

INTERNATIONAL & EEA STUDENTS - working in the UK

Working during your studies

Many students wish to gain work experience or a part-time job in the UK during their time at university in order to improve their job prospects for when they return home and to help them improve their English, or earn some money. Others volunteer (unpaid work) to develop skills and learn about the local community.

What legal regulations do I have to think about if I want to work part-time during my studies?

- **Immigration:** Most students on a Tier 4 student visa can work 20 hours per week and any number of hours during vacation time. **It is your responsibility to know and stick to the number of hours you are legally allowed to work and what type of work you can do BEFORE you start a job.** See information from the UK Council for international Student Affairs (UKCISA) about working during your studies: www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Can-you-work
- **EEA nationals:** Nationals of countries listed on <https://www.gov.uk/eu-eea> can at the time of writing work during their studies in the UK. The UK left the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020 and entered a transitional period, currently due to end on 31 December 2020, during which EU law continues to apply in the UK. The UK's relationship with the EU beyond the end of the transitional period has not yet been finalised, however certainly until the end of this period all EU, EEA and Swiss nationals can work in the UK without restriction. For more information for EEA nationals see UKCISA www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/EEA--Swiss-Students/Working and International Student Advisory Team (ISAT) webpages at Oxford Brookes: www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/work-options/
- **Brexit:** For the latest up-dates on changes post Brexit. <http://bit.ly/2ljmeBO>
- **National Insurance and Tax:** Everyone who works in the UK has to apply for a National Insurance number. For information about how you obtain a National Insurance number as well as tax regulations, please visit: www.hmrc.gov.uk/ni/intro/number.htm

Can the Careers staff give me advice about my immigration situation?

Unfortunately we cannot give you **advice** related to your particular situation, although we can tell you where to find accurate **information** about current immigration rules and regulations. The only people in Oxford Brookes University who are allowed to give immigration advice under the *Office of Immigration Service Commissioner* regulations are members of the *International Students Advisory Team (ISAT)* who are based in Student Central.

How can I gain experience in the UK whilst studying?

- **Look for a part time job** – Contact the *Careers Jobshop* www.brookes.ac.uk/students/careers/students-and-graduates/part-time-jobs/ or search for vacancies on our Careers Portal JobTeaser 'Job vacancies and events' or through looking for vacancies found on 'Resources', all found here: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/careers/>
- **Volunteer** – Contact our Volunteer Centre and search for volunteering opportunities here <https://volunteering.brookes.ac.uk/vk/volunteers/index.htm>
- **Placement Year/ Internships** – Placement Years, a year's experience between your penultimate and final year at university undertaking a role similar to that of a graduate level position provides invaluable experience. Placements usually consist of a time period between 9 and 13 months, depending on the employer. Try searching for either placements or Internships, which are usually 3-12 months employment after your degree/postgrad course) here: <https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/>

Working in the UK after your studies

Immigration

Some of the opportunities (**but not all**) currently available are summarised in the grid below. More comprehensive information is provided by the UKCISA on their web pages in the section '**Working after your studies**' www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies and on the UKVI '**Working in the UK**' webpages www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas You are advised to always read the detailed official UKBA **policy guidance** of each scheme before you complete any UKBA application form. These are long, complicated documents but contain all the information that you need. If you have questions about your immigration situation please contact ISAT www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/contact/

Tier	Name of category or scheme:	Link to information on UKBA website:
Investor, business development and talent visas	Start-up visa (for a graduate who has had an excellent business idea endorsed by Oxford Brookes) For more information see www.brookes.ac.uk/enterprise/start-up-visa/ and email enterprise-support@brookes.ac.uk	www.gov.uk/start-up-visa
Tier 2 Skilled workers	Tier 2 (General) (for those who have secured a graduate level job with an appropriate minimum salary of usually at least £30,000 plus, and a valid Certificate of Sponsorship from a licensed employer).	www.gov.uk/tier-2-general
	Tier 2 (Intra company transfer) (an opportunity for those who secure a job in their home country and then get sent to the UK based branch of that company)	www.gov.uk/tier-2-intracompany-transfer-worker-visa
Tier 5 Temporary Workers	Tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme) (an opportunity for nationals from Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea and Taiwan)	www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility
	Tier 5 (Temporary worker - Government Authorised Exchange Scheme – GAE) (a range of different schemes which assist individuals to take up work experience in the UK. Of particular interest – Tier 5 Interns Scheme) tier5intern.com/ and Access Tier 5 www.accesstier5.com/	www.gov.uk/tier-5-government-authorised-exchange

NEW - The 'Post Study Work Visa' will be relaunched for the 2020/21 intake of students at undergraduate level or above, and is currently in consultation. Any international student who completes their course in or after the summer of 2021 will be eligible to apply for the new two-year graduate route, but this will not be open to those who have completed their studies in the summer of 2020. www.ukcisa.org.uk/studentnews/1389/Graduate-route-post-study-work-2020.

What can I do to improve my chances of getting a job in the UK?

- **Research, research, research!** You need to find out as much as you can about the graduate labour market of your chosen field **as soon as you can**. Some of the large multinational employers start recruiting for their graduate schemes as early as October for start dates in the autumn of the following year.
- **Network** with people who can give you valuable information. Use social and professional networking sites such as LinkedIn. Talk to other students, graduates and alumni about how they secured a particular job that interests you. Learn from other students (UK and international) who have entered the job market. Make contact with Oxford Brookes alumni www.brookesalumni.co.uk and read alumni stories.
- **Be strategic and tactical in preparing for the job market**
 - Think about things you can do as you study which could impress or create links with particular employers. For example, when you choose your dissertation topic for your research could you choose something that could be of real interest to a potential employer?
 - Work out your **'unique selling points'**. Could you be targeting companies who are expanding their business into your home country and could be really interested in the language skills, cultural and country specific knowledge and understanding you may have?
 - Look at the **UKVI Register of Licensed Sponsors - workers list** www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers. This is a list of organisations that have already applied and secured a license to be able to issue Certificates of Sponsorship (Tier 2 and Tier 5) to new employees so that they can apply for a visa to work in the UK.
- **Improve and practice your English language and communication skills.** Join clubs and societies at university, speak up in seminars and lectures, and make a real effort to speak English all the time.
- **Get as much UK work experience as you can.** Ideally try to find work experience which relates to what you would like to do in the future, but *any* work experience in the UK will be useful because you will learn about the working culture in the UK and have the chance to obtain a reference from a UK employer. UK employers are more likely to recruit graduates into permanent roles when they have already worked for them as students.
- **Use Careers** to learn how to create a good quality, UK-style CV, perform well in interviews and to guide you in your job search. Follow us on Facebook to hear about the whole range of different events we organise to help students prepare for the world of work. Speak to us if you have any questions: www.brookes.ac.uk/students/careers/students-and-graduates/