



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 **Student Visa** to study for a full degree course or HND at a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI). EU and EEA students without settled or pre-settled status also require a Student Visa. Government information on studying with a student visa can be found on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).
- Student visa holders can usually work a **maximum** of 20 hours a week if you are studying at degree level or above at a higher education institution.
- Student visa holders can work full time during the official vacation periods, including the time prior to the start date of the course and after completion.
- International students on short term courses and exchange programmes that are shorter than 6 months (e.g. Study Abroad) can apply for a **Standard Visitor Visa**. However, students on a Standard Visitor 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 Student Visa on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

APPLYING FOR JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS DURING YOUR STUDIES

- Useful information on working in the UK during your studies can be found on the [Ukcisa website](https://www.ukcisa.org).

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.
- 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. Visit the [London Met website](#) to access advice on how to articulate these in job applications and interviews
- 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, visit the [University Careers webpages](#)

LIVING AND WORKING IN THE UK

- The [British Council website](#) provides advice about living and studying in the UK.
- [Student Pad](#) hosts a guide for international students which includes sections on student life, accommodation and completing your degree.
- [GBMag](#) provides useful information about British culture, customs and traditions
- [Passport to Trade](#) provides information about British business culture
- Read the [Guardian article](#) on what it's like to work in the UK.
- The [British Council](#) give advice on managing your finances.
- Guidance on how much it will cost to study in the UK can be found on the [Ukcisa site](#).

AFTER GRADUATION

GRADUATE ROUTE VISA

- Information on this visa which was launched on **1 July 2021** is outlined on the [gov.uk website](#).
- It is a 2 year visa for those completing an undergraduate, Master's or other eligible qualifications listed in paragraph GR 5.2 in the [Immigration Rules Appendix, Graduate](#). A 3 year visa will be available for those studying for a PhD or Doctoral qualification. You will need to have a valid Student Visa at the time of application.
- This visa **does not require sponsorship**.
- Eligibility for this visa;
 - You will need to have successfully completed your degree qualification.
 - Have valid leave (i.e. a valid visa) at the point of application to be eligible.
 - **You need to apply in the UK.**
- The Graduate route will not count towards settlement.
- If you have a valid visa, you can tick that you have the right to work in the UK on a job application form. Through the Graduate visa route, students have permission to work in the UK. You would need to explain that they do not need sponsorship on an application form.
- Students on a Graduate visa can still apply for permanent jobs.
- You are advised to apply for the Graduate visa as close as you can to the expiry date of their Student Visa, so that you can use up the remaining months on your Student Visa.

SKILLED WORKER VISA

- The [Skilled Worker visa](#) was launched on 1 December 2020. It replaced the Tier 2 General visa, which was much more stringent.
- Applicants for this visa must obtain a permanent role and need to be **sponsored by their employer**. There is a list of organisations that are eligible to sponsor skilled workers on the [Home Office website](#).
- You are required to obtain a role which is at the UK's RQF (Regulated Qualifications Framework) Level 3 (i.e. the equivalent to A' Levels). Whereas, for Tier 2 it used to be Level 6 (i.e. the equivalent to a Bachelor's degree). Therefore, international graduates are now able to apply for a wider range of job opportunities to obtain their visa. A list of occupations for which a skilled worker visa can potentially be available can be found on the [gov.uk website](#).

- You also have to obtain a role that meets a [minimum salary threshold](#) according to their profession and the SOC (Standard Occupational Code). New entrants to a profession have a salary threshold that is 30% lower than that of an experienced worker. However, a minimum salary of **£20,480 p.a.** must always be met.
- **New entrants** must meet one of the following criteria;
 - Under 26 on the day of application and/or currently on a Student or Graduate visa or;
 - Individuals applying in their home country, their last UK visa was under the Tier 4 or Student Route and issued for a degree, PGCE, PGDip and they are applying less than 2 years after it expired or;
 - Individuals applying under the Graduate Route and they are applying less than 2 years after it expired.
- There is no Immigration Skilled Surcharge payable if the applicant is switching into the Skilled Worker Visa from the Student Route.

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.
- The [Targetjobs site](#) provides information on visas and permits for international students who wish to work in the UK

GRADUATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- [Target Jobs](#) also produces a guide to job hunting for international students.
- [Student Circus](#) advertises graduate job opportunities that are suitable for international students. London Met students and recent graduates can use all of Student Circus's services for free. You can access the site, using your regular London Met user name and password.
- [Gradvault](#) advertises suitable roles for international students and graduates. London Met students and recent graduates have access to Gradvault's free features.
- You could also use LinkedIn to identify organisations in the UK where international graduates have been employed.

APPLICATION TIPS FOR GRADUATE ROLES

- 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.
- 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 if you're applying for a Graduate Route Visa, make it clear to the employer that you do not require sponsorship.

FURTHER QUERIES

- If you have any queries relating to visas and immigration, please refer to the Student Services [international support team web pages](#), or [contact them by email](#).
- If you have any queries relating to job searching, applications, interviews and future career planning, please visit the [Careers and Employability Service website](#) or [email careers](#).

Tiffany Platt – May 2022