



Working after your studies – Department of Accounting September 2018

This guidance is based on frequently asked questions. It is not intended to be used on its own and you should use it in combination with the detailed guidance available on our [website](#).

Do I need a sponsor or permit to work after my course ends until my Tier 4 visa expiry date?

No. Your Tier 4 visa permits you to work during that time. You must ensure that all work is in accordance with the conditions of your Tier 4 visa; refer to our [Info Sheet](#) and detailed guidance about [working during studies](#) on a Tier 4 visa for further information.

Can I work full-time on an internship after my course ends?

You can work full-time after the official course end date stated on your CAS. However you cannot be employed in a full-time permanent position. This means that the work you do whilst on your Tier 4 visa must be temporary or fixed term.

Your programme end date is the date that was on your CAS and that you provided to the UKVI on your application form. It is not the date of your last examination. You are restricted to working 20 hours per week maximum paid or unpaid until your official programme end date has passed.

My internship is longer than my Tier 4 visa. Can LSE extend my visa so I can take the opportunity?

We can only extend a Tier 4 visa for students who have genuine studies to undertake. You will need to discuss with your employer whether they are able to sponsor you under alternate visa routes.

Am I able to be self-employed?

No because the same restrictions on the type work you can undertake applies throughout the length of your Tier 4 visa.

I have a Tier 4 visa but have been offered full-time permanent employment; is this ok?

Full-time permanent work is prohibited on a Tier 4 visa. If you have been offered a full-time permanent contract, you can only begin working on that basis after you have applied to switch to Tier 2 after your degree is awarded, or once you receive the Tier 2 visa if you apply before the degree is awarded.

You should discuss employment contracts with your employer; you may be able to work on a temporary or fixed-term basis until you have submitted your Tier 2 application/received the Tier 2 visa (depending on whether you apply before or after your degree has been awarded).

My employer has asked LSE to provide a letter confirming that I am able to work. Can you provide this?

Your visa is your evidence of the number of hours you are permitted to work. However, employers are required to do checks for illegal working. The documents we are able to provide are listed on working during your studies page. You may also find our [guide for employers](#) helpful.

Can I extend my Tier 4 visa for work or to enable me to find a job?

The LSE will only sponsor students under Tier 4 who have genuine studies to undertake.

Does my Tier 4 visa permit me to work in other countries?

No. Your Tier 4 visa only provides you with the right to work in the UK.

Do the working conditions of my Tier 4 visa apply if I have an internship outside the UK?

No, you are only restricted by the conditions of the Tier 4 visa if the work is being completed in the UK. This includes if you are working for an overseas company whilst in the UK, even if you are being paid into an overseas bank account.

Will I automatically be eligible for a work visa at the end of my studies?

No, eligibility is not automatic. There are a number of working routes available, but many require you to find a sponsor to employ you at the end of your studies.

What is the difference between Tier 2 and Tier 5?

Tier 2 is for full-time long-term/permanent employment in the UK. Tier 5 is for temporary work primarily on a supernumerary basis (e.g. internships). You can find a list of Tier 2 and Tier 5 sponsor licence holders on the [Home Office](#) website.

Is it compulsory for employers to have a licence to sponsor work visas?

An employer can choose to apply for a sponsor licence if they wish to provide sponsorship for work visas for non-UK/EEA nationals. A sponsor licence can be an expensive commitment (in terms of both cost and administrative time) so some employers may choose not to apply for a sponsor licence. If they do not have a sponsor licence and are not willing to apply for one, you will not be able to apply for a Tier 2 visa to work for that employer.

How do I apply for a Tier 2 visa?

Full details about applying for Tier 2 are available in the Home Office's [Tier 2 Policy Guidance](#).

Can an employer refuse to sponsor me even if they have a Tier 2 sponsor licence?

It is at the employer's discretion. Even if an employer holds a sponsor licence, it is not guaranteed that they will be able to sponsor you.

When can I apply for a Tier 2 visa?

Unless you have completed at least 12 months of a PhD, you can only apply to switch from Tier 4 to Tier 2 from within the UK once you have completed your degree. This means you must have sat all exams and submitted all academic papers. You can also choose to wait until your degree has been awarded to apply. For details of publication results see [here](#).

Can I get a letter confirming I've completed my degree before my results are released?

Yes, the can issue a letter after you have completed all assessments for your degree. However if you want to apply for a Tier 2 visa before your degree is awarded, you will need to show evidence of your employment contract in order to receive the letter.

Alternatively, you can choose to wait until your degree results are released, in which case you can use either a [confirmation of award letter](#), [official hard-copy transcript](#) or [degree certificate](#) for Tier 2 application purposes.

What happens if I apply for the Tier 2 visa before results are released and I don't pass my degree programme?

You must inform your employer because your visa may be affected. To avoid this complication, you could choose to wait until your results are released before applying for Tier 2.

What is the Resident Labour Market Test and am I exempt?

The Resident Labour Market Test (RLMT) is something your employer may need to complete to prove that they were unable to recruit a UK/EU national for the position. However, if you apply to switch to Tier 2 from within the UK after your degree, you will be exempt from the RLMT.

Can I apply for a Tier 2 visa from my home country?

Check with your employer. Whilst you would not need to have completed a UK degree to apply from overseas, it may be more difficult to get the visa because you will be subject to the RLMT and your employer will need to obtain a restricted Confirmation of Sponsorship for you to apply.

Do I need to pay for my Tier 2 visa application and show evidence of funding or will my employer cover the costs and confirm funds?

Ask your employer because it is their choice; some employers cover the cost of the application fees and some don't. Employers may also confirm that they will be responsible for your maintenance costs (which could mean that you may not need to show evidence of your own funds) but it is not compulsory for them to do so.

Can you advise my prospective employer how to apply for a Tier 2 sponsor licence if they don't have one?

We provide advice about the student immigration rules and are unable to provide advice about applying for a Tier 2 sponsor licence. Regulated advisers can be found on the [ILPA](#) or [OISC](#) webpages.

Do I have to be sponsored to be able to work in the UK?

Not in all cases. There are some routes available which may not require you to have a sponsor such as [Tier 5 Youth Mobility](#), [Ancestry](#) and [Turkish workers](#). Unfortunately, these are not open to all nationalities and it is not possible to apply for some of these visa types within the UK. [This webpage](#) contains details of all work visa options.

Am I eligible to apply for the Tier 5 Youth Mobility visa?

This will depend on your nationality and age. For details of the eligibility requirements, please see [this Home Office webpage](#).

Does LSE sponsor students for the Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme?

Yes. PhD students can find out more about the scheme on our [working after your studies](#) information or by [contacting us](#).

Does LSE participate in the Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) Scheme?

Yes. Since its introduction, the LSE has been able to sponsor students through the [Tier 1 \(Graduate Entrepreneur\)](#) scheme. Successful candidates are chosen through the [Generate at LSE](#) Careers competitions. We have more detailed information for those who are offered a visa endorsement.

Do I need a National Insurance number?

You do not need a National Insurance number until you begin working. However, you must apply for one when you start your job. You can find more information on National Insurance and tax on the [UKCISA website](#) and also [Tax Guide for Students](#).

I'm an alumnus. How long can you advise me about my immigration options for working in the UK?

We are able to advise you on your immigration options whilst:

- You hold a valid Tier 4 visa for LSE;
- You are sponsored under Tier 4 (Doctorate Extension Scheme) by LSE;
- You are sponsored under Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) by LSE.

Who do I contact for help? For further immigration advice [contact ISVAT online](#). You can also refer to the [UKCISA website](#) for more information about work options after study.