Staying in the UK for work or business: visa options for after study

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Visa opportunities for:

• ‘Sponsor-free’ employment permission: new Graduate Route and Doctorate Extension Scheme for DPhils

• Setting up a business

• Internship/work experience

Eligibility requirements and restrictions for each
Work permission on Tier 4 or Student Route – a quick word

• Full time work permission (employment only) on Tier 4 after course completion until the end date on your BRP

https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/during/work?wssl=1
Overview of what’s available

**Graduate Route**
2 year work permission (3 for DPhil students)

**Doctorate Extension Scheme**
DPhil students: 1 extra year for work or business

**Skilled employment (formerly Tier 2)**
For a specific skilled job at an appropriate salary; requires employer sponsorship

**Starting a business**
Start-up and Innovator visas

**Global Talent**

**Investor**

**Short term and internship**
Youth Mobility, Temporary Worker (includes Government Authorised Exchange Schemes for internships, and Sponsored Research)

**Other/outside Points-Based System**
Various categories including Ancestry Visa

**EEA/Swiss national** or family member – EU Settlement Scheme
Graduate Route – awaiting final details

- Starting Summer 2021 – waiting for date
- Need to have completed degree at undergraduate level or above
- Need current Tier 4 or Student route visa to apply
- Need to make a new visa application in-UK
- If completing summer 2021 and currently distance-learning, need to be back in UK for final term by 6 April 2021 – but check for news in March
- Work or look for work at any skill level
- Self employment allowed
- Can switch into Skilled Work
- No new dependants

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Global Talent (previously Exceptional Talent):

For leaders or potential leaders in:
- academia or research
- arts and culture
- digital technology
- Two-part application process:
  - obtain endorsement from a Home Office approved body and
  - apply for the visa

6 February 2021
Youth Mobility – apply in home country:

• Australia, Canada, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan. Also available to British Overseas Citizens, British Overseas Territories Citizens and British Nationals (Overseas).
• Under 31 at time of application
• £2530 funding for 28 days
• 2 years for work or small business
• Also allows study
• Positive development – can switch to some other visas eg Skilled Worker or Start-up
Doctorate Extension Scheme

• DPhil students who have almost completed can extend permission for 1 year for work, self employment or setting up a business
• Need current Tier 4 or Student visa
• Must apply in the UK
• Need a new Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) for the scheme with ‘expected end date’
• *Must* get CAS and apply *before* ‘leave to supplicate’ and before ‘expected end date’
• Funding requirement met if you have been in UK for last 12 months, otherwise £2046
• May be a difficult to decide whether to apply for this if DPhil finishing soon or try to wait for Graduate route.
Start-up visa

A two year visa for those who want to start a business in the UK for the first time

- Business has to be innovative, viable and scalable
- No need to be a graduate or to have completed your course
- No initial investment funding required
- £1270 funding for living costs, held for 28 days (waived if you have been in UK for last 12 months)
- Financial sponsor permission
- Oxford endorsement for the scheme managed by Careers. 4 submission rounds a year, next application deadline 11 March, interviews 25 March: [www.careers.ox.ac.uk/article/start-up-visa-endorsement-apply-now-for-HT21-round](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/article/start-up-visa-endorsement-apply-now-for-HT21-round)
- University Panel shortlist and interview
- Apply for visa within 3 months of endorsement (switch in UK or apply overseas)
Skilled Worker

The Skilled Worker route is for employment in a specific job with a licensed employer who sponsors you.

It replaced Tier 2 on 1 December 2020 and there have been advantageous changes.
Skilled Worker requirement overview

• Employer must have a license to sponsor
• Job must be at RQF 3 level
• appropriate wage level for job, and must not be less than minimum £20,480
• Resident labour market test and caps on numbers discontinued
• English
• Maintenance
• Sponsor permission
Immigration Skills Charge

An Immigration Skills Charge is levied on Tier 2/Skilled worker employers at £1,000 per year of contract (reduced to £364 pa for small employers and charities) but employer exempted when applicant is switching from Tier 4/Student visa or Graduate route to Skilled Worker
English

Already met because one or more of these will apply to you:

✓ National of majority English speaking country (passport)
✓ Degree level qualification from UK institution (degree certificate, final academic transcript)
✓ Satisfied for previous visa application eg Tier 4 or Student visa
Financial requirement (Skilled worker and Start-up)

- Automatically met if apply in UK and have been here on a visa for 12 months
- Otherwise £1270 held for 28 days
- Bank statements or letter from bank, dated no more than 31 days before the date of application
- Must be a personal account (not business) allowing immediate access
- Can be in more than one account
- Can be in joint names (one must be yours)
- Can be overseas account/currency

OR for Skilled Worker, Sponsor can certify support on CoS; for Start-up, endorsing body could confirm funding award
Financial sponsor permission

Need sponsor’s written unconditional consent IF

• sponsor is a government or international scholarship agency AND
• Funding received within 12 months before you apply
• Funding was for both fees and living costs
Applying for your Skilled Worker visa

Current fees for you and each dependant

Visa up to 3 years:
In-UK £704
outside UK £610

More than 3 years:
In-UK £1408
outside UK £1220

Fees slightly lower for shortage occupation, for EU nationals or for Turkish or Macedonian nationals
Work permission

• If you have completed a UK degree (or are within 3 months of completion) and applied for your Skilled Worker visa before expiry of your last visa you can start your sponsored job (if employer wants you to) as soon as you have applied.

• If applying on basis of 12 months of DPhil study, have to wait until visa granted

• Until then, you can work on Tier 4/ student visa conditions

• Supplementary and voluntary work
Family

- Partner, and children under 18 (or over 18 if already have a visa as your dependant)
- Dependants can apply in UK with you if here either as dependant or on any other visa type except visitor
- Or dependants can apply outside UK once you have your Skilled Worker visa
- Don’t need CoS to apply as dependant
- Dependants can work
Extensions and settlement

- Can extend Skilled Worker permission. Will no longer be 6 year time limit as there was with Tier 2.

- Eligible to apply for settlement after 5 years on Skilled Worker route

- Time on Skilled worker route would also go towards settlement under 10 year rule
Employers and job applications

• Getting past ‘do you have permission to work in the UK, yes or no’

• Employers who aren’t aware that Resident Labour Market test has gone or that they might not need to pay Immigration Skills Charge

• Employers who aren’t licensed

• Check resources mentioned by UKCISA in ‘working after studies’
Temporary Worker - Government Authorised Exchange

- Opportunity to remain in the UK to apply for a 12 month internship
- Employers register with an external commercial organisation, such as Access Tier 5 or other specialist organisations to take interns under the Tier 5 GAE scheme
- On employer’s request, organisation issues a Certificate of Sponsorship to the intern
- Intern uses CoS to support Tier 5 GAE visa application
- Internship must be directly related to UK academic qualification
- Qualification must have been completed during most recent grant of leave (your current visa)
- Employer must not intend to employ you at the end of the internship
Immigration Health Surcharge

Payment of an Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) for visa applications/extensions to work for more than 6 months

£624 for each year or part year paid as part of visa application
Action Plan

• Analyse your options while you are still studying
• Choices – Graduate route or Skilled Worker? DES or graduate route?
• Skilled Worker: is target employer willing and able to sponsor?
• Government Authorised Exchange: is employer willing to sign up with a sponsorship body?
• Start-up: do you have your business plan in place and when is the next recruitment round?
• Watch websites for information and changes
• Plan ahead for the financial requirements
• Allow enough time to prepare application and documents
• Be aware of processing times if you have travel plans

23 February 2021
Resources

- UK Visas and Immigration (Home Office) website links for application forms, Policy Guidance and notes

- UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) website for information on working during and after studies – see section headed ‘Working’

Help from the Visa Advisers in the Student Immigration team:

E-mail student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk if you have questions

http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/work
ANY QUESTIONS?

student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk