

Document: **Players: Overseas Players - general overview**

Any player who has lived abroad for any length of time may be considered an “Overseas” Player unless they qualify as an ECB Category 1 player.

Passport & Visa

A passport & visa are documents that allow a player to enter the UK legally.

- A UK passport is not a guarantee that a player is eligible to play for England, any holder must also meet the residency requirements
- A visa allows a person to travel to the UK for a defined period and the type of visa determines whether a player can play cricket as an Overseas amateur or Overseas professional

Passport & Visas – can I play cricket?

This is an ECB chart dated Dec 2019

This comes with the following statement: “The following table is provided as general overview only. The ECB are not registered immigration officials therefore if you require specific immigration guidance you will need to contact UK Visas and Immigration”.

Visa/ Permit	Class	Level (As designated by ECB)	Professional/ Amateur Status (As designated by Home Office)	Play	Coach (if suitably qualified and vetted)	Paid to Play / Paid to Coach	Notes
British passport holder	All	Either	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Restrictions
EU passport holder	All	Either	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Restrictions (Current at time of issue)
Tier 1 (General/ Entrepreneur/ Exceptional Talent/Graduate Entrepreneur/Investors)	Non-First Class	Amateur	Yes	Yes	No	No	Prevented from Professional sport at any level including as a Coach
Tier 2 (General/ ICT/MOR)	Non-First Class	Amateur	Yes	Yes	No	No	No Prevented from Professional sport at any level including as a Coach
Tier 4 (General)	Non-First Class	Amateur	Yes	Yes	No	No	Can play as an amateur, at an amateur club, if they are classified as an Amateur by the Home Office
Tier 5 (Religious Worker/ IA/GAE & Charity Worker)	Non-First Class	Amateur	Yes	Yes	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.
Tier 5 (Creative & Sporting -Non First Class)	Non-First Class	Player/Coach Non First Class Professional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Can only play/coach for the main sponsor and undertake "Supplementary Employment"*

Visa/ Permit	Class	Level (As designated by ECB)	Professional/ Amateur Status (As designated by Home Office)	Play	Coach (if suitably qualified and vetted)	Paid to Play / Paid to Coach	Notes
Tier 5 (Creative & Sporting)	Non-First Class	Coach Only Non First Class Professional	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Can only coach for the main sponsor and undertake "Supplementary Employment"* Can only play as an amateur, in a wholly amateur competition or league and only if they do not meet any element of the Professional Sportsperson definition.
Leave to Remain - Spouse/Accompanying Partner/ EEA Dependant (does not include Points Based System Dependents)	All	Either	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Restrictions
Ancestry Visa	All	Either	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Restrictions
Indefinite Leave to Remain (Settlement)	All	Either	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No Restrictions
Standard Visitor Visa	Non First Class	Amateur	Yes	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.
Non Visa National	Non First Class	Amateur	Yes	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.
Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme	Non First Class	Amateur	Yes	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league. Can act as a coaching assistant

Clubs wishing to use the services of a player who is not on a Tier 5 Creative & Sporting (Non FCC) visa, must ensure that the visa allows them to play and/or coach."

Notes:

**Supplementary Employment (Home Office definition) - an additional job in the same profession and at the same professional level as the work for which your Certificate of Sponsorship was assigned; and*

No more than 20 hours per week; and

Outside of the normal working hours for which your Certificate of Sponsorship was assigned.

In addition, you must continue to work for your sponsor in the job recorded on your Certificate of Sponsorship

ECB and GMCL are not the decision makers, the club must determine a player's status from facts and documents supplied by a player where there a residency status to be determined. Those records should be retained and made available to the Home Office on request. The Home Office may issue a ruling and penalties should the correct status not have been applied.

If you require any guidance you should submit full facts and e-mail enquiries@GtrMcCricket.co.uk stating players full name, and reasoning for the decision you have reached with any supporting documentation.