

WORKING AND STUDYING IN THE UK – A GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

FOR STUDENTS WISHING TO WORK DURING THEIR STUDIES

- International students from outside the EU and EEA are required to have a **Tier 4 (General) Student visa** to study for a full degree course or HND at a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI). <https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/overview>
- To find out whether you can work during their studies in the UK, Tier 4 students should check what their passport sticker (entry clearance or residence permit) or biometric residence permit (BRP) says. You should also have received detailed information in a letter when you received your entry clearance or BRP (if you applied after February 2015).
- You can usually for work a **maximum** of 20 hours a week if you are studying at degree level or above at a higher education institution.
- You can work full time during the official vacation periods
- You should be able to confirm this with your employer by presenting an Enrolment Confirmation Letter. You can obtain an Enrolment Confirmation letter from your hub.

- International students on short term courses and exchange programmes that are shorter than 6 months (e.g. Study Abroad) can apply for a **Short Term Study visa**. However, students on a Short Term Study visa are unable to take on any kind of employment (both paid and unpaid.) Therefore, if you wish to work or complete an internship during your time in the UK, you should apply for a Tier 4 (general student visa) <https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa/overview>

APPLYING FOR JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS DURING YOUR STUDIES

- <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Can-you-work> - useful information on working in the UK during your studies.
- <http://businessculture.org/northern-europe/uk-business-culture/internship-placement/> - information on placements counting towards your studies in the UK
- <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/discover/after/careers-employability> - how to become more employable whilst you're still studying

SUPPORT FROM THE CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE

- The university's Careers and Employability Service can help you to find a part time job, as well as internship and volunteering opportunities. Register with our Job Shop today; <http://student.londonmet.ac.uk/jobs-and-employment/finding-work--job-shop/>
- If you are looking for a graduate role in the UK, it is vital to obtain some relevant work experience. Therefore, make sure that you take advantage of the summer vacations to complete internships and volunteering roles with charities.
- The Careers and Employability Service offers a variety of services, including support with CVs, covering letters, application forms and interviews
- The service can also help you to become more employable by helping you to;
 - Identify and explore career options, including opportunities for further study
 - Develop awareness of your skills and qualities. The service will advise you on how you can articulate these in job applications and interviews<http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/services-and-facilities/employment-support/>

- In order to produce a successful application for employment in the UK, it is important that you give examples and evidence of your skills and abilities. For advice on for making effective applications; <http://student.londonmet.ac.uk/jobs-and-employment/cvs-cover-letters-and-online-applications/>

LIVING AND WORKING IN THE UK

- <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/> - advice about living and studying in the UK.
- <http://www.studentpad.co.uk/student-guide/international-guide> - ultimate international student guide. Includes sections on student life, accommodation and completing your degree.
- <http://greatbritishmag.co.uk/> - useful information about British culture, customs and traditions
- <http://businessculture.org/northern-europe/uk-business-culture/> - information about British business culture
- <https://www.theguardian.com/careers/2016/sep/16/pub-lunches-and-too-many-tea-breaks-what-its-like-to-work-in-the-uk> - what it's like to work in the UK
- <https://international.studentcalculator.org/> - advice on managing your finances

AFTER GRADUATION

Tier 1 (GRADUATE ENTREPRENEUR) VISA

- This visa allows graduates with genuine and credible business ideas and entrepreneurial skills to stay in the UK to develop their business under the supervision of their UK academic institution. For London Met graduates, this is the Accelerator business incubator. <http://accelerator-london.com/students/>
- [Tier 1 \(Graduate Entrepreneur\) visa - London Met](#) includes information and requirements for London Met graduates wishing to apply under this scheme.
- [Tier 1 \(Graduate Entrepreneur\) Policy Guidance](#) includes all relevant policies as required by the Home Office for those wishing to apply for a Tier 1 (GE) visa either inside or outside the UK.

Tier 2 (GENERAL) VISA

- Tier 2 replaced the old Work Permits and is now for skilled workers (including recent graduates) holding a job offer.
- [Tier 2 Policy Guidance](#) includes all relevant policies as required by the Home Office for those wishing to apply for a Tier 2 visa either inside or outside the UK.
- On the Home Office website, there is a list of organisations that are able to sponsor graduates for a Tier 2 visa. This list is only available in alphabetical order, not according to individual sectors. Please note that some of these organisations may be employing skilled workers (e.g. chefs), who are not necessarily graduates. [Register of Sponsors for Tiers 2 & 5 and Sub Tiers Only.](#)
- [Immigration Rules Appendix J: Codes of Practice for Skilled Work - Table 2](#) includes salary requirements for graduates at the NQF (National Qualifications Framework) level 6 (equivalent to an honours degree) or above. The minimum salary required varies from occupation to occupation. For example, for programmers and software development professionals (new entrants); £24,000, but for architects part 1; 21,600.
- [Immigration Rules Appendix K shortage occupation list](#) – details of shortage occupations.

ADDITIONAL VISA RESOURCES

- [UK Council of International Student Affairs - Information on Working in the UK after Your Studies](#); a useful website for information and advice on different immigration routes if you are looking to work in the UK after their studies.
- <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/international-students/417088-visas-and-permits-for-international-students-who-wish-to-work-in-the-uk> - visas and permits for international students who wish to work in the UK

GRADUATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- <https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/international-students/668677-guide-to-job-hunting-for-international-students> - guide to job hunting for international students.
- <https://studentcircus.com/> - advertises graduate job opportunities with employers willing to sponsor international graduates for a Tier 2 visa.
- <http://www.poststudy.org/> - advertises suitable roles for international students and graduates
- <https://www.indeed.co.uk/> - Using the advanced search options on Indeed, you can enter 'sponsorship visa' and this will bring up relevant results, which can be narrowed down further using the search options.
- You could also use LinkedIn to identify organisations in the UK where international graduates have been employed.

APPLICATION TIPS FOR GRADUATE ROLES

- Before you apply for a role, call the organisation's Human Resources or graduate recruitment team and ask them about visa sponsorship. It's not worth applying to a company that is unable to sponsor you.
- It may be advantageous to focus on larger organisations, as they are more likely to have the budget to sponsor international students.
- Many organisations have rolling application deadlines and screen applicants immediately after they have received their applications. Therefore, the earlier you submit your application, the more graduate positions will still be available.
- Make sure that you stand out from other applicants. This is particularly important for international graduates, who have fewer available opportunities to apply for. Spend extra time ensuring that your application is tailored towards the vacancy and the organisation.
- Attend networking events and meet with prospective employers. This would be an excellent way of asking any questions that you may have and of impressing graduate recruiters.
<https://www.brightnetwork.co.uk/graduate-career-advice/choosing-a-career/visa-sponsor-international-students/>
- You could clarify your situation to the employer at the end of your covering letter. State the type of visa that you would be applying for and give details of any steps that you or the employer would need to take.
<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/careers/opportunities/workingintheuk/>

FURTHER QUERIES

- If you have any queries relating to visas and immigration, please contact the Immigration and International Student Advice Service; 0207 133 4186

adviceinternational@londonmet.ac.uk

<http://student.londonmet.ac.uk/international/international-advice/>

- If you have any queries relating to job searching, applications, interviews and future career planning, please contact the Careers and Employability Service
0207 133 4033 – Holloway
0207 320 2380 – Moorgate
careers@londonmet.ac.uk
www.londonmet.ac.uk/careers

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