

# **WORKING IN THE UK: VISA OPTIONS**

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# Topics

- Tier 2 for sponsored skilled work
- Doctorate Extension Scheme after PhD
- Other options for graduates
- Making the most of your Tier 4 visa's work conditions
- Proposed future changes from December 2018 white paper
- Questions and (maybe) answers

# Tier 4 switching stats (2018)

- Tier 2 (General) 5,109
- Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme 1,472
- Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) 332
- Tier 5 (Govt Authorised Exchange) 186
- Tier 1 (Investor) 56
- Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) 48
- Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) 29
- Tier 5 (Charity Worker) 2
- Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) 1
- Spouse / civil partner / partner 1,634

## Tier 2 (General): basics

- Sponsored by employer to do a specific job
- Dec 2018 white paper proposes sponsorship by “umbrella organisations” in some sectors
- Min skills level RQF 6 (degree level or higher)
- White paper proposes reducing min skill level to RQF 3 (A level)
- Min salary: for most jobs £30,000 but £20,800 for “new entrants”
- Employer issues Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS)
- Maintenance: £945 for 90 days

# Tier 2 (General): switching from Tier 4 in the UK

## Concessions for employers:

- No Resident Labour Market Test
- No immigration skills charge
- No cap on Certificates of Sponsorship

## Concessions for applicants:

- Minimum salary £20,800 not £30,000
- Can usually start work as soon as you have applied

# Tier 2 (General): switching from Tier 4 in the UK

- You have completed a UK Bachelor's or Master's degree; or
- you have completed at least 12 months of study in the UK towards a UK PhD; and
- You studied this course during your most recent Tier 4 visa, or during a period of continuous leave that includes this Tier 4 visa
- If you are or were sponsored by a government or an international scholarship agency, you have their written consent for the Tier 2 application
- Dec 2018 white paper proposes allowing visitors to switch to skilled worker. Only some nationalities.

## Tier 2 (General): application fees

Standard application:

- 3 years or less: £704
- 3 years or less, shortage occupation: £464
- More than 3 years: £1408
- More than 3 years, shortage occupation: £928
  
- Immigration Health Surcharge: £400/year
- Premium application: add £610

## Tier 2 (General): starting work

- If you applied on the basis of studying 1 year of a PhD, you can start work immediately
- If you applied after getting your results, you can start work immediately
- If you applied before getting your results, you can only start work when the Tier 2 visa is issued

# Tier 2 (General): some common problems

- You have not completed a UK degree or 1 year of PhD: you cannot apply
- Employer is not a Tier 2 sponsor: you cannot apply
- Employer is waiting for Tier 2 sponsor license: you may run out of time to apply in the UK
- Employer says they need to see your results before issuing a CoS: may be outdated info, qualification may be a condition of the job altho not visa requirement
- Ad or job spec says you need permission to work in the UK: means when you start work
- Application asks if you have a “work permit”: means permission to work in the UK

# Tier 2 (General)

## Information and advice

- General information and eligibility for switching from Tier 4: [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)
- List of Tier 2 sponsors, Appendix J (eligible jobs and salaries) : [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) > Search
- The Tier 2 application, starting work: your Tier 2 sponsor

# Tier 4

## Doctorate Extension Scheme

- PhD students: 12 month extension
- White paper proposes that in future the 12 months will be “built-in”
- Apply within last 60 days before date of completion. Your Tier 4 sponsor defines what this means for you.
- Comes under Tier 4, not a work category
- Can start work when degree awarded
- After 12 months, switch to Tier 2 (etc.)
- [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk) > Working after studies

# Tier 5

## Government Authorised Exchange

- For work experience
- No permanent job
- Generalist, sector based, specific companies
- Listed in Appendix N of the immigration rules
- 1 year or 2 years, depending on scheme
- [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk) > Working after studies

# Some less common options for switching within the UK

- Tier 1
  - Entrepreneur, Graduate Entrepreneur
  - Investor
- Tier 2
  - Minister of Religion
  - Inter Company Transfer
  - Sportsperson
- Tier 5
  - Charity, Religious, Creative/Sporting
  - International Agreement

# Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme: apply in home country

- Not possible to apply in UK
- Restricted to specific nationalities
- Maximum age 30
- No dependants on the visa
- No dependent children
- Two years, no switching or extending
- Dec 2018 white paper proposes new UK-EU YMS scheme with participating EU countries
- [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk) > Working after studies

# Other types of visa

- Student Union Sabbatical Officer
- UK Ancestry
- Turkish Workers
- Family in the UK
  - Husband/wife
  - Same sex civil partner
  - Unmarried Partner
- Long residence
- [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) > Visas and immigration

# Make the most of your Tier 4 visa

- Max 20 hrs/week during term time
- No limit in vacations
- Dissertation period is term time
- No time limit between formal end date of course and end of your visa (usually 2 or 4 months)
- Some restrictions on the type of work

# Make the most of your Tier 4 visa

- No self-employment or business activity
- No permanent full-time job
- No professional sports
- No work as an entertainer
- No work as a doctor or dentist in training
- [www.tinyurl.com/ukcisaworkblog](http://www.tinyurl.com/ukcisaworkblog)
- Do not try to re-enter the UK on your Tier 4 visa after your course has finished