



New Graduate Route Visa (Post Study Work Visa)

This Information Sheet contains the details that we currently know about the UK Government's proposed new Graduate Route Visa.

The Graduate Route rules were announced on 4 March 2021 and must now follow the parliamentary ratification process.

See [Gov.Uk for Graduate Route announcement](#). The Graduate Route Visa to be open to applications from 1 July 2021.

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What is the new Graduate Route Visa?

The UK government have published in their [Points Based System Immigration System](#) document a proposal to introduce a new Graduate Route Visa in 2021 (on page.38). The Graduate Route will allow successful applicants to stay in the UK for a period of 2 or 3 years after completing studies to work and to look for work.

How do you get the Graduate Route Visa?

It is not automatically granted. To obtain the Graduate Route Visa, you will need to meet all the requirements (listed below in 'What are the requirements to apply for the Graduate Route Visa') and apply online via the www.gov.uk for the visa in the UK once the visa route opens.

You are not required to show you have a certain amount of money in your bank account to be able to apply for this visa (maintenance).

The UK Government has stated that the Graduate route will open for applications from 1 July 2021.

How much will the Graduate Route Visa Cost?

As yet, the government has not confirmed the exact fee for the Graduate Route visa. We expect the fee to be approximately £700. However, we would expect the cost to be announced officially soon.

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Applicants will also have to pay the [Immigration Health Surcharge](#) (I H S) for each year of the visa to be issued. The I H S will be at the normal, higher rate and not the reduced student rate.

What are the requirements to apply for a Graduate Route Visa?

From the information available so far, the following are the main requirements to be able to apply for the Graduate Route Visa.

- You must have successfully completed an undergraduate, postgraduate or doctoral degree at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU)
- LJMU will need to notify the Home Office (UKVI) of your course completion before you apply for the Graduate Route visa
- There is no requirement for you to show you have a certain amount of money available to you in your bank account (maintenance)
- If your course of study is 12 months or less, your studies must have been completed in full while you were in the UK, except for periods of permitted, required study abroad or distance learning due to Covid-19* (see below)
- If your course of study is longer than 12 months, you must have held a student visa for at least 12 months and spent that time studying in the UK except for periods of distance learning due to Covid-19* (see below)
- Your studies must have been the same as that for which your most recent Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) was issued, except in very limited cases where course changes are permitted on an existing student visa
- You must apply in the UK, and have a valid Tier 4 or Student visa at the time of application

***Important deadlines for eligibility – students studying by distance due to Covid-19:**

- Students who started a course of 12 months or less in 2020, who haven't yet come to the UK need to obtain their student visa and be in the UK **by 21 June** to be eligible
- Students who started a course of 12 months or less in 2021, who haven't yet come to the UK need to obtain their student visa and be in the UK **by 27 Sept** to be eligible
- Students who started a course of 12 months or less in 2020 or 2021, and who have entered the UK with their Student Visa, need to be back in the UK **before the end date of their course** if currently absent, to be eligible
- Students on a course of longer than 12 months can still be eligible if they have studied remotely at any point **between 24 Jan 2020 and 27 Sept 2021**
- Students who are doing a course overseas but where they would do their final year in the UK will be considered to be students on a course of 12 months or less

This is explained on pages 15 and 16 in the Government [Coronavirus Student Visa Guidance](#)

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How long will the Graduate Route Visa be for?

The Graduate Route Visa will be issued for 2 years for successful applicants who completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree, and 3 years for successful applicants who completed a doctoral degree (eg, PhD).

What kind of work can you do with a Graduate Route Visa?

You can do almost all kinds of work with a Graduate Route Visa. There is no minimum qualification or income requirement for the work. You do not require sponsorship from an employer, and you will be free to change jobs as and when necessary.

You can work in almost any field of employment and the work does not have to be related to your studies or qualification.

You will not be able to work as a professional sportsperson.

Can you bring your family as dependants with the Graduate Route Visa?

Only graduates who already have their family members with them in the UK as dependants will be able to have their dependents apply, *unless they are your child born in the UK under your last grant of Student permission.*

Dependants must apply at the same time as the graduate.

Can you study with a Graduate Route Visa?

Study at a Student Route Sponsor institution will not be permitted. This would exclude studying for example, a master's degree at most UK universities while in the UK with a Graduate Route visa.

Other study at non Student Route Sponsor institutions will be permitted.

Is there any else you need to know?

If you have been in receipt of Official Financial Sponsorship from a government, you will need to obtain a letter confirming permission from that government for you to apply to the Graduate Route

You can only have the Graduate Route visa once. It is not possible to extend the visa, but it will be possible to switch to another type of visa from the Graduate Route.

You are not eligible to apply if you have previously been granted permission under the Doctorate Extension Visa.

If you later wish to apply to switch to the new Skilled Worker Route visa (which has replaced the old Tier 2 visa), you can do so if you have a Skilled Worker Route employer who offers sponsorship to you.

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As with holders of the Student Visa, holders of the Graduate Route visa applying to switch to the Skilled Worker Route can be considered as 'new entrants' for Skilled Worker sponsorship, which means the minimum salary offer to be sponsored can be the lower minimum salary new entrants rate.

Where can I get further information or advice?

Please note, the Graduate Route rules have just been published (4 March 2021) and are expected to go through the parliamentary approval process by April.

The application process and guidance will be published on the Government website before the Graduate Route Visa opens for applications on 1 July 2021

The International Student Advice Team at Liverpool John Moores University

- Email us at InternationalAdvice@ljmu.ac.uk
- www.ljmu.ac.uk/international-advice

The UK government website

- www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas
- [The UK's Points Based Immigration System Policy Document \(page 38\)](#)
- [UK Government Announcement of Graduate Route Visa](#)
- [Draft Immigration Rules – Statement of Changes 4 March 2021 \(pages 45 -51\)](#)

The United Kingdom Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)

- www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies

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