

Using your Student visa to live, study and work in the UK

International orientation

Student Visa Advice



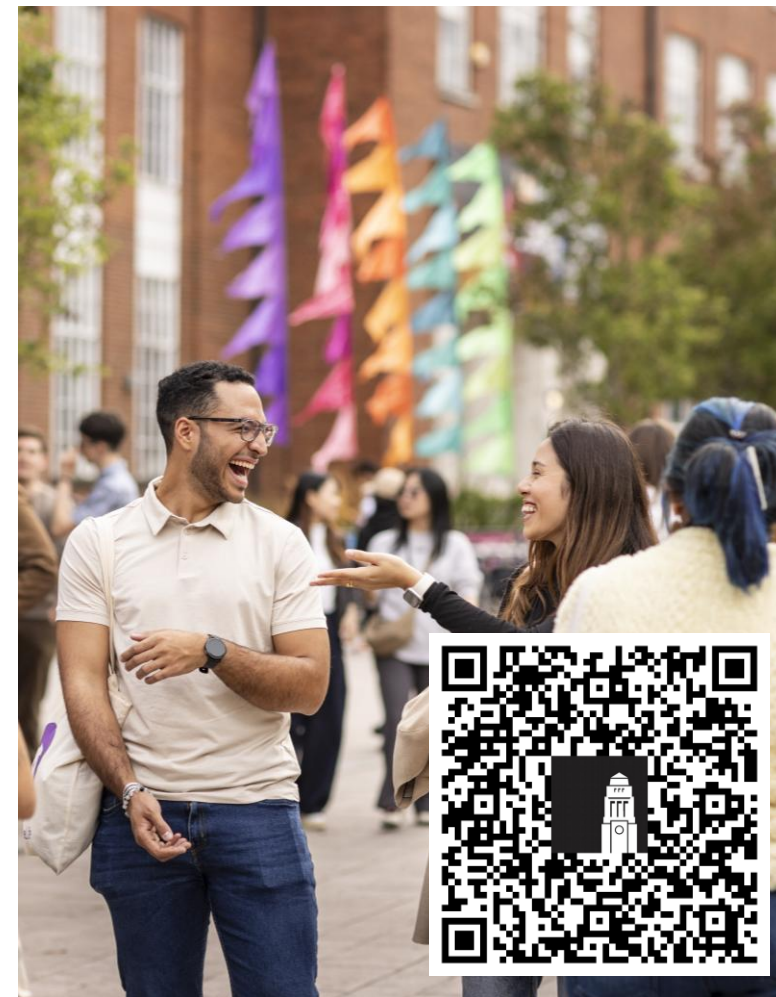
Disclaimer

All content in this presentation has been prepared for the 2026/27 academic year and is subject to future updates or modifications.

International orientation

[Get involved in International orientation!](#)

- Book on more webinars and sign up for in-person talks – don't miss the **'Welcome to Leeds'** talk
- Book a campus, city chase or Muslim faith
- Browse events on campus and in the Leeds University Union



Aims and objectives

The information presented is for students who have been granted permission to come to or stay in the UK under the **Student visa route** sponsored by the University of Leeds.

The Student Visa Advice team will:

- How to use your eVisa to view and prove your UK immigration status.
- Explain the rights and responsibilities attached to your Student visa.
- Provide useful information about working in the UK during and after your studies.



Student Visa Advice team

The Student Visa Advice team provide free study-related visa and immigration advice for international students and postgraduate researchers. We do not provide support with applications for work visas.

- For information and advice [email the Student Visa Advice team at StudentVisaAdvice@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:StudentVisaAdvice@leeds.ac.uk).
- Please include your Student ID number in the email.



[Beech House Grove](#)

eVisas



After your visa is granted

After your visa is granted, you are required to:

1. Create a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account (unless you already had one from a previous visa)
2. Link your eVisa.

Instructions are in the decision email you received when your visa was granted.

Your Visa Application: GWF

<noreply@fcdos.gov.uk>
To:

UK Visas & Immigration, Home Office

Tel 0300 790 6268

Web www.gov.uk/uk-visas-immigration

2026

Dear
Ref: GWF
Date of birth:
Nationality:
Travel document number:

Your application for a United Kingdom (UK) visa has been successful.

This notice is not proof of permission to travel to the UK.

You have been granted entry clearance to the UK as STUDENT (S) from 23 July 2026 until 30 January 2028.

It is important to check that your details above and on your eVisa are correct before you travel. If any of your details are incorrect, contact us before you travel by using the report an error with your eVisa service on [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk) at www.gov.uk/evisa/report-error-evisa

What this means for you

You have been issued with an eVisa. An eVisa is a digital record of your identity and immigration permission in the UK and any conditions which apply.

You need a UKVI account to access your eVisa. You may have set up login details

Your eVisa

An eVisa is an online record of your immigration status.

Your eVisa will show the details of your immigration status, including when it is valid until and your visa conditions (what you can and cannot do with your visa).

You can use your eVisa to:

- Prove your immigration status, your Right to Rent, and your Right to Work in the UK.
- Create Share Codes so that other people can check your status and your rights.



GOV.UK View and prove your immigration status

Beta: This is a new service - your [feedback](#) will help us to improve it.

[Back](#)

Your immigration status

Name	MIHAELA STEFANIA POPESCU
Date of birth	1 January 1980
Nationality	USA
Status	Student Route
Valid from	3 October 2020
Valid until	12 April 2027



Rotate 

If any of the information displayed on your status is incorrect, [contact UK Visas and Immigration](#).

Prove your status

If you need to prove your immigration status to someone, you can do this online with a share code.

[Get a share code](#)

[Online immigration status check](#)

Your UKVI account

Your eVisa is connected to your UKVI account.

You can use your UKVI account to:

- View your eVisa
- Update your personal details
- Update your sign-in and contact details
- Make a new application for permission to stay in the UK

You should update your UKVI account if you change your:

- passport or travel document
- name
- mobile phone number
- email address
- address

You can also change your photo, if your appearance has changed

<https://www.gov.uk/evisa/update-ukvi-account>

Check your eVisa

Make sure to check that your details are correct including your:

- Personal details
- Visa type (Student or Student route)
- Sponsor licence number: **H3GNC03A4**
- Work conditions
- Valid until date

View your eVisa and get a share code

You'll need the details you use to sign in to your UKVI account. This could be your:

- passport
- national identity card
- biometric residence card (BRC) - this can be valid or expired
- expired biometric residence permit (BRP)
- UKVI customer number

You'll also need access to the mobile phone number or email address you use to sign in to your UKVI account.

[View your eVisa and get a share code >](#)

Checking your expiry date

Your visa's valid until date will depend on the length of your course.

Check you have been given the correct 'wrap-up' period at the end of your visa:

Course length	Visa expiry date
12 months or longer	4 months after course end date
Between 6 and 12 months	2 months after course end date
Shorter than 6 months, and not a pre-session course	7 days after end date
Pre-session course shorter than six months	1 month after course end date

eVisa errors

If you notice errors that need correcting:

- Follow the guidance on the [Report an error with your eVisa](#) tab on GOV.UK
- Reporting an error is free
- If you get stuck or need help, the Student Visa Advice team can help - [Email the Student Visa Advice team StudentVisaAdvice@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:StudentVisaAdvice@leeds.ac.uk)

Report an error with your eVisa

You should report an error if:

- your eVisa details are wrong - for example it's showing the wrong date of birth or immigration status
- you can view your eVisa but you cannot use it to get a share code
- you cannot view your eVisa because of a technical error when you're signed into your UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- the Home Office set up your UKVI account and you've never been able to sign in to it

You'll need to give:

- an email or UK postal address that UKVI can use to contact you
- your name, date of birth and nationality

If you're reporting that your name, date or birth or nationality are wrong, you'll need to give them as they appear in your eVisa.

You'll also be asked to give one of the following:

- passport number
- expired biometric residence permit (BRP) number
- global web form (GWF) number from your visa application
- unique application number (UAN) from your visa application
- UKVI customer number

Start now >

Student visa responsibilities



Student Visa responsibilities

Student visa holders must comply with certain conditions, in addition to the responsibilities that apply to all University of Leeds students:

- Complete registration and identity check before the [registration deadline for your course](#).
- Remain registered as a full-time student.
- Do not **overstay** your visa – make sure that you know your visa expiry date and remember it!
- Do not breach the **conditions** of your Student visa, including the work conditions.

Student visa conditions

There are certain **conditions** attached to your Student visa, which you must stick to.

If you breach any of these conditions, your immigration status and ability to stay in the UK or apply for future visas may be affected.

What you can do in the UK

What you cannot do

Study conditions

- You must only study with the student sponsor that assigned your CAS, unless:
 - a) You are studying at one of our partner institutions, or
 - b) You have made a valid application for permission to stay in the UK as a Student at a new student sponsor that has issued you a new CAS
- You may study on a study abroad programme overseas that is an integral and assessed part of their course.
- Supplementary study is permitted (but must not hinder progress on main course).

Changing course

You must study the course listed on your CAS.

In most cases if you want to start a new course you will need to request a new CAS and apply for a new visa from overseas.

However, you can change course **without** needing a new CAS or visa if:

- a) You are transferring to a new course at degree level or above that is not at a lower qualification level than your current course, and any new course at degree level can be completed before your current visa expires, and the new course is related to your original course or supports your genuine career aspirations, or
- b) You were granted a visa to study an integrated Master's or PhD programme, and you will now be studying on the lower-level qualification of that programme.

The first step in requesting a change of course is to [speak to your school.](#)

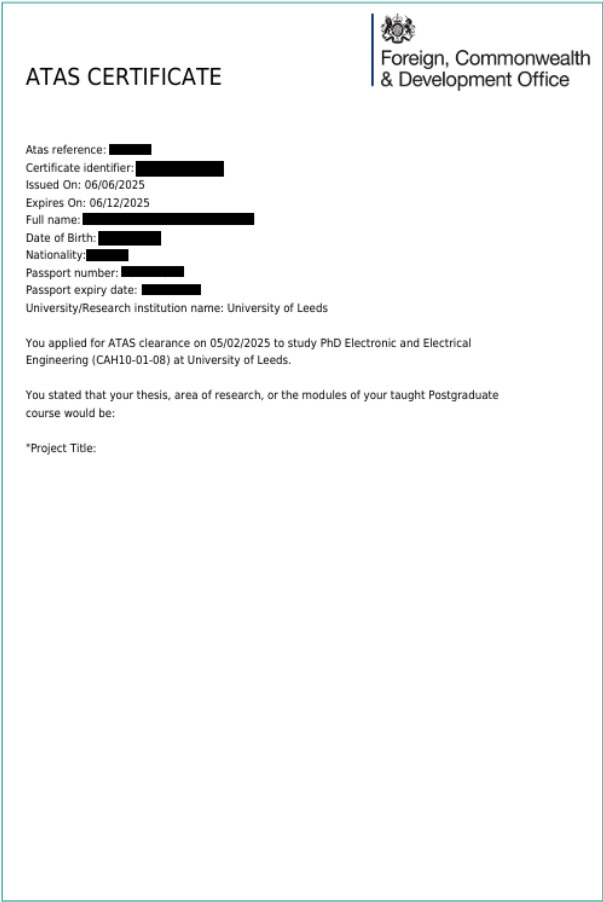
ATAS condition

Some courses at postgraduate level require you to have approval from the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) before you can start studying.

If you had to apply for an ATAS certificate, then there are some circumstances in which you will need to apply for a new one.

You must apply for new ATAS within 28 days if:

- your expected course end date has changed and will be delayed by more than 3 months; or
- the course contents or research proposal change; or
- the primary supervisor changes; or
- there are changes to your financial sponsor; or
- you need to apply for a new Student visa.



ATAS CERTIFICATE

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Atas reference: [REDACTED]
Certificate identifier: [REDACTED]
Issued On: 06/06/2025
Expires On: 06/12/2025
Full name: [REDACTED]
Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Nationality: [REDACTED]
Passport number: [REDACTED]
Passport expiry date: [REDACTED]
University/Research institution name: University of Leeds

You applied for ATAS clearance on 05/02/2025 to study PhD Electronic and Electrical Engineering (CAH10-01-08) at University of Leeds.

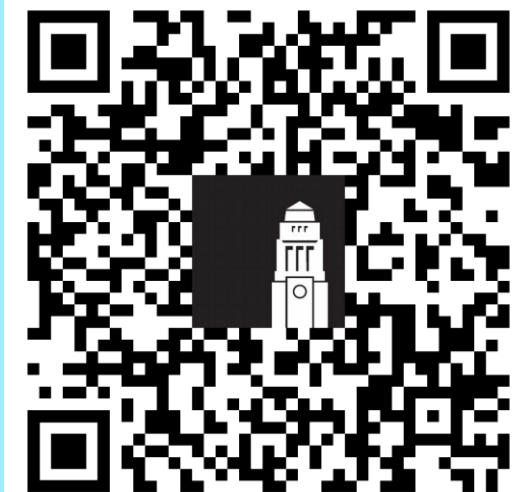
You stated that your thesis, area of research, or the modules of your taught Postgraduate course would be:

*Project Title:

Attendance and engagement

Your Student visa was issued for you to study at the University of Leeds. You must:

- Attend and check in to your timetabled sessions on the University campus.
- If you will be absent, then you must inform your school and seek authorisation for the absence.
- If you are a Postgraduate student (PGR), keep GRAD up-to-date with details of your supervision meetings.



[Attendance and
absences](#)

Healthcare

- If you paid the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), or were exempt from paying, then you can use the National Health Service (NHS) in a similar way to permanent UK residents.
- Sign up for the [Healthcare and wellbeing webinar!](#)



No recourse to public funds

Student visas will normally include a condition that says **you cannot access public funds**.

This means you will not be able to claim most benefits, tax credits or housing assistance that are paid by the state.

This does *not* include access to NHS, education funding, or University hardship support.

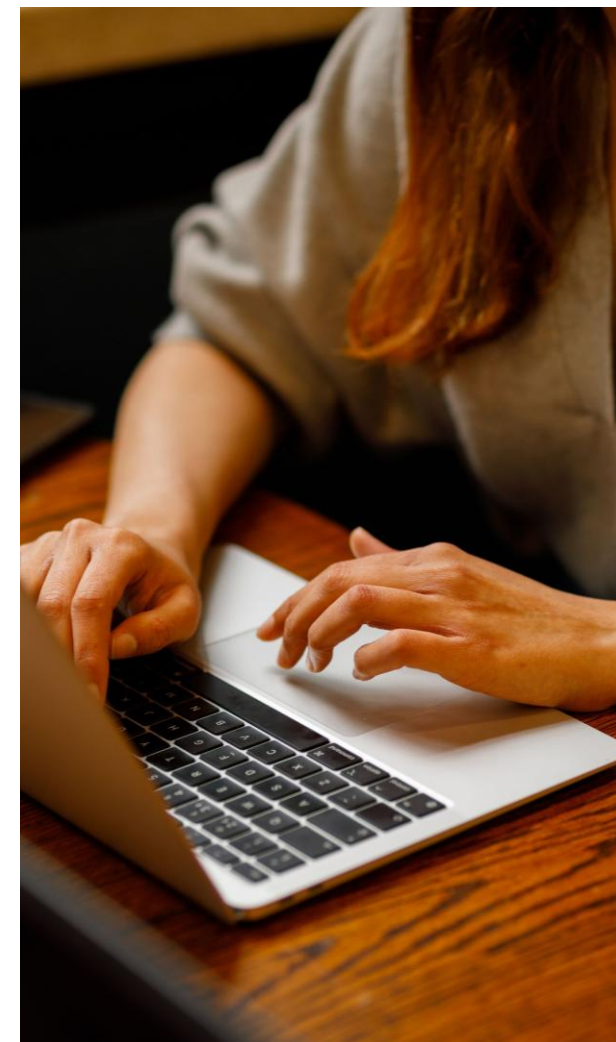
UKCISA Welfare
Benefits



Keep your details up-to-date

Student visa holders must also ensure that their record is always kept updated:

- Keep your UKVI account up-to-date and use it to tell UKVI about any changes to your personal details, contact details, or if you get a new passport.
- Notify the Home Office if you acquire any criminal convictions.
- If there is any change to your immigration status, or if you get a new passport, notify the University by [emailing the student immigration compliance team at visa_expiry@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:visa_expiry@leeds.ac.uk).
- Tell the University if you change your address or contact details by updating Student Services (Minerva).



University responsibilities as your sponsor

As a licensed Student visa Sponsor, the University of Leeds is required to:

- Keep a record of the current immigration status of all our international students.
- Have up-to-date contact details for all students on a Student visa.
- Inform UKVI about any students who fail to register for their course, who interrupt or withdraw from their programme of study, or who breach their visa conditions.
- Monitor the attendance of our sponsored students and report to UKVI any students who fail to meet our attendance and engagement monitoring policies.
- Tell UKVI about any significant changes to a student's circumstances or programme of studies (e.g., if a student starts a work placement or completes their course early).
- Notify UKVI when a Student visa holder successfully completes their course.



When your visa may be cancelled

The University may notify UKVI that we have withdrawn sponsorship from your Student visa if you:

- Fail to complete registration or the ID check
- Withdraw from your course
- Breach your visa conditions
- Are required to repeat a year as an external student
- Take a period of temporary leave or a suspension
- PGRs who suspend
- Complete your course earlier than expected
- Transfer to a new course that is at a lower qualification level or that you can't complete with your existing visa



Break



Working in the UK and your visa



Student Visa work conditions (1)

Your visa will tell you if you can work, what types of work you can do, and how much you can work.

In terms of the number of hours you can work per week:

- **Maximum 20 hours work per week during term-time** for full-time students studying at degree level or above.
- **Maximum 10 hours per week during term-time** if you are studying below degree level.

You can work full-time when you are **not** in term-time.



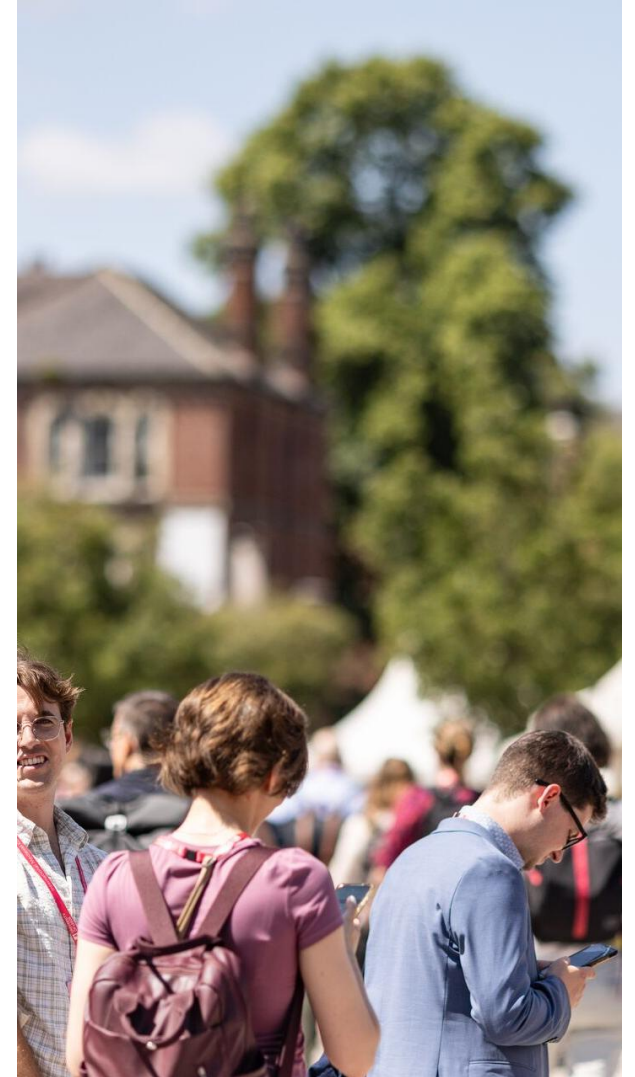
Student Visa work conditions (2)

- Work placements that are part of your degree don't count towards the weekly limit.
- You can work full-time during the wrap-up period after your course has finished.
- Employment as a Student Union Sabbatical Officer also permitted if CAS assigned for this purpose.



What is work?

- Work includes paid and unpaid employment, voluntary work, and remote work.
- Know the difference between Volunteering vs Voluntary work



What is a week?

“**Week**” means a period of 7 days beginning with a Monday.

If term-time ends in the middle of a week, then full-time work is permitted from the next day.

For example, if term ends on a Friday, you can work full-time from the following Saturday.



When is term-time?

Term-time is when you are expected to be studying your course. Vacation periods, when the University is closed, or the time before your course starts or after your course has ended, do not count as term-time.

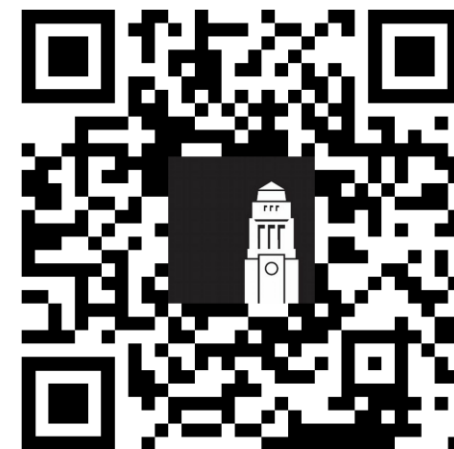
Taught postgraduates (Masters):

- The dissertation/writing-up period during the summer, until your course end date, is still considered 'term-time'.

Postgraduate Researchers:

- You can work up to 20 hours per week - Discuss with your supervisor before taking up any work commitments.
- You can work full-time during your holiday period. Your holiday entitlement is 26 days per year in addition to bank holidays and the days when the University is closed.

University of Leeds
term dates



Work you cannot do with a Student Visa

You **cannot** do any of the following types of work while on a Student visa:

- Be self-employed or engage in business activity (*unless you have applied to switch to an Innovator Founder visa*)
- Work as a professional sportsperson or sports coach
- Work as an entertainer
- Work in a position which would fill a full-time permanent vacancy (*unless you have applied to switch to a Skilled Worker or Graduate visa*)



Avoid illegal working

There are serious consequences if you are found to have breached your work conditions.

- Your Student visa can be cancelled
- You can be detained and removed from the UK
- You may be banned from applying for a new visa.



How to stay compliant

Here are some things you can do to stay compliant:

- Keep your own record of how many hours you are working each week (Monday-Sunday), and include unpaid work and voluntary work.
- Know your [term dates](#).
- PGRs: Keep track of your annual leave days.
- Don't work more than 20 hours per week during term-time.
- Know the difference between voluntary work and volunteering.
- Avoid self-employment and business activity.
- If you're studying a Masters, remember that the dissertation period in the summer counts as term-time.



Work placements

Your Student visa allows you to do a work placement that is an **integrated** and **assessed** part of your degree.

- **The placement must be approved by the University**, and it must be part of your degree.
- **For undergraduate students**, the placement is usually taken after year two (or after year three if you are on an integrated Masters course).
- **Each faculty has a dedicated employability team** who can help you find and apply for placements.



Work placements considerations

- Work placements **don't count** towards the hours per week limit.
- If you have been issued a Student visa to study a three-year degree programme, and then you transfer to the industrial version of your programme, you will need to extend your Student visa to cover the extra year.
- Please note, there is a five-year time limit on Student visas at degree level for most subjects.



How to extend your visa for a work placement

Before you can extend your Student visa, you must:

- [Request a new Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies \(CAS\)](#).
- Complete a new visa application form.
- Pay Immigration Health Surcharge and Visa Application Fee to extend your visa.
- Remain in UK while application is pending.

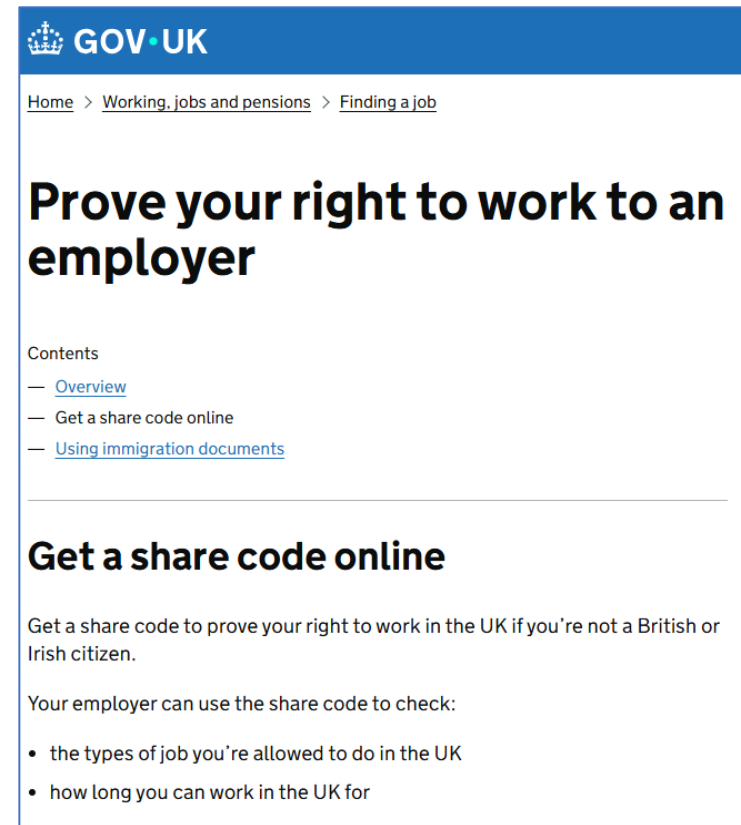
Also, please note that:

- You can apply before or after the work placement (most apply after).
- Similar rules and process for Leeds students studying a year abroad / international year as part of their degree.



Proving your right to work

- Use your eVisa to [create a Right to Work Share Code](#).
- Your employer can use your share code to view your eVisa details.
- Your employer will also need evidence of your term-dates. You can [request a registration status certificate](#) that will confirm this information.
- [Right to work checks: an employer's guide - GOV.UK](#)



The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website interface. At the top is the GOV.UK logo. Below it is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Working, jobs and pensions > Finding a job. The main heading is 'Prove your right to work to an employer'. Underneath is a 'Contents' section with links: Overview, Get a share code online, and Using immigration documents. The 'Get a share code online' section is expanded, showing the text: 'Get a share code to prove your right to work in the UK if you're not a British or Irish citizen.' and 'Your employer can use the share code to check:'. Below this are two bullet points: 'the types of job you're allowed to do in the UK' and 'how long you can work in the UK for'.

GOV.UK

Home > Working, jobs and pensions > Finding a job

Prove your right to work to an employer

Contents

- [Overview](#)
- [Get a share code online](#)
- [Using immigration documents](#)

Get a share code online

Get a share code to prove your right to work in the UK if you're not a British or Irish citizen.

Your employer can use the share code to check:

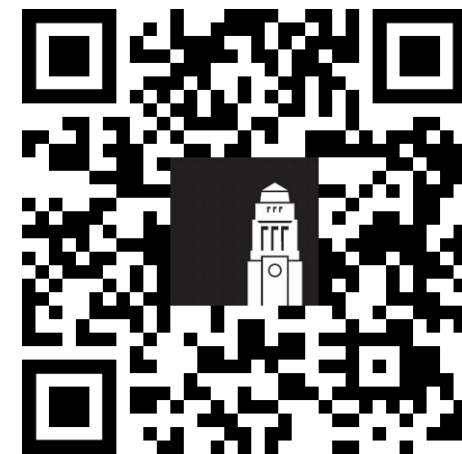
- the types of job you're allowed to do in the UK
- how long you can work in the UK for

Beware of visa scams

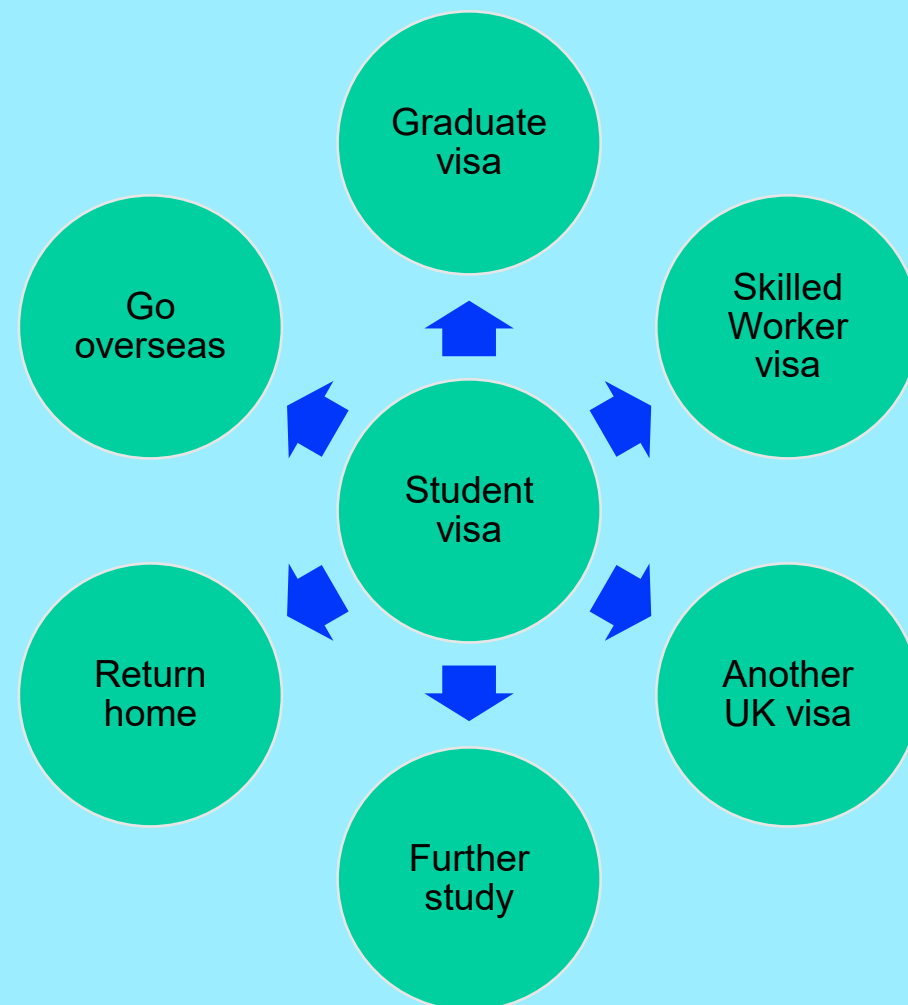
- Scams targeting international students
- Know the signs
- Protect yourself
- Contact your bank immediately if you share details
- UKVI will nearly always contact you via email, not by phone
- Be careful of fake job or visa sponsorship offers
- Report to Action Fraud (UK)
- Report to The Harassment and Misconduct team

students.leeds.ac.uk/scams

Protect yourself from
fraud and scams



What will you do next?



Working on a Student Visa after your course is finished

- **You can work full-time during the time remaining on your visa** after your course end date.
- **If you complete your course early**, the University must notify the Home Office that you have completed early before you can start working full-time.

Please be aware that this may result in your Student visa being shortened accordingly.

- **You can't work in a full-time permanent vacancy** unless you have submitted valid application to switch to a Graduate visa or Skilled Worker visa.



Graduate route visa

- Post-study work visa
- If you successfully complete your course before your Student visa expires, apply to stay in UK after your studies to work and look for work
- No job offer required
- Can work in nearly any job at any skill/salary level
- Lasts 18 months, or 3 years if PhD or other doctoral qualification
- You must be awarded an eligible UK qualification
- You must have studied your course in the UK
- Requires consent to apply if your course fees and living costs paid for by a government or international scholarship agency
- Expensive
- No new dependants
- Cannot extend or be granted it a second time
- Does not lead to settlement
- Cannot use visa to study a course that would be eligible for a Student visa

Graduate route visa

When to apply



- You must be in the UK to apply.
- You can only apply after the University has reported your successful completion to the Home Office.
- You must apply before your Student visa expires.
- You must not travel outside the UK while your application is pending.
- Your dependants must apply at the same time as you, and they must already have Student dependants visas.
- Your Graduate visa will start on the date your application is granted.

Graduate route visa

Potential problems

- The Graduate visa is **not guaranteed**. You need to be **awarded your degree** and meet all the other requirements.
- If you are not awarded before your Student visa expires, you will likely **run out of time** to apply for Graduate visa.
- Reasons why official final results may be delayed: **Re-sits, repeats, deadline extensions, academic appeals, unpaid tuition fees.**
- If you fail your course and are awarded a **fallback award** (e.g. PG Diploma) you will **not** be eligible to apply for Graduate visa.
- Your degree will not be awarded if you have **overdue debts** to the University.



Skilled Worker visa (1)

- Enter or stay in the UK to work in a skilled job sponsored by a UK based employer.
- Can switch to Skilled Worker from Graduate visa or Student visa (after completing course) or apply from overseas.
- Visa can be granted for up to 5 years at a time.
- Leads to settlement in the UK.
- Changes of employment require a new visa.
- Sponsored workers subject to monitoring and UKVI reporting.
- Dependant partner and children can join you (unless working in some low skilled roles).
- You can only switch to a work visa from a Student visa after completing your course, or after 24 months of a PhD course



Skilled Worker visa (2)

- **20 points - Valid Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS)** from a licenced sponsor
- **20 points - Skilled job** – job must be listed in [Appendix Skilled Occupations](#)
- **10 points - English language skills** – evidence not needed if met in previous visa application, or if have degree-level qualification
- **20 points - Minimum salary**
 - £41,700 per year or the job's 'going rate' (whichever is highest)
 - You can be paid less if you meet certain conditions, including:
 - If you hold a relevant PhD
 - If your job is on the [Immigration Salary List](#)
 - If you are a '**new entrant**'
 - Lower salary requirements for some health and education sector jobs based on national pay scales



Skilled Worker visa (3)

New Entrants

- There are multiple ways to qualify as a 'new entrant to the labour market', including:
 - you are under 26 when you apply, or
 - your last visa was a Student visa or Graduate visa
 - you will be working towards a recognised professional qualification or moving directly into a postdoctoral position
- Lower minimum salary requirement - £33,400/70% of occupation's going rate (whichever highest)
- Can apply as new entrant up to 3 months before expected course end date (or after 12 months of PhD study)
- New entrant eligibility lasts for 2 years after Student/Graduate visa expiry, and can be used when applying for visa from overseas as well
- You cannot apply as a new entrant to stay in the UK for more than **4 years**. This includes any time you've already spent in the UK on a Graduate or Skilled Worker visa. If your visa would take you over this limit, you will need to meet the **higher minimum salary rate**

Graduate vs Skilled Worker visas

- **Skilled Worker visa** is often best *if* you can get an eligible job offer from an employer that is willing and able to sponsor you.
- You can apply for Skilled Worker visa from overseas.
- The Skilled Worker visa is path to permanent residence in UK*.
- You can bring new dependants to the UK (with exceptions for some categories of jobs).
- The Skilled Worker visa ties you to a specific job and employer.
- Unfortunately, changes to the requirements for Skilled Worker route have made it much more difficult to get a Skilled Worker visa than in the past. Salary requirements are very high and the list of eligible jobs is shrinking.
- **Graduate visa** is best if you need time to job search, explore your options, build work experience.
- No job offer required
- Graduate visa is flexible – you can more easily switch jobs and do whatever type of work you want to do.
- Graduate visa allows you to be self-employed.
- Can use the time on the Graduate route to try find and secure Skilled Worker sponsorship – but there are **no guarantees** you will be able to switch.

Other work visas

Global Talent visa

- Special visa route for leaders and potential leaders in academia, research, arts and culture, and technology.

Innovator Founder visa

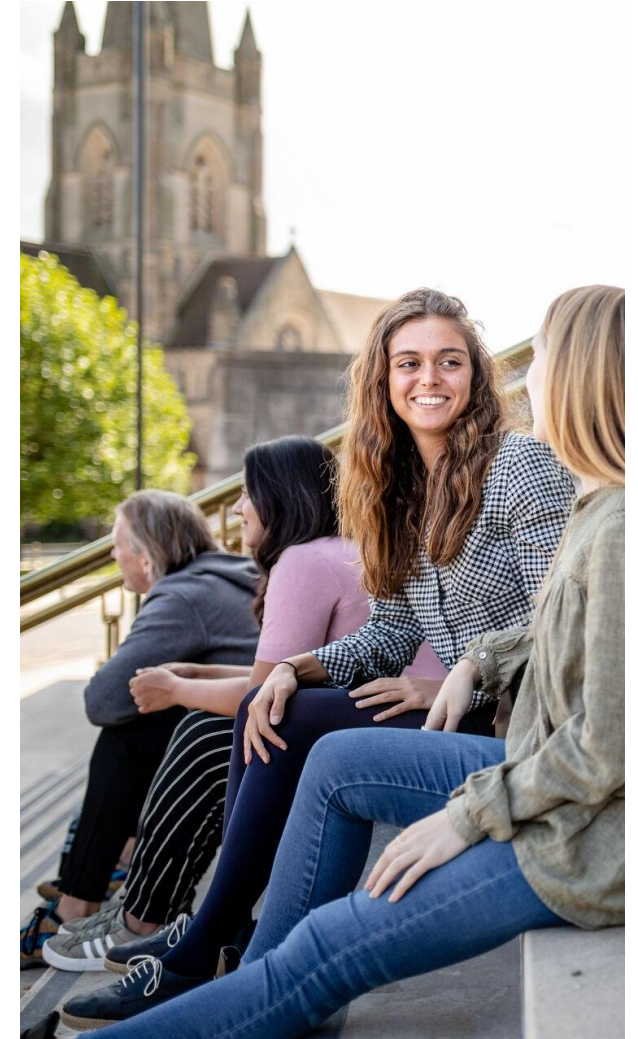
- For entrepreneurs who want to start an innovative business in the UK.

**Full list of
work visas**



Top tips

- Check and save screenshot of your eVisa
- Save your visa expiry date in your calendar
- Save copy of previous visa application
- Keep records of how many hours you work each week
- Talk to your school if you have attendance issues
- [Sign up to UKCISA email newsletter](#)

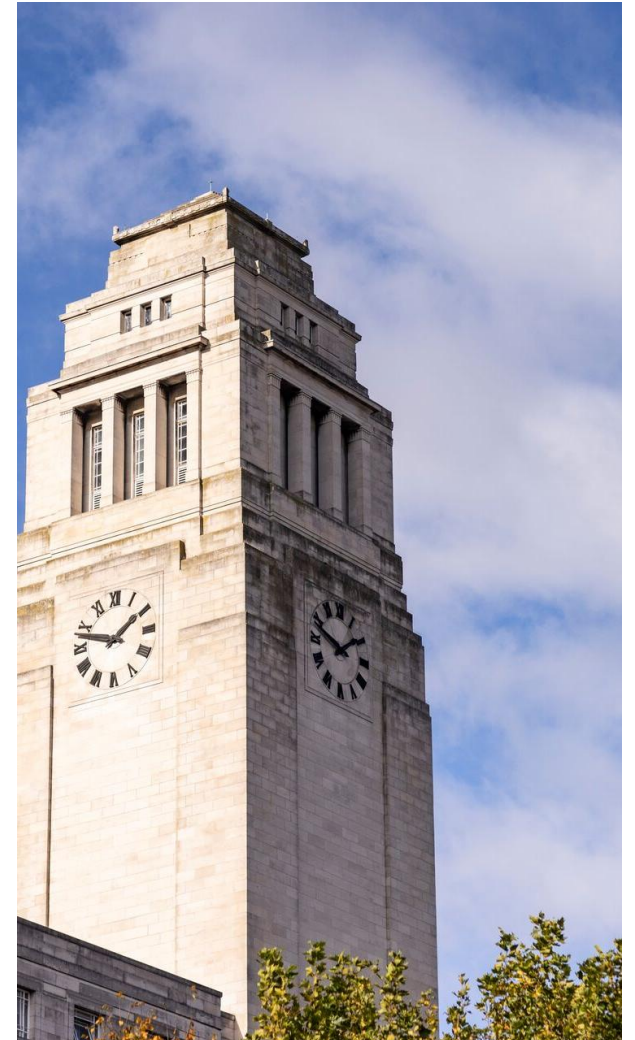


Further information

- [Visa information | Students | University of Leeds](#)
- [Careers | Students | University of Leeds](#)
- [Visas and immigration - GOV.UK](#)
- [Working - UKCISA](#)
- [Navigating work and study with a Student visa – UKCISA](#)
- [After your studies | Study UK](#)

The Student Visa Advice team cannot provide advice regarding work visas. For further advice, please consult your employer or a regulated immigration lawyer.

- [Find an immigration adviser: Search for an adviser - GOV.UK](#)
- [Find a Solicitor - The Law Society](#)

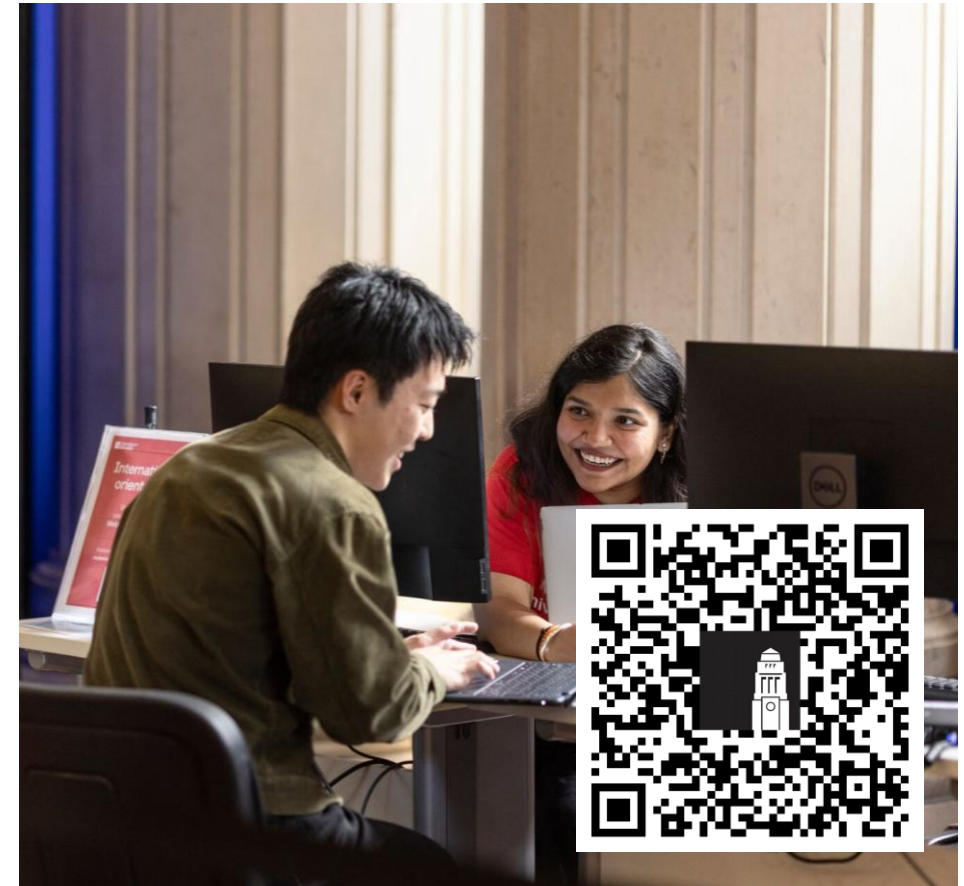


Welcome Hub (1)

Visit the [Welcome Hub in the Parkinson Building](#) or another information point on campus.

Get help with questions on online registration and identity checks, getting a SIM card, IT support, banking and more.

[Getting help - The Student Information Service](#)



Give us feedback!

How was this session?

[Give us feedback on the Using your Student visa to live, study and work in the UK](#) for a chance to win one of three £30 shopping vouchers.

