Would you like to stay and work in the UK after your studies?

Did you know the following options are available to you?

**Tier 2** – for students with a job offer from an employer holding a Tier 2 sponsor licence

There are certain criteria the job must meet before an employer can give you a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) e.g. the salary must be more than £20,300 per annum. An employer would be able to advise you if they can give you a CoS for a particular job, there are currently over 24,000 employers with a Tier 2 sponsor licence. Once you have a job offer and a CoS you can apply for a Tier 2 visa. The University’s Careers Services offers many events and workshops to help you understand and prepare for the UK employment market.

[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/working/tier2/general/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/working/tier2/general/)

**Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES)** – PhD students only

DES is for students about to complete their PhD - you cannot apply for DES once you have been awarded your PhD. This visa allows you to stay in the UK to work or look for work. Students at the University who have been granted DES visas have used them to bridge the gap between completing their study and gaining work with a Tier 2 employer allowing them to then go onto apply for a Tier 2 visa.

If you are eligible, the University of Bristol can give you a CAS for DES and will continue to act as your Tier 4 immigration sponsor for 12 months, during which time you are expected to maintain contact with the University. The timings for DES are very sensitive i) the CAS cannot be assigned more than 60 days before the date you expect to be awarded your PhD by the Exam Board and ii) you must make your DES application before the Exam Board date. Please be aware that if you submit your thesis early this will be reported to the Home Office and your visa will be curtailed which will limit the time in which you need to successfully complete. It you are considering DES, please come and talk to us in good time about these sensitive dates and when you may be able to make an application.

[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students/post-study-work/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students/post-study-work/)

**Tier 5** – temporary working options (e.g. charity work, government authorised exchange) and Youth Mobility Scheme

Youth Mobility Scheme - is a two year visa applicable to a limited number of nationals from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Monaco, Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. If you are a British overseas citizen, a British overseas territories citizen or a British national (overseas) you can also apply under this scheme and there is no limit on the number of places available. You cannot apply for this visa within the UK.

Tier 5 temporary working options - charity workers, religious workers, creative and sporting, international agreements and government authorised exchange which is a visa to allow you to undertake postgraduate professional training or work experience e.g. internships. You must have a job offer from a licensed sponsor, and you must pass a points-based assessment. You cannot apply for these visas in the UK except for the
government authorised exchange visa which does allow applications within the UK provided you meet certain requirements;

- you have a student visa
- you have obtained a degree during your most visa
- you are being sponsored either to undertake a period of postgraduate professional training or work experience which is required to obtain a professional qualification or professional registration in the same field as your UK qualification or you are being sponsored for up to 12 months to undertake an internship which directly relates to your UK qualification
- your employer does not intend to employ you in the UK once your training or work experience for which you are being sponsored has ended.

In order to find out which Tier 5 sponsors can offer internships, see the list on the Home Office website; www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/workingintheuk/gae-list.pdf

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/working/tier5/

**Tier 1 Entrepreneur – for students who want to invest in business in the UK**

You must have at least £50,000 in specified UK funds that you can invest in business for this visa.

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/working/tier1/entrepreneur/

**Funding for visas**

For all of these visas you will be required to show a certain level of funding. Some require you to hold funding for 90 consecutive days so it is very important to be aware of your visa expiry date and ensure that you have the appropriate level of funding in your bank account for long enough so that you can apply for the new visa before your current visa expires.

**Dependants**

Tiers 1, 2, 4 and Tier 5 temporary workers visas allow for dependants. There are separate funding requirements for dependants so be aware of these well in advance of any visa extension. Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme does not allow for dependants.

**Further Advice**

International Advice & Support can explain these options in further detail to you, and give you the information that is most relevant to your current situation. We can also help you to fill out the forms. We can offer only basic guidance on Tier 2 and Tier 5 visas, but we are happy to suggest other organisations or solicitors that can help you. For further information regarding working in the UK after your studies, we recommend reading the information on the UKCISA website; www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/The-next-stage/Working-after-your-studies/.

*International Advice and Support offers guidance only. The International Student & Staff Advisers should not be viewed as legal representation, and the guidance offered is to be viewed strictly as guidance and not as legal advice.*