

TASMAC London School of Business

Post-study Work Scheme

Student Advisor Guidance

2008

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Launch of Tier 1 of the points-based system

30 June 2008

From today all highly skilled workers, entrepreneurs and investors wanting to come to the United Kingdom will be able to apply for their United Kingdom visa under a new Australian style points-based system.

Under the new system, applicants will need to earn points to satisfy the visa service that they can make a positive contribution to the United Kingdom. Points will be awarded for objective criteria such as qualifications, previous earnings, age and United Kingdom experience. Only those with enough points will be able to get a visa.

The system replaces the two staged Highly Skilled Migrant programme with a single application that is far easier to use. Applicants are able to calculate how many points they will be awarded, and therefore if they are likely to be issued a visa, before making an application.

Border and Immigration Minister Liam Byrne said:

"The introduction of Tier 1 of the Points Based System is good for those wanting to work in Britain and good for the UK economy.

"We are clear that we will not tolerate any abuse of our systems. That is why we have introduced fingerprint technology to check all visa applicants, a new force to police our borders and new rules that ban anyone using false documents or deception from the UK for up to ten years."

Today's changes introduce the first tier of the points-based system. Other tiers for students, skilled workers with a job offer and temporary workers such as musicians, actors and sportsmen will both be introduced over the next year.

This section explains how you can come to the United Kingdom or remain here as a post-study worker (Tier 1 Post-study work) under our points-based system to work in the United Kingdom.

What is the post-study worker category?

The post-study worker category allows us to retain the most able international graduates who have studied in the United Kingdom. It also enhances the United Kingdom's overall offer to international students.

Post-study workers are free to look for work without having a sponsor for the length of their leave.

The category provides a bridge to highly skilled or skilled work. If you are granted permission to stay as a post-study worker, we expect that you will switch into another tier of the points-based system as soon as you are able to.

How long can I stay under the Post-study Work Scheme?

If you are given leave to remain (permission to stay) as a post-study worker, you will be able to live and work in the United Kingdom **for a maximum period of two years**. When the end of this period approaches you will not be able to apply to extend your stay, as we expect you to switch into another category of the points-based system.

What points you have to score to apply as a post-study worker

To apply under our points-based system and be accepted into the post-study worker category, you must pass a points-based assessment.

You must score:

- 75 points for your attributes, which are a United Kingdom qualification, study at a United Kingdom institution, your immigration status during United Kingdom study and/or research, and the date of award of the qualification; and
- 10 points for English language; and
- 10 points for available maintenance (funds).

If you do not score a minimum of 75 points for your attributes and 10 points for English language and 10 points for available maintenance (funds), your application will be refused.

Use the [points-based calculator](#) to calculate how many points you have and whether you are eligible to work in the United Kingdom as a post-study worker under the points-based system.

For applications made inside the United Kingdom

If you are already in the United Kingdom, you should apply to stay as soon as possible and before your current leave runs out. We encourage you to apply one month before your leave runs out.

Application date by post

The date of postage is used as the date of application.

The date of an application made by post is decided by the postmark. The payment handling service attaches the original envelope with all postal applications. If the envelope in which the application was posted is missing, or if the postmark is illegible, the date of postage is taken as at least one day before its receipt. The day of receipt is normally the date the payment handling service processed the fee. If there is any uncertainty, you will be given the benefit of the doubt.

Application date by courier

If you send your application by courier, the date it is received at the payment handling service is used as the date of application. The payment handling service attaches the original envelope with all postal applications. The payment handling service includes the date of delivery for all applications by courier.

Application in person

We do not currently offer this service. If you would like to apply under the post-study worker category, send it by post. The service for applying in person may be available in the future.

Self assessment

There is a points-based calculator which is an interactive self-assessment tool that allows you to calculate how many points you may be awarded under the post-study worker category (Tier 1 Post-study work) of the points-based system to allow you to work in the United Kingdom.

It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

To fill in the tool, you will need the following information:

- your United Kingdom qualification;
- the United Kingdom institution you studied at;
- your immigration status during United Kingdom study and/or research;
- the date of the award of your qualification;
- your English language skills; and
- maintenance (funds) available.

Once you have filled in all the questions, your points are calculated.

You must score a total of 75 points for your attributes, which are your United Kingdom qualification, the United Kingdom institution you studied at, your immigration status during United Kingdom study and/or research, and the date of the award of your qualification.

In addition, you must also score 10 points each for English language skills and maintenance. Therefore, you will need at least 95 points to be able to apply.

Calculate your points using the [points-based calculator](#).

Supporting evidence

This section explains the documents you should provide to support your application to the post-study worker category (Tier 1 Post-study work) under the points-based system to work in the United Kingdom.

Sending original documents

You must send the original document, not a copy.

What documents you must send

If you do not send us all the documents we need when you make your application, your application may be refused on the grounds that you have sent insufficient evidence, and your fee will not be refunded.

You must send two recent passport photographs and your passport, along with proof of the following:

- original certificate of award;
- original letter from United Kingdom institution;
- maintenance (funds).

How we return your documents

If you are in the United Kingdom, your documents will be returned to you by post to the address you provide on your application. If a representative makes an application on your behalf your documents will be returned to him/her. Your documents will be returned using recorded delivery. If you want your documents to be returned by special delivery, you should provide a prepaid special delivery envelope. You can also arrange for your documents to be collected by courier at your own cost. If you would like to arrange a courier, put a courier request in writing by fax to 0114 207 6555.

If you are outside the United Kingdom, your documents will be returned in the same way you sent them to us. For example, if you took them to a visa application centre, the visa application centre will return them to you.

How dependants can come to the United Kingdom

If your application to the points-based system is successful, you are allowed to bring dependants (children under 18 years of age, or your husband, wife, civil partner, or unmarried or same-sex partner) with you to the United Kingdom, provided we give them entry clearance or permission to stay (known as 'leave to remain').

Fees

This part explains what fee you must pay if you are already in the United Kingdom and wish to apply under the post-study worker category (Tier 1 Post-study work) of the points-based system to work in the United Kingdom.

You must pay £400.

Any dependant applications sent with your form are free of charge. We will not consider dependant applications sent separately or later without an extra fee of £395.

You must send in your fee or we will not consider your application.

People who are exempt from paying a fee

Nationals of the following countries do not have to pay a fee:

- Albania;

- Andorra;
- Armenia;
- Azerbaijan;
- Croatia;
- Georgia;
- FYR of Macedonia;
- Moldova;
- Turkey; and
- Ukraine.

Where to send the form

Before sending us your form, you should make sure you fill in all sections that apply to your application.

Attach your cheque or postal order for the fee to page one of the application form, and send them with your supporting documents and passport(s). You can send in more documents as long as they reach us before a decision has been made. Your application must arrive during normal business hours (0830 to 1630, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays), or receipt cannot be guaranteed.

You should send your form to:

UK Border Agency

Tier 1

PO Box 496

Millburngate House

Durham

DH99 1WQ

If you would like to send your application by courier, you should send it to:

UK Border Agency

Tier 1

Millburngate House

Durham

DH99 1SA

If you are sending applications for your dependants at the same time as your own application, make sure all applications are sent together in one envelope so the dependant applications are considered free of charge. Dependant applications sent separately or later will have to pay a fee and we will not consider them unless you pay the right fee.

If you are a dependant applying separately (not at the same time as the main applicant), you should send your form to:

UK Border Agency

Tier 1 (Dependants)

PO Box 496

Millburngate House

Durham

DH99 1WQ

If you would like to send your application by courier, you should send it to:

UK Border Agency

Tier 1 (Dependants)

Millburngate House

Highly skilled workers system

What is the highly skilled worker category?

The highly skilled worker category is designed to allow highly skilled people to come to the United Kingdom to look for work or self-employment opportunities.

Who can apply as a highly skilled worker?

Unlike our work permits (soon to be replaced by sponsored skilled workers - tier 2), you do not need a job offer to apply under the highly skilled worker category. When you apply you are awarded points based on your qualifications, previous earnings, United Kingdom experience, age, English language skills, and available maintenance (funds).

You can apply under the highly skilled worker category now if you are:

- in the United Kingdom with permission to stay (known as 'leave to remain') in an immigration category that allows you to switch into the highly skilled worker category;
- already in the United Kingdom as a highly skilled worker and want to extend your permission to stay within your existing category;
- already in the United Kingdom under the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme, want to extend your permission to stay and are eligible to switch into the highly skilled worker category;
- applying for permission to enter the United Kingdom (known as 'entry clearance') under the highly skilled worker category.

Schemes that closed on 29 June 2008

The schemes listed below closed on 29 June 2008. It is no longer possible to make an application under these categories. If you currently have permission to stay in the United Kingdom under one of these categories and want to extend your stay you will need to apply under one of the new categories shown above.

If you have been in the United Kingdom for five years or more under one of these categories you may be able to apply for permanent residence (settlement) in the United Kingdom. You should read the pages relating to your current immigration category for more information.

- Highly Skilled Migrant Programme
- Business persons
- Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland
- Innovators
- International Graduates Scheme
- Investors
- Writers, composers and artists