

Working after your studies

This leaflet covers the regulations surrounding working visa routes as an International Student working after your studies

As an International Student can I work?

This will depend upon what is stated in your passport or on your BRP visa card, as this determines the conditions of your stay in the UK.

Do International Students have to pay tax and National Insurance?

Yes and their dependants will have to pay in the same way as home and EEA students. You will need to apply for a National Insurance number.

Tel. 0345 6000 643 to apply for NI Number.

Graduate Route Visa

The Graduate visa gives you permission to stay in the UK for at least 2 years after successfully completing a course in the UK.

- You must be in the UK to apply
- Have a valid current student route or Tier 4 (General) student visa
- Studied a UK Bachelor's degree or Postgraduate degree
- Successfully completed the course and been awarded

How long you can stay

The Graduate visa is valid for 2 years and if you have a PHD or other doctoral qualification, it will be valid for 3 years. Your visa will start from the day your application is approved. If you wish to stay longer in the UK, you cannot extend your Graduate visa. However, you may be able to switch into a different route.

How to apply

You must apply on line before your current Student Route or Tier 4 (General) student visa expires. Your dependents can also apply to stay in the UK if they are eligible. The University will inform the UKVI that you've successfully completed your course. You do not have to wait until you've graduated or have been given a certificate. As part of your application, you'll need to prove your identity and provide your documents. You'll usually get a decision on your visa within 8 weeks. You can stay in the UK while you wait for a decision. You can work in most jobs, including being self-employed, but cannot work as a professional sports person.

How much it costs

When you apply for a Graduate visa, you'll need:

- Application fee - £822
- Immigration healthcare surcharge - £1035 for each year from 6 February 2024

Studying with a Graduate visa

You can only study with a Graduate visa if your chosen course is not eligible for a Student visa.

Your course:

Must be one of the following to apply:

- a UK bachelor's degree
- a UK master's degree
- a UK PhD or doctorate

You can also apply if you completed any of the following:

- a law conversion course approved by the Solicitors Regulation Authority
- the Legal Practice Course in England and Wales, the Solicitors Course in Northern Ireland, or a Diploma in Professional Legal Practice in Scotland
- the Bar Practice Course in England and Wales, or the Bar Course in Northern Ireland
- a foundation programme in medicine or dentistry
- a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)
- a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)

Documents you'll need to apply

When you apply you'll need to provide:

- a valid passport or other travel document that shows your identity and nationality
- your biometric residence permit (BRP), if you were given one when you applied for your Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa
- your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) reference number from when you applied for your Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa

Other documents you might need:

You might be asked to provide:

- proof of your relationship with your partner or children (www.gov.uk/graduate-visa/your-partner-and-children) if they're applying with you

- a letter from your scholarship or sponsorship provider approving your application, if they paid for your course fees or living costs in the last 12 months

Please visit www.gov.uk/graduate-visa

Skilled Worker Route (Formerly Tier 2)

The Skilled Worker visa allows you to come to or stay in the UK to do an eligible job with an approved employer.

To be eligible for the Skilled Worker visa, you must:

- work for a UK employer approved by the Home Office
- have a 'certificate of sponsorship' from your employer with information about the role you've been offered in the UK
- do a job that's on the list of eligible occupations
- be paid a minimum salary - how much depends on the type of work you do
- You must have a confirmed job offer before you apply for your visa.

How long you can stay

Your visa can last for up to 5 years. You'll need to apply to extend or update your visa when it expires or if you change jobs or employer. After 5 years, you may be able to apply to settle permanently in the UK (also known as 'indefinite leave to remain' www.gov.uk/settle-in-the-uk/y/you-have-a-work-visa/tier-2-general-visa). If you want to change your job or employer, you must apply to update your visa www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa/update-your-visa-if-you-change-job-or-employer. You can include your partner and children in your application to stay in the UK if they are eligible: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children

How long it takes

You can apply for a visa up to 3 months before the day you are due to start work in the UK. As part of your application, you'll need to prove your identity and provide your documents. You'll usually get a decision on your visa within:

- 3 weeks, if you're outside the UK
- 8 weeks, if you're inside the UK

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- work in an eligible job
- study
- bring your partner and children with you as your 'dependants' www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children, if they're eligible take on additional work in certain circumstances: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa/second-job
- do voluntary work
- travel abroad and return to the UK

- apply to settle permanently in the UK (also known as 'indefinite leave to remain') if you've lived in the UK for 5 years and meet the other eligibility requirements

You cannot:

- apply for most benefits (public funds), or the State Pension
- change jobs or employer unless you apply to update your visa

Salary requirements

You need to earn at least £26,200 per year or £10.75 per hour, whichever is higher. If the 'going rate' for your job is higher than both of these, you'll usually need to be paid at least the going rate.

View the list of approved UK employers: www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers

How much it costs

When you apply for a Skilled Worker visa, you'll need to have enough money to:

- pay the application fee - the standard fee ranges from £625 to £1,873 depending on your circumstances
- pay the healthcare surcharge - £1035 for each year from 6 February 2024
- support yourself when you arrive in the UK - you'll usually need to have at least £1,270 available (unless you're exempt) up to 3 years - £625 per person

If you're applying from inside the UK, to extend, switch or update your visa, the standard fee depends on whether you'll be in the UK for:

- up to 3 years - £625 per person
- more than 3 years - £1,235 per person

Please visit www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa

Youth Mobility Scheme

You can apply for a Youth Mobility Scheme visa (T5) if you:

- want to live and work in the UK for up to 2 years
- meet the eligibility requirements: www.gov.uk/youth-mobility/eligibility

Further information:

UKCISA Website: www.ukcisa.org.uk (under Visas & Immigration)

For more information call: **020 8411 4507** or email the International Student Advice Team at: intadvice@mdx.ac.uk. You can also book an appointment via myUniHub. Middlesex University International Student Advice Team has made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate at the time of printing. Middlesex University however, cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors. This publication can only be a guide and is not intended to replace the complex and diverse legislation covered. Statutes and regulations may change during the year without notice. If in doubt seek independent advice.

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