

## Working in the UK After Studies

This information sheet aims to provide LJMU students with an overview of some of the visa options available for students who are considering working in the UK after completing their studies.

The International Advice team can provide you with some advice and guidance on the Graduate Route Visa and Start Up Visa.

The International Advice team can provide some general information and signposting on some of the other work visas, but we are not able to advise or provide detailed guidance as these other visas are outside our area of specialism.

For a Skilled Worker visa, your (prospective) employer should be able to provide you with detailed advice and guidance on the visa requirements and their sponsorship of you.

For all other visas, you may wish to seek a specialist immigration adviser or solicitor. Please see the end of this information sheet for further sources of advice

- [Graduate Route \(2 year work visa\)](#)
- [Skilled Worker Visa \(sponsored work visa\)](#)
- [Start Up Visa \(2 year business creation visa\)](#)
- [Innovator Visa \(3 year business visa\)](#)
- [Tier 5 Youth Mobility Visa \(2 year visa\)](#)
- [Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange Visa \(1 to 2 year visa\)](#)
- [Other Tier 5 Visas \(temporary specialist visas\)](#)
- [UK Ancestry Visa \(5 year visa\)](#)
- [Other Immigration Routes which permit work](#)
- [Sources of advice](#)

### Graduate Route Visa (2/3year work visa)

The Graduate route is for those who have a degree or other relevant qualification from an approved UK Higher Education provider. Applications opened on 1 July 2021.

Please see our separate information sheet for the [Graduate Route Visa](#)

### Skilled Worker Visa (sponsored work visa)

The Skilled Worker Visa replaced Tier 2 in December 2020. It is a sponsored visa which requires a [licenced sponsor](#) employer to offer you a job which meets the minimum skills and salary requirements of the visa rules.

The Skilled Worker Visa is linked to a specific job with a specific employer and changes to your job or employment with your sponsor may affect your ability to continue with the visa.

**Disclaimer** Please note: This information sheet is based on the current information available from the UK Government at the time of publication (March 2022). Always check for updates [www.ljmu.ac.uk/international-advice](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/international-advice)

Note: You should seek advice on the Skilled Worker Visa from your prospective employer as they will be able to confirm if they are able and willing to sponsor you under this visa, and if your job offer meets the minimum skill, salary and language requirements

**Main requirements:**

Your employer must be a listed on the [Home Office Register of Sponsors](#) with a Worker licence and able to sponsor you under the Skilled Worker route.

Your sponsor will need to be able to issue you Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) for your job and for your visa application. The job must meet the requirements for minimum salary and skills level.

**Minimum salary:**

In order for an employer to sponsor someone for a Skilled Worker visa there is a minimum salary requirement, which is normally £25,600 or the relevant industry “going rate”, whichever is higher.

However, if you are considered to be a **new entrant** to the labour market, the minimum salary for the job for which you can be sponsored for a Skilled Worker visa can be lower - £20,480 or 70% of the relevant industry “going rate”, whichever is higher.

The main way for students to be considered to be a new entrant to the labour market is if you meet the switching from student visa requirements. To meet these requirements, you must:

- Have completed a degree level qualification or above (including a PGCE or PGDE), **or**
- You are expected to complete your qualification within the next 3 months, **and**
  
- You are switching from a Student or Tier 4 visa in the UK before it expires, **or**
- If you are applying outside the UK, you apply within 2 years of your Student or Tier 4 visa expiry

Note: An exception applies to Doctorate students, who can meet the requirements to be considered a new entrant to the labour market if you have completed at least 12 months of your relevant doctorate level qualification

Alternatively, if you do not meet the above requirements to be considered as a new entrant to the labour market in this way, it may be possible for you to meet the requirements in one of the other ways, such as

- If you are under 26 on the day that you apply for your visa, or
- If you have a job offer in a post doctoral position in some listed occupations, or
- If you have a job offer in regulated UK profession and you are working towards a qualification for that profession, or
- If you have a job offer and you will be working towards full registration or chartered status with the relevant professional body for the job being sponsored for.

**Minimum Skills level for a Skilled Worker job:**

Normally, the minimum skills level required for a job is RQF level 3 (equivalent to UK A' Levels) for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa.

**Other information**

- Maintenance Requirement
  - If you've been in the UK for +12 months, no maintenance requirement

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- If you've been in the UK for less than 12 months, you need to show minimum funds of £1,270 for at least 28 days
- In some employment fields a Criminal Records check required for any country you've lived in for +12 months (in last 10 years)
- You can bring dependents.
- Study is permitted
- After 5 years possibility of settlement in the UK\*

**More information:**

- Government Website information:  
<https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>
- Register of Licensed Sponsors – Skilled Worker Visa  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers)
- Skilled Worker – going rates  
[www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-skilled-occupations](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-skilled-occupations)
- UKCISA Website  
[www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies)

## Start Up Visa

### Start Up Visa - overview

The Start Up Visa is a visa for those who are interested in setting up and establishing a new business in the UK for the first time.

You must intend to spend the majority of your working time in the UK on developing business ventures and you will need to have a business plan endorsed by an approved endorsing body (which includes universities such as LJMU).

The Start Up visa is a one off 2 year visa but at the end of the visa, you may be able to switch to Innovator Visa to continue to grow your business.

### Start Up Visa – Requirements for business

To be considered for an endorsement for a Start Up Visa, your business idea needs to meet the following requirements.

- **Innovation:** genuine, original business plan that meets new or existing market needs and/or creates a competitive advantage
- **Viability:** business plan that is realistic and achievable, and you have or actively developing the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and market awareness to successfully run the business
- **Scalability:** there is evidence of structured planning and of potential for job creation and growth into national markets.

### Start Up Visa – Additional Requirements

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You must be the sole founder of the business or an instrumental member of the founding team, although more than one applicant can be endorsed for the same business if each applicant is a founding member.

You must be relying on your own business plan, must have generated the ideas in the plan (or made significant contribution) and must be responsible for executing the plan and you must not have previously established a business in the UK.

#### **Start Up Visa – LJMU Endorsement:**

To be considered for an endorsement by LJMU, please note the following:

- LJMU can endorse up to 20 applicants (LJMU post graduate students only) per year.
- LJMU Start-Up Visa Programme will run once a year between January and December.
- Endorsement from LJMU is via business plan and pitch and our Programme will prepare you for this
- Programme will run concurrently with your studies at LJMU and requires serious effort, commitment, time and access to sufficient funds to cover start up costs
- Be enrolled at LJMU and be completing your studies with a recognised degree at postgraduate level only
- Have a valid Tier 4 / Student visa valid throughout the Start Up programme.
- Be able to prove that you have enough personal savings to support yourself while you're in the UK
- Be planning to start your business in the Liverpool City Region
- LJMU will not support business ventures that are not aligned to the university's core values or which may bring the university into disrepute.

At LJMU the Centre for Entrepreneurship is responsible for the Start Up endorsement programme

- <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/careers/start-up-hub>
- [StartUp@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:StartUp@ljmu.ac.uk)

#### **Start Up Visa – Additional Information**

Switching to Start Up from Tier 4 / Student is possible

There is a Maintenance Requirement for the Start Up Visa

- If you've been in the UK for +12 months, no maintenance requirement
- If you've been in the UK for less than 12 months, you need to show minimum funds of £1,270 for at least 28 days

Additional work is permitted (except as a professional sports person or coach). Study is also permitted and you can bring dependents with you/ to join you.

#### **Start Up Visa – More information**

- <https://www.gov.uk/start-up-visa>
- [www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies)

## Innovator Visa

The Innovator Visa is a sponsored visa which allows you to be in the UK to establish and run an innovative new business and you can demonstrate that you have the minimum required investment funds (normally a minimum of £50,000)

It is possible to switch to this visa from a Start Up visa if you wish to continue to build your business which you began with your Start Up visa and in this case you may not need to demonstrate that you have the minimum required investment funds

### **Innovator Visa – more information**

- [www.gov.uk/innovator-visa](http://www.gov.uk/innovator-visa)
- [www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies)

## Tier 5 Youth Mobility

The Youth Mobility visa is a two year visa which allows young people (aged 18 to 30), from a few countries with which the UK has an agreement, to come to the UK to live and work for up to 2 years.

Currently, the UK has agreements for youth mobility with the following countries:

- Australia
- Canada
- Hong Kong
- Japan
- Monaco
- New Zealand
- San Marino
- South Korea
- Taiwan

British Overseas citizens, British Overseas Territories Citizens and British Nationals (Overseas) aged 18 - 30 may also be able to apply to the Youth Mobility visas

### **Youth Mobility Visa – more information**

- [www.gov.uk/youth-mobility](http://www.gov.uk/youth-mobility)
- [www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies)

## Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange

Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) is for those who want to come to the UK for a short time for work experience or to do training, an Overseas Government Language Programme, research or a fellowship

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The activity must be through an approved government authorised exchange scheme and requires a sponsor (which must be a listed sponsor on the UK government website)

A Tier 5 GAE visa is normally granted for up to 12 months or 24 months depending on the programme and the sponsorship.

**More information:**

- [www.gov.uk/tier-5-government-authorised-exchange](http://www.gov.uk/tier-5-government-authorised-exchange)
- [www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies)

## Other Tier 5 Visas

There are a number of other Tier 5 temporary work visa sub categories all of which have their own specific requirements and which are sponsored visas.

These schemes allow you to undertake specific types of work in the UK for a period of one or two years, depending on the scheme.

The Tier 5 sub categories include

- Tier 5 Charity Worker
- Tier 5 Creative & Sporting
- Tier 5 Religious Workers
- Tier 5 International Agreement (international law)
- Tier 5 Seasonal Worker

**More information**

- [www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas](http://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas)
- [www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies)

## UK Ancestry Visa

An Ancestry Visa is a 5 year visa which allows you to live and work in the UK. It is an unsponsored visa which is open to citizens of Commonwealth countries who have at least one grandparent who was born in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, in Ireland (if born prior to 31 March 1922) or on a British registered ship or aircraft.

**More information**

- [www.gov.uk/ancestry-visa](http://www.gov.uk/ancestry-visa)
- [www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies)

## Other Visas and Immigration statuses which allow work

There are a number of other visas or immigration statuses in the UK which allow you to work. Each visa or status has its own requirements and conditions.

Examples of some of the other specific work visas include;

- Health and Care Worker Visa [www.gov.uk/health-care-worker-visa](http://www.gov.uk/health-care-worker-visa)
- Global Talent [www.gov.uk/global-talent](http://www.gov.uk/global-talent)

You can find details of all the work visa categories on the UK Government website

- [www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas](http://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas)

Some immigration statuses such as Settled or Pre Settled Status for EEA and Swiss nationals and their family members and most dependent visas (such as dependent of a Student or Skilled Worker) allow mostly unrestricted work.

## Sources of advice and information

UK Government Website

- <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>

United Kingdom Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)

- [www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies)

Immigration Law Practitioners Association

- <https://ilpa.org.uk/members-directory/>

Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner

- [www.gov.uk/find-an-immigration-adviser](http://www.gov.uk/find-an-immigration-adviser)