

How Tier 4 of the Points Based System Affects Students

From 31 March 2009 students applying for a new visa or visa extension must apply under Tier 4 and do the following to comply with their immigration conditions:

Pre-arrival

- Think carefully about which UK institution to study at. Student visas will be tied to an institution. Students applying for a visa after 5 October 2009 must submit a new visa application (with the associated charge) if they wish to change institution;
- Regularly check pre-arrival web pages, emails and publications for updates and information

On arrival

- Register during the enrolment period. Students who have been issued with a CAS number and who do not enroll will be reported to the UK Border Agency (UKBA). If a student decides not to come to the University or will arrive late, they must inform Registry Services so that Registry Services can inform the UKBA;
- Allow Registry Services to scan a copy of their passport and visa details and record these on the student record;
- Update their contact details on Sycamore;
- Be registered as a student at the University on a full time course, on an exchange programme or, if on a course below degree level, have at least 15 hours per week of organized daytime study; (students will not be issued with a Visa Letter unless this requirement can be met);
- Only study on programmes at Level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework and for English language courses, at Level 2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (students will not be issued with a Visa Letter unless this requirement can be met);

During Studies

- Only undertake work placements that are assessed and do not comprise more than 50% of the total length of the course, unless there is a statutory requirement for this (for example, PGCEs);
- Attend teaching sessions regularly and request permission from their academic department for absences. Students who have been issued with a CAS number and have 10 unauthorized contacts with the University will be reported to the UKBA;
- Think carefully before applying for a leave of absence or withdrawal. Students who have been issued with a CAS number and who withdraw or take a leave of absence, will be reported to the UKBA and will need to leave the UK;
- Inform the University if their immigration conditions changes, for example, following a visa extension;
- Not apply for a visa extension to re-sit an examination or repeat a module of their course for a third time. As a sponsor, the University cannot issue a Visa Letter to students in these circumstances. The immigration rules state that students will not be permitted to undertake a third repeat or re-sit.
- Check the most up-to-date information on re-sits and repeats and whether a student's registration status will permit them to stay in the UK during the re-sit/repeat period - Sheet 10

- Be aware of the Points Based System and regularly read the UKBA's web pages (<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/>) for current students on immigration and check email bulletins for updates;

After studies

- Leave the UK if there is more than one month between their current leave to remain expiring and a new course starting