
LIVING AND STUDYING IN THE UK

Working in the UK

The United Kingdom (UK) has reviewed its procedures on immigration and working in the UK while you study. Both are now simpler. You can also stay on in the UK to do work experience, in several ways, after you have graduated. All the changes are designed to make your studies and opportunities to experience work in the UK as straightforward as possible.

1 European students

European Union (EU) students and nationals of the European Economic Area (EEA), consisting of the EU and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, do not need permission to work in the UK. EU students can enter the UK without restriction, and can also study and work in the UK. However, there are differences between the rights of EU students, non-EU EEA students and EEA migrant workers and their families. You should search on UKCOSA (the Council for International Education) web site, which includes a number of downloadable guidance notes www.ukcosa.org.uk.

2 Immigration procedures for international students

Your first step is to find out whether you are a visa-national, in which case you must have a visa to come to the UK. British Council office in your country will have detailed guidance notes on how to complete visa applications. Some embassies or visa sections can provide a streamlined visa-issuing service with faster processing, often without having to interview the student. The new arrangements mean:

- straightforward visa applications are dealt with within forty-eight hours
- if an interview is needed, a priority interview slot is given the following week
- students are given leave to study in the UK for the full length of their course
- applications for visa extensions are dealt with much more quickly.

Checklist: Obtaining entry clearance

- 1 Find out if you are a visa-national. If so, obtain the visa application form from your British Embassy or High Commission.
- 2 If you not a visa-national, decide whether you want to apply for an entry certificate before you arrive. This has several advantages.
- 3 To obtain your visa, fill in the form and send it, with the following documents, to your British Embassy or High Commission. The documents should include:
 - your passport
 - two recent passport-sized photographs
 - the correct entry fees in your own currency
 - the required documents to show that you meet the immigration rules for students (see below).

What documents will I need to meet the immigration rules for students?

You will need:

- a letter of acceptance for your course, which should confirm your place on a full-time course in UK indicating the length of the course and confirming that you satisfy the English language requirements for the course
- evidence that you can pay the course fees and support yourself (and your family, if they are coming with you)
- if your family is coming with you (but not if you are not accompanied), evidence that you have accommodation for them.

3 Entry requirements for students

Unless you are an EEA-national (the EU and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), you must meet the following conditions to enter the UK:

- you must intend to study at a publicly funded university or college, or recognised private institution, or at a fee-paying independent school
- you must be able to and intend to follow a full-time degree course, or a weekday full-time course at a single institution involving at least fifteen hours of organised, daytime study per week
- you must be able to pay for your course and your living expenses and those of your husband or wife and children (if they are with you) without working in the UK or claiming public funds
- you can work for twenty hours in term time and full-time during vacations, but must not intend to work more than this
- you must intend to leave the UK at the end of your studies.

4 Working in the United Kingdom

If you want to experience working in the UK, there are several ways to do it. There are also restrictions that you should be aware of.

Working in the UK

Types of work	Restrictions	Possibilities	Where to start
Part-time work	Up to twenty hours per week.	Restaurants, telesales, teaching, marketing, clerical work.	Your college noticeboard, your college's careers office, local newspapers, jobcentres.
Work experience as part of a sandwich degree	None	Many courses, especially engineering.	By selecting a sandwich course with work experience.
Interim placement with a multinational degree	Up to three months		By selecting the appropriate course.
Professional training under TWES (Training and Work Experience Scheme) Note, however, that some applications previously approved under TWES permit arrangements are now considered under the business and commercial work permit arrangements. This includes supervised professional practice and conversion/adaptation training for some professions. For more information go to www.workpermits.gov.uk	This must lead to a recognised professional or specialist qualification, such as accountancy.	You must study for one of the recognised professions that require practical experience.	By selecting the appropriate course.
Work-experience scheme under TWES (Training and Work Experience Scheme) that involves up to twelve months with a UK employer	You will not normally be allowed to transfer to work permit employment in the UK once the training period has finished.	Many possibilities through this scheme.	By joining the work experience scheme.
Graduate training programme leading to overseas employment through TWES (Training and Work Experience Scheme)	Must lead to overseas employment.		By finding a job which will enable you to undertake this programme.
The Scottish International Resource Programme (SIRP)	For postgraduate students in Scotland only.	Postgraduates studying business, marketing, finance, economics, engineering, biotechnology, IT and environmental studies are offered the chance to work in commerce or industry for three months minimum at the end of their studies.	On the British Council Scotland web site www.britishcouncil.org/scotland/index.htm

ALL		International students cannot pursue a career by filling a permanent full-time vacancy, or engage in business, self-employment or provision of services as a professional sports person or entertainer.	
ALL		With the exception of work organised by your university or college, money that you hope to make by doing part-time or vacation work cannot form part of your visa application.	
Your spouse and children are able to work without obtaining permission or a work permit.	They must have leave to enter and remain in the UK for twelve months or more.	Any work is open to them.	Job centres, local newspapers, contacts.

5 Where can I find more information?

British Council Education information

Website www.educationuk.org

For further information, you can find details of your nearest office at www.britishcouncil.org/home-contact-worldwide.htm which includes links to all our country web pages and a worldwide address book giving contact details for all offices.

Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

Telephone +44 (0) 870 000 2288

Email info@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Website www.dfes.gov.uk

DfES International Students webpages

Website www.dfes.gov.uk/international-students

Information on work regulations is contained in the information sheet 'International students working in the UK – What you need to know', available from www.dfes.gov.uk/international-students/workleaflet.pdf

Work Permits (UK)

Immigration and Nationality Directorate
Home Office
Level 5
Moor foot
Sheffield S1 4PQ

Tel +44 (0) 114 259 4074

Fax +44 (0) 114 259 3776

Email wpcustomers@ind.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Website www.workpermits.gov.uk

Home Office

Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND)
Lunar House
40 Wellesley Road
Croydon CR9 2BY

Telephone +44 (0) 870 606 7766 (general inquiries)

Email indpublicenquiries@ind.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Website www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk

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(Advice Line open 1300 – 1600 Monday –Friday)

Website www.ukcosa.org.uk

Fresh Talent Initiative

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Victoria Quay
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Website www.scotlandistheplace.com

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