



Working in the UK

This leaflet is provided to clarify the UK immigration position of LSE students who are non-EEA nationals seeking employment in the UK.

Tier 4 (General) Students and pre-PBS Students

While studying in the UK, students with Tier 4 Student visas are also permitted to work. Employers are not required to obtain permission for students to be able to work. Full time degree students at LSE will have a sticker in their passport or a Biometric Residence Permit (this is in the form of an ID card) that shows that they are permitted to work. The wording on the stickers and BRP cards states a variation on the following: *'work as authorised'* or *'work as authorised by the Secretary of State'* or *'work p/t 20 hours f/t vacation'*.

Restrictions on work

Students are restricted on the kind of work that they can do – they cannot

- set up their own business (even if they are not the controlling shareholder)
- work freelance/as a contractor
- be self employed
- work as a professional sports person or entertainer
- work under a 'permanent full time contract'

When can students work?

Students can work part time during term time (dates set by LSE) and full time in vacations. Masters students on one year programmes are not on vacation during the summer and can only work full time after the official end date of their LSE programme. It may be possible for these students to negotiate a four week vacation with their department, but they must have

written permission from the Registry before you can employ them full time during this four week vacation.

The rules stating the number of hours a student can work have changed several times since March 2009, but have remained mostly unchanged for LSE students. LSE students studying on degree programmes can work up to 20 hours a week during term time. LSE students on Language Centre programmes, which are below degree level, can work up to 10 hours a week.

For further details see the UK Visas and Immigration document [Frequently asked questions about the illegal working penalty scheme \(May 2014\)](#)

Working at the end of their studies

Students who have completed their programme can work full time from the official end date of the LSE programme until the expiry date of their visa.

Students who submit an in-time application to switch into a different immigration category (for example, Tier 2) will obtain an automatic extension of their student visa until a decision is made and they can continue to work under the student immigration rules.

This legislation is referred to as 'Section 3C leave' and is outlined in the Home [Office's guide to 3C and 3D leave](#).

Internships

The Tier 4 work restrictions apply for students working on internships.

Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur

A small number of LSE students each year (maximum 20) may be granted

permission to remain in the UK after their studies to set up their own business. During this period, graduates are 'sponsored' by LSE. Graduates can apply inside or outside the UK. Only students who are selected by LSE can apply in this route. Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneurs are also permitted to work full time for an employer. They can apply to remain for a further 12 months (which must be granted by LSE) and after 2 years, they can apply to switch to Tier 1 or Tier 2 inside the UK.

See the UK Visas and Immigration website:

<https://www.gov.uk/tier-1-graduate-entrepreneur-visa>

Doctorate Extension Scheme

In April 2013, the UK government introduced a new scheme to allow PhD students to remain in the UK for 12 months after their studies in the UK. During this time, graduates remain 'sponsored' by LSE and can work for any employer (employers do not need to hold a Tier 2 licence). They are not permitted to work as a doctor or dentist in training, nor can they work as a professional sportsperson (including as a coach).

DES graduates can work full time from the date that they formally complete their studies at LSE (the date they receive confirmation of their award in writing). This means if they have submitted an application but have not yet received a decision, they are permitted to work full time. Students will be able to evidence this with a letter from LSE confirming that they have completed their degree together with evidence that they have submitted a DES application to the Home Office. DES graduates will obtain a BRP card which will state:

T4(G) doct ext sch, leave to remain, work full time, no dr/den/sport, post course

DES graduates can switch to Tier 2 inside the UK.

Tier 2 General

With the close of PSW, the government has made it easier for employers to recruit students who are already in the UK with Tier 4 (General) Student visas or with Tier 4 Dependant Partner visas. To sponsor a student who has completed their course of study an employer must:

- hold a Tier 2 sponsor license
- issue the migrant with a Certificate of Sponsorship (COS)
- offer a job at 'graduate level'
- offer a minimum salary of £20,800
- Employers will *not* be required to pass the resident labour market test.

As the rules permit switching inside the UK, employers will be able to use unrestricted CoSs to employ graduating students.

When can employers sponsor students?

LSE students on undergraduate and one year (or longer) postgraduate programmes will have permission to remain in the UK for **four months** after the end date of their programme.

LSE students on 9 month Master programmes will have permission to remain in the UK for **two months** after the end date of their programme.

Students completing their studies in June usually obtain their final results in early July. Students completing their studies in September, usually obtain their results by mid-November

You can apply to sponsor a student when they have

- 'successfully completed and passed' their degree or

- 'have completed a minimum of 12 months study in the UK towards a PhD'

Documentation for LSE Students

- LSE term dates are publicly available at:
<http://www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/diaryAndEvents/termDates/Home.aspx>
- Registered students can obtain a certificate of registration which will confirm the dates of the programme for the individual student and the LSE term dates.

Further information

For detailed guidance on working rules and guidance on sponsoring migrants, please refer to:

- UK Visas and Immigration website:
<https://www.gov.uk/uk-visa-sponsorship-employers>
- Employer's checking service
<https://www.gov.uk/check-job-applicant-right-to-work>

The UK Council for International Student Affairs:

Detailed guidance for students which is also useful for employers:

ukcisa.org.uk