



Data Shown:

Blue bars: Total applications to the Home Office for entry (in thousands)

Red bars: Applications from Nigerian nationals (in thousands)

1. Key Trends

Total Applications (Blue)

2021: 1,635 applications

2022: 3,314 applications (+103% from 2021)

2023: 9,002 applications (+171% from 2022)

2024: 17,712 applications (+97% from 2023)

2025 Q1: 769 applications (quarterly, so not directly comparable yet)

Overall, total applications have grown over 10x between 2021 and 2024, showing rapid year-on-year increases.

Nigerian Applications (Red)

2021: 163

2022: 315 (+93%)

2023: 829 (+163%)

2024: 1,536 (+85%)

2025 Q1: 49

Nigerian applications followed the same upward trend as the total, with steady annual growth, especially between 2022 and 2023.

2. Proportion of Nigerian Applications

2021: ~10.0% of total

2022: ~9.5% of total

2023: ~9.2% of total

2024: ~8.7% of total

While the absolute number of Nigerian applications rose sharply, their share of the total has slightly declined each year, meaning other nationalities' applications grew even faster.

3. Notable Observations

Strong growth period: 2021–2024 saw exponential increases in applications, both overall and from Nigerians.

Peak year so far: 2024 for both categories.

Q1 2025 caution: Data is partial; if trends match 2024, the year-end could still be high, but current numbers are much smaller because it's only one quarter.

Share trend: Nigerians consistently make up about 9–10% of total applications.

4. Possible Interpretations

The growth may be linked to:

Post-pandemic border reopening and increased mobility.

Changes in UK visa policy (e.g., Skilled Worker, Health & Care routes).

Economic and educational migration drivers from Nigeria.

The slight drop in percentage share could indicate faster growth in applications from other countries.