

Working after your studies. Available visa routes for international students in the UK.

Visa Type	Summary	Do you need to be sponsored	Maximum Duration of Visa.	Can I switch from a Tier 4 inside the UK?	What do I Need to qualify?	Can I bring my dependants?
Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur	For graduates with a genuine business Idea.	No, but you must be endorsed by a University on this Scheme or a UK Trade and Investment. <i>(List of Universities on this scheme are available on the UKVI website)</i>	12 Months. It might be possible to extend this to a further 12 months.	YES	You need to have a minimum BSc, BA degree or equivalent and also other requirements including maintenance	YES
Tier 2 (General)	An immigration route to work in the UK. To qualify an employer needs to have offered you a job. (They are called Tier 2 licenced sponsors)	Yes from a Tier 2 licenced sponsor	5 years	YES (there are benefits in doing so)	A licenced Tier 2 sponsor needs to issue a COS. The job needs to meet various requirements including maintenance.	YES
Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES)	For students who are about to complete their PhD and want to remain in the UK for a further 12 months	Yes from your University	12 months	YES (Note: you cannot apply for a DES outside the UK)	The University will issue a CAS when your award date has been confirmed. Your current visa must still be valid and you must submit your DES 60 days prior to receiving your award date.	YES
Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange (Intern scheme)	For individuals who want come to the UK for work experience, training and research or a fellowship.	YES	12- 24 months depending on the type of scheme	Yes but you must meet a certain criteria. It is likely you will have to apply from outside the UK.	A COS from a Tier 5 Sponsor or overarching body is required.	YES
Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme	For individuals of certain nationalities including, Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and New Zealand aged between 18-30	YES but only in certain countries (please check)	24 Months	Mostly No but possible depends on your country of origin.	A COS is required for nationals of Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan. Other requirements include maintenance.	NO

Alternative Visas (There are various routes in the UK and eligibility will depend on your personal circumstances). More detailed information and guidance are available on the gov.uk webpages or you can contact International student Support Office via Email: InternationalAdvice@rhul.ac.uk or visit us at our office in the International Building, Room 009, Mon-Fri 10am to 4pm.

Disclaimer

The information provided here is accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, immigration regulations are subject to change and it is the responsibility of the visa applicant to check UK government agencies for the latest detailed information and advice.

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Useful Links and Resources

Details of Tier 2 options

- UKCISA website: www.ukcisa.org.uk -information and advice-working after studies. It is a good idea to register with them to get the latest immigration updates which could be applicable to you.
- UK Visas and Immigration website (UKVI), www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas – guides for each Tier 2 General:
- Government Website on Tier 2 : www.gov.uk/tier-2-general
- Tier 2 policy guidance: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-2-worker
- A list of Tier 2 registered of sponsors – employers: www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers
- (AGCAS) Recruiting International Students and Employers Guide: <http://www.agcas.org.uk/assets/download?file=6403&parent=1557>

Employment sites:

- www.studentcircus.com
- www.gradlinkuk.com
- www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience
- Tier 2 Shortage Occupational jobs: in Appendix K of the Immigration Rules: (www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-k-shortage-occupation-list)

- PhD Level Jobs in Appendix J of the Immigration Rules (www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-j-codes-of-practice-for-skilled-work)
- Codes of practice: www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsorship-codes-of-practice-for-skilled-workers

Details of Tier 5 options www.gov.uk/government/publications/tier-5-government-authorised-exchange-schemes

- Tier 5 GAE guidance, www.gov.uk/tier-5-government-authorised-exchange
- Information of overarching bodies are available on the Immigration Rules Appendix N: authorised exchange schemes (www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-n-authorised-exchange-schemes)
- <http://www.poststudy.org/scheme/tier-5-visa-scheme>

Details of Tier 1 options

- You can find information about all Tier 1 schemes at www.gov.uk/search?q=tier+1
- The Sirius program helps international graduates with great business ideas to set up in the UK. www.siriusprogramme.com ,Email: all-enquiries@siriusprogramme.com

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