

Visa Options

If you want to stay in the UK after graduation it is important to research your visa options. This page is designed to give you an overview of the different visa types and provides resources you can use to explore and understand your different options.

Important:

The Career Development Service can provide a general overview of the different types of UK visas however we cannot offer specific advice/guidance on matters relating to your personal circumstances or visa application(s).

Post-Study Work Visas

There are various Visa options in relating to working in the UK after graduation, these come in the form of Tiers. The table below highlights different types of visa options within each Tier.

Tier 4 Leave	Tier 2	Tier 1	Tier 5
Options to take leave whilst or after studying	Working as an employee after graduation	Running or investing in a business	Gaining experience/working temporarily after graduation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Union Sabbatical • PG, Doctor/Dentist • Doctorate Extension Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General • Intra Company Transfer • Sports Person • Minister of Religion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate Entrepreneur • Entrepreneur • Investor • Exceptional Talent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Mobility Temp Worker – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Authorised Exchange • Charity Worker • Religious Worker • Creative/Sporting • International Agreement

For graduates the most common visa options include the Tier 2 General, Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur and Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange. Below is more information about each of these options, for the most up-to-date information about each visa type please click on the relevant link on the table above.

Tier 2 General

The Tier 2 General visa entitles you to work as an employee with a UK employer. There is set criteria based on a points system which you must meet (with some exceptions*). In total you would be required to gain 70 points, 50 based on 'Attributes', 10 based on 'English Language and 10 based on 'Maintenance'.

ATTRIBUTES Points Table –(Pass Mark –50 points)

SPONSORSHIP

Job in shortage occupation	30 points
Job offer with a salary of £153,500 or more	30 points
Offer of job that passes the resident labour market test	30 points
Switching from a Post-Study Category or Tier 4 (General)	30 points
Extension (Resident Labour Market Test not required)	50 points

APPROPRIATE SALARY

£30,000 (variable dependent on occupation but this is the minimum threshold)	20 points
Under £30,000	0 points

*The appropriate salary depends on the occupation you want to pursue and your current situation. For more information you can access the Governments Standard Occupations Classification, which lists minimum salaries for occupations, [here](#). There are some exceptions to the appropriate salary, please refer to Gov.uk for more information.

English Language Requirement –10 points

- Evidence to prove that the applicant speaks English to the required standard and meets the requirements which may be done as follows:
- Hold a degree that was taught in English and is equivalent to a United Kingdom Bachelors Degree or above.

Maintenance –10 points:

- Applicants must show they have at least £945 available and held for at least 3 months.

- A Grade A Sponsor on the Sponsorship Management System may certify maintenance.

Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange (GAE)

The Tier 5 GAE is an option to gain experience for up to 12 or 24 months (dependent on programme applied for), relevant to your studies, sponsored by an overarching body*.

You must have both of the following:

- a certificate of sponsorship reference number from your UK sponsor
- £945 in savings - this is to prove you can support yourself and you must have had this in your bank account for 90 days before you apply

*Click [here](#) to find out more about the authorised Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange schemes.

Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur

The Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) visa allows non-European graduates to extend their stay in the UK after graduation to establish their business. If you are interested in business start-up and self-employment you can find out more about the [Tier 1 \(Graduate Entrepreneur\) Visa](#).

Further Support:

Throughout the year the [Student Welfare Service](#) in conjunction with the Career Development Service will be running Visa Information Talks, please refer to the [MyCareers](#) Events Calendar for dates of the next talk. The talks offer basic information about post-study work options for international students **however they are not able to offer personal visa advice or guidance**. The University has arranged for more in-depth talks to be offered by immigration lawyers which will take place towards the end of each term, advertised on [MyCareers](#).

For further information about visas please refer to the following:

- UKCISA Helpline: **020 7788 9214**
- [UKCISA Website](#)
- [UKCISA Work after your studies page](#)
- [Citizen Advice Bureau](#)
- [Employment Law Solicitor/OISC regulated adviser](#)
- [GOV.UK - UK Visa and Immigration](#)
- [UK Visa and Immigration Points Calculator](#) - This tool allows you to calculate how many points you may get, and indicates whether you may be eligible to work or study in the UK under the points-based system.

All information was correct at the time of writing, to the best of our knowledge. Last updated: 17/02/2016

For more information contact the Career Development Service:

Career Development Service
University of Leicester
Student Services Centre
Charles Wilson Building

t: +44 (0) 116 252 2004

e: careershelp@le.ac.uk

w: www.le.ac.uk/careers