

Post-Study Work

The **Post-Study Work** visa replaces the **International Graduates Scheme** in the government's new Points-Based System for immigration. Under the scheme, recent international graduates can remain in the UK to work for up to two years after completing their studies. Although it is similar to the International Graduates Scheme, there are some significant differences so it is very important to read through all of these guidelines carefully. Please contact the International Student Support Office at isa@ex.ac.uk if you have any questions.

How do I qualify?

- a) You must have been awarded a bachelor's or postgraduate degree **or** a PGCE (other postgraduate certificates/diplomas are **NOT** eligible) at
- b) a recognised UK institution with
- c) current entry clearance or leave to remain as a student and
- d) make your application within twelve months of completing the qualification.

You must also be able to support yourself without claiming benefits and have a good standard of English. The Home Office will give your application a points score based on the criteria above.

How are the points calculated?

You should complete the online self-assessment at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/pointscalculator>. This will tell you whether or not you can apply for the scheme. **To qualify for the scheme you must score 95 points in total.**

You will receive 75 points for having a completed a degree at a UK university as described above. As you have completed a UK degree, it is automatically assumed that you have a good standard of English for which you receive 10 points. Your finances make up the final 10 points. If you are applying from within the UK, you will also need to have at least £800 in your account for the three months before you apply. If you are applying from outside the UK you will need at least £2,800 in your account for three months before you make your application. **You must not drop below this amount at any time during the three months or your application will be refused.**

When should I apply?

You can apply any time in the twelve months following the completion of your course. You can apply for a visa from within the UK or for entry clearance from the embassy in your home country. If you apply from within the UK, you must apply **before** your current visa expires.

How do I apply?

If you are applying from within the UK, you will need to fill in the Tier 1 (Post-Study Work) form available at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/tier1/poststudy>. The current fee is £500. **You should prepare your application at least 4 weeks before your visa expires.** Be sure to fill in the form carefully in black ink and collect all of the required documentation. The International Student Support Office can check your application to make

sure you have completed it correctly. You will then need to send your application and documents by Recorded or Special Delivery to the address on the front of the form.

If you are applying from outside the UK, you will need to contact the British Consulate or Embassy in your home country for details on applying for entry clearance under the Post-Study Work scheme.

What documents will I need?

- Passport (with your student entry clearance or visa) and any other passports that you have used to enter the UK
- An Award Letter from Registry (Room 153 Northcote House).
- Your degree certificate. If you have not yet graduated, **you must ask that your Award Letter also confirm the details of your graduation and awarding body.**
- A letter from your sponsor (if you are being sponsored) giving consent for you to remain in the UK
- Three months' bank statements showing at least £800 in your account **at all times** (if you are applying from within the UK) or £2,800 (if you are applying from outside the UK.) These statements must be dated within the last month, must be originals, and **must not drop below the required amount.**

Please note that all documents must be originals. You should try to obtain original bank statements rather than stamped print-outs if possible.

What about my dependants?

If your partner and/or children are currently in the UK with you as your dependants, they can apply to remain as your dependants under the Post Study Work scheme. They will need to apply on a separate form, Tier 1 (Dependant), and you must complete a new form for each person. **The fee is £50 per dependant** if they are applying at the same time as you, higher if they apply later. You should include your dependants' applications in the same envelope as your own. The form is available here:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/tier1/poststudy/dependantapplications/dependantapplicationform/>

You will need to show that there are sufficient funds available to support your dependants while they are with you in the UK. If you are applying from within the UK, you must have at least £533 in savings for each dependant for the three months before you make your application (in addition to £800 for the main applicant).

If you are applying from outside the UK, your dependants can still come with you. You should have at least £1,600 in savings for each dependant for the three months prior to applying (in addition to £2,800 for the main applicant). Further information about fees, forms and the application process is available at www.ukvisas.gov.uk.

Can I extend my visa if I currently have leave under the International Graduates Scheme?

If you currently have leave under the International Graduates Scheme, you can apply to extend your leave to a total of two years under Post-Study Work. You will apply on the same form as initial applicants but will also need to fill in a transitional arrangements section. You will also have to pay the fee of £500. Please contact the International Student Support Office for more information.

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International Student Support Office

Room 162/163 Northcote House
isa@ex.ac.uk or 01392 263041/263018
www.exeter.ac.uk/international