee of the Cancer Kids fund of the Children's Hospital in Minneapolis and helps the Democratic Farmer Labor (DFL) party in Minnesota with fundraisers and donations.

Born in India in 1964, Ms Rao completed her studies from the University of Bombay, specialising in psychology, bio-socio ethics, symbolic logic and Indian and western Philosophy. She moved to USA in 1988 after marriage and to Minnesota in 1995. "My kids were little and I was a stay at home mom, and started an Indian chocolate company which was doing well until my daughter Priyanka was diagnosed with cancer in 1999. I put my business on hold and the hospital became my



Rao has started a charity in her daughter's memory

second home. In 2003, Priyanka died from complications during bone marrow transplant and I went again to work almost immediately," recalls Ms Rao.

In 2001, a trip to India with her daughter Priyanka brought the hitherto unknown reality of cancer hospitals closer to her. It was her gratitude for American medical treatment that made her decide to start a Child Life Center (CLC) in India once her daughter grows up. However, Priyanka could not get a chance to see her dream come true as she died in 2003. "With my two suitcases of American toys, I entered the hos-

pital. As I tried to manoeuvre my way through the narrow hallways, filled with despondent faces, I was shocked. The hospital did not have a Child Life Center; a place for the children to be happy. The parents did not have access to daily newspapers or a medical library," says Ms Rao.

Thus in 2007, Ms Rao started the Priyanka Child Life programme in Bangalore. The aim of the Child Life Centre has been to bring the outside world to chronically ill children and their parents who cannot leave the hospital. The centre provides daily activities for young patients, including art and craft projects, library, board games, and friendly video-game competitions. "A CLC works with these children and families to minimise the stress they feel during hospital stays, emergency rooms, radiology, or surgery areas. It also offers developmental, educational, and therapeutic intervention for these children and their families, recognising individual family needs and respecting different methods of coping with the trauma," says Ms. Rao.

To help the CLC in India, Ms. Rao has opened The Priyanka Foundation, which is a non-profit organisation in Minnesota. Its purpose is to serve sick children and families by operating Priyanka Child Life Service programmes for chronically ill children in India. The mutual cooperation between medical institutions in India and Minnesota has been beneficial in initiating the CLC concept in India.

Ms Rao, apart from being a philanthropist also works with 1031 & TIC Investments, which is a real estate firm. She has also served as chief executive officer of an international import firm establishing capital flows, product development initiatives and marketing programmes that served Fortune 100 companies, state senators and corporate executives from around the world.

NITASHA CHAWLA

GANGWAY US Sudhir Shah

I was thinking of obtaining EB-5 visa of USA by investing half million dollar in a designated backward area of America. The object was that my 5 minor children would receive dependent Green Card through me and could study in America. Should I continue with my plan or should I put on hold, in view of the current financial crisis?

*Hatim A Lokhandwala,
Mumbai*

The present situation and the financial crisis in

America is not static. After a while, it will change. However, if you do not obtain EB-5 investor visa now, your children will grow up and if any of them crosses the age of 21 years or gets married before or after attaining that age, they may not be eligible to receive dependent immigrant visa because of your investor visa.

My daughter had applied to six universities in USA to do MBA with finance as the major subject. All universities granted her admission, including Stanford and Finlay. She wants to go to Finlay University since tuition fees of that university is almost half that of Stanford and my cousin is residing near Finlay University and my daughter intends to stay at

her house. Will she face difficulty in receiving student visa if instead of Stanford she selects Finlay university?

*Mahendra M Khatri,
Chennai*

The consular officer is likely to think that your daughter is not a bonafide student if instead of Stanford she chooses to study in Finlay University. The officer will certainly suspect that under the guise of studying in USA your daughter intends to either marry someone in USA or work there with her relatives.

Mr Shah is a Mumbai-based attorney. He can be contacted at gangway1@indiatimes.com