

Working in the UK during your studies

Most students in the UK have immigration permission which allows them to work during their studies. You do not need to apply for special permission in order to work. The hours and type of work you can do are restricted and depend on the type of course you are studying.

You must make sure that you comply with any restrictions which apply to you. This is because UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) treats working in breach of your conditions very seriously. It can refuse your immigration application or remove you from the UK if you work too many hours or if you do work which you are not allowed to do.

Check what your visa (Entry Clearance Vignette) in your passport or Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) says. You can work in the UK if your visa or BRP says one of the following:

- Work limit 20 hrs per week term-time
- Work limit 10 hrs per week term-time
- Work as in Tier 4 Rules
- Work (and any changes) must be authorised
- Able to work as authorised by the Secretary of State
- Restricted Work. P/T term time. F/T vacations
- Restricted work term time

You must not work if your visa or BRP says "No work" or "Work prohibited" because this would be a breach of your immigration conditions and a criminal offence.

Please note - Students with a **Short-term Study** visa (either an Entry Clearance vignette or a stamp on entry) are **prohibited** from working (paid or unpaid work)

What kind of work can I do during my studies?

You can do most kinds of work, but you must **not**:

- be self-employed
- engage in business activity
- be employed as a professional sportsperson including as a sports coach
- be employed as an entertainer
- take a permanent full-time job
- work as a doctor or dentist in training, unless you are on the foundation programme.

Work placement

If you have a Tier 4 student visa, then in certain circumstances you will be permitted to undertake a work placement as part of your course; however, this must be **an integral** and **assessed** part of the course and should really be arranged **before** starting your studies.

Postgraduate students should not take full-time work over the summer unless the "internship" meets the above requirements. The next section explains full-time work requirements.

Can I work full-time while I write my dissertation or thesis?

If you are still studying, even if you are not attending classes, this is not a holiday period for you (for example, postgraduate Masters and PhD students). This means that you should not work full-time, for example over the summer months, until you have submitted your dissertation or thesis and finished your studies. The date on which you finish your studies is decided by your college or university. It is often the end of term or semester, even if you complete your exams or coursework before that date. You should use the end date given on your original CAS as the official completion date of your studies.

Working with student immigration permission when studies have ended

If you have immigration permission that extends for up to four months beyond the end of your studies, you can work full-time for that extra period once you have completed all your studies. You are still under Tier 4/student rules so there are types of work you cannot do (see “What kind of work can I do during my studies?”).

If you have immigration permission that is more than four months longer than your course, you should:

- make a new immigration application if you are eligible for another category
- leave the UK when you reach the four-month point.

Please note that if you completed your course earlier than the end date given on your CAS it is highly likely that this will have been reported to UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) which means UKVI will probably limit your permission to stay. If you have successfully completed your course, your visa will be curtailed so that you still get an extra 4 months. However, if you have not successfully completed your visa will be curtailed to 60 days. Tier 4 Registry will send you an e-mail if your visa has been reported.

PhD students who have applied for the **Doctorate Extension Scheme** visa and have received formal notification in writing from Registry that they have been awarded a PhD can start working full-time. Prior to confirmation of the award of PhD you are still under Tier 4 work conditions.

Students who have successfully completed a degree at the University and **applied for a Tier 2** visa before their current Tier 4 visa expired can start their Tier 2 job, even before the visa application has been decided by UK Visas.

My employer says I must prove I can work during my studies

If you have a visa or Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) that does not prohibit work, you are allowed to take employment as described above without getting any further approval or permission. Your employer can check with UKVI that you are allowed to work. UKVI have an employers' helpline - 0300 123 4699.

Employers have a legal obligation to check that you are allowed to work in the UK, so you must be able to provide evidence of this, usually by showing them your passport or Biometric Residence Permit. You might not have your passport if, for example, it is with UKVI because you have applied to extend your immigration permission in the UK. If you made your immigration application before your previous student immigration permission ended, you still have the right to work under the usual Tier 4 student conditions. However, a new employer must see evidence that you are currently in the UK with Tier 4 student immigration permission before allowing you to start work. This may also apply to your existing employer, who should have noted when your immigration permission ended, and now wants to be sure that you still have the right to work.

In these cases, you will usually have to provide proof from UKVI which confirms that you have made an application to extend your visa before your previous permission expired (a copy of the Application Cover Sheet should be sufficient). If you do not have this, the UKVI's employers' helpline might be able to confirm this to your employer. Contact details are at:

www.gov.uk/penalties-for-employing-illegal-workers

If your employer asks about University holiday periods, you can provide them with a copy of the University's term dates from the University web pages:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/term-dates.php>

The University cannot provide a special letter for these purposes.

