

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 *Student Route visa* (previously Tier 4) 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
- **EU, EEA and Swiss nationals post Brexit:** If you were not living in the UK before 31 December 2020, and you do not already have immigration permission that allows you to study and work in the UK, for example, settled or pre-settled status, you will be eligible to also work part-time during your studies on your *Student Route visa* (previously Tier 4) under the same restrictions of other International students. See above.
- **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.

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/isat/>

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 look for vacancies found on '*Resources*', all found here: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/students/careers/>
- **Volunteer** – Contact Maya our Volunteer Coordinator in Careers 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 are usually between 9 and 13 months, depending on the employer. Internships are usually 3-12 months employment AFTER your degree/postgrad course. Try searching for 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 overleaf. 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 gov.uk '**Working in the UK**' webpages www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas 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: |
|---|--|---|
| Post study work visa | Graduate Route (<i>New post-study work visa where by successful applicants will be able to live and work in the UK for two years, or three years if they have completed a PhD, without sponsorship from an employer. You don't need a job offer or a place on an educational course for this visa. This is not open to those who have completed their studies in the summer of 2020, or prior to this.</i>) | https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-graduate-route-information-for-international-students |
| Investor, business development and talent visas | Start-up Visa (<i>For a graduate who has had an excellent business idea endorsed by Oxford Brookes</i>) For more info see https://www.brookes.ac.uk/enterprise/funding-and-opportunities/start-up-visa/ & email enterprise-support@brookes.ac.uk | www.gov.uk/start-up-visa |
| Skilled workers | Skilled Worker Visa (previously Tier 2) (<i>You need sponsorship by a licensed employer to do a specific job that meets minimum levels of skill and salary. Most students apply as a 'new entrant' and the minimum salary to work on this visa as a 'new entrant' is £20,480</i>) www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers Register of Licensed Sponsors list | https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa |
| | Intra-Company Visa (<i>Allows you to come to or stay in the UK to do an eligible job at your employer's UK branch</i>) | https://www.gov.uk/intra-company-transfer-worker-visa |
| Tier 5 Temporary Workers | Tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme) (<i>An opportunity for 18-30 year olds from Australia, Canada, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, San Marino and Taiwan to live and work in the UK for up to 2 years</i>) | www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility |
| | Tier 5 (Temporary worker - Government Authorised Exchange Scheme) (<i>A range of different schemes which assist individuals to take up work experience in the UK. Of particular interest – Tier 5 Interns Scheme</i>) tier5intern.com/ and Access Tier 5 www.accesstier5.com/ | www.gov.uk/tier-5-government-authorised-exchange |

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 **Register of Licensed Sponsors - workers list** www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers. This is a list of organisations that have applied & secured a license to be able to issue *Certificates of Sponsorship* (Skilled Worker & 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. www.brookes.ac.uk/students/careers/students-and-graduates/