International Student Office

- Provides a visa advice service.
- Area of expertise is student-related visas.
- Information and guidance on post-study visa options.
Agenda

• Working on Tier 4
• Tier 2
• Doctorate Extension Scheme
• Start-up visa
Graduate Route

• Government announced in September 2019 it was introducing a new ‘Graduate Route’ which will enable international students to switch to a two year post-study visa on completion of degree.

• Full details have not yet been confirmed.

• However, the Home Office has advised it will not be introduced until summer 2021.
University’s restrictions

- Graduate research students on courses of more than 12 months can work a maximum of 10 hours per week with the approval of their supervisor. The work must be academic-related, outreach work on behalf of the University or work related to professional or career development.

- Academic year for graduate students is continuous throughout the year (1 October – 30 September). Breaks for holidays permitted at times agreed with supervisor but these periods are not to be used for employment or internships.
Number of hours that can be worked on Tier 4 visa:

- Work for up to 20 hours a week during term-time (which is continuous for graduate students).
- Unlimited hours during vacation (vacation periods restricted for graduate students as in previous slide).
- Unlimited hours after course completion.

Course completion for a PhD is unconditional approval of degree which is normally submission of the hardbound thesis.
PhD students - working on Tier 4 after submission of thesis for examination

• University working restrictions do not apply after you have submitted your thesis for examination (except if viva outcome is ‘revise and resubmit’) but visa restrictions do.

• The period between submission of thesis for examination and official notification of viva outcome is considered to be 'vacation' period and you can work full time.

• The period between official notification of the viva outcome and unconditional approval of degree, which includes times working on corrections if applicable, is considered a return to full-time study and work is restricted to 20 hours a week.
Working during studies on Tier 4

Cannot:

• Be self-employed;

• Engage in business activity (if visa granted after April 2016);

• Fill a full-time permanent position;

• Work as a professional sportsperson (including coach), an entertainer or a doctor in training.

Further details: [www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/tier-4-responsibilities/working-tier-4-visa](http://www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/tier-4-responsibilities/working-tier-4-visa)
Tier 2 (General)

For those who obtain an offer for a graduate level job with a registered Sponsor, paying industry equivalent salary either before your Tier 4 visa expires or from overseas if you meet other requirements.

Tier 2 (General)

- Employer must be on Tier 2 Sponsor Register

- Job must be at graduate level or above as outlined in the Immigration Rules Appendix J: code of practice for skilled work.

- Minimum salary level specific to occupation, also outlined in Immigration Rules Appendix J:
  - ‘New entrant’ rate is applicable to those switching from Tier 4.
  - Lowest possible is £20800 but many occupations higher.
Periods of sponsorship

- Up to 3 years if the ‘new entrant’ minimum salary rate is met.
- Up to 5 years if the ‘experienced worker’ rate is met.
Tier 2 (General)

Special provisions for switching between Tier 4 to Tier 2 in the UK:

- Employers are exempt from having to undertake the Resident Labour Market Test.
- Issuing of Certificate of Sponsorship is not subject to national limit.
- Employer does not have to pay the Immigration Skills Charge.
Switching requirements:

- Completed a minimum 12 months study in the UK towards a UK PhD*.
- Applying inside the UK.

*If switching into Tier 2 prior to completion of PhD, the International Student Office can issue a letter to confirm you have completed at least 12 months of study. If switching after completion, you can use an official transcript or certificate.
Tier 2 (General)

Visa application is Points-Based:

- 30 points – Eligible to switch inside UK (exempt from Residence Labour Market Test)
- 20 points – Meet minimum level salary
- 10 points – English Language (Cambridge degree)
- 10 points - Maintenance - £945 held for 90 day period or Sponsor certifies they will cover.

*If you have been financially sponsored by a government or scholarship agency within 12 months of your application being made, you need a letter from your sponsor confirming they have no objection to your remaining in the UK.*
Application costs

• Application to switch inside the UK for a sponsorship period up to 3 years: £704

• Application switch inside the UK for a sponsorship period more than 3 years: £1408

• Plus Immigration Health Surcharge at £400 per year of sponsorship.

• There may be a charge for a biometrics appointment, depending on location.

• Priority and premium services available at additional cost.
You can start working in the Tier 2 role once you have either:

- received your Tier 2 BRP or
- successfully completed your PhD
Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme

• For **PhD students only**.

• Must apply inside UK.

• Designed as a bridge from Tier 4 to Tier 2.

• Type of work unrestricted except cannot work as a doctor or dentist in training, sports person or coach.

• Visa valid for 12 months from expected completion date.

• If you have been financially sponsored by a government or scholarship agency within 12 months of your application being made, you need a letter from your sponsor confirming they have no objection to your remaining in the UK.
Doctorate Extension Scheme

• Students must submit an application inside the UK after corrections have been approved but before unconditional approval of the PhD, which is usually submission of hardbound thesis.

• Tier 4 visa application process.

• Tier 4 maintenance requirements – 2 months x £1015 (a total of £2030). Held for a minimum consecutive 28 day period ending no more than 1 month before visa application.

• Must keep in contact with University during 12 months at three points in the year.
PhD examination process:

1. Submission of thesis for examination
2. Viva examination
3. Degree Committee / Board of Graduate Studies meetings
4. Completion and approval of corrections (if applicable)
5. Submission of electronic and hardbound thesis
DES Application costs 2019

- £494.20 using standard service
- £994.20 using priority service
- £1294.20 using premium service

Plus:

Immigration Health Surcharge of £300

Biometric enrolment appointment in Cambridge: £60
Start-up visa

- For graduates who demonstrate high entrepreneurial potential and wish to set up a business in the UK for the first time. [www.gov.uk/start-up-visa](http://www.gov.uk/start-up-visa)
Start-up visa

• 2 year visa.
• Bridge into Innovator visa.
• University-administered via an interview and application process.
• Can work but expected to spend majority of time on developing business in the UK.
• Successful graduates will be required to participate in the Accelerate Cambridge programme for the first year.
Tier 1 Exceptional Talent

• If you are internationally recognised as a world leader or potential world leading talent in the fields of science and the arts.

• Visa for a maximum of 5 years.

• First need endorsement by one of the Designated Competent Bodies (The Royal Society, The British Academy, The Royal Academy of Engineering, Arts Council England and Tech Nation).

• Two stage application process – apply for endorsement and then apply for the visa.

• Can apply from overseas or inside the UK if have a Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 5 GAE visa.
Further information:

www.internationalstudents.cam.ac.uk/visas-after-studying

Email: internationalstudents@admin.cam.ac.uk