

The University of Aberdeen

International Student Advisers

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PGT – What Next?

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Graduate Route - Requirements

Successful Completion

Our Student Immigration Compliance Team will e-mail you to confirm when they have reported the successful completion of your degree course to UK Visas. You will not be able to submit your Graduate Route visa application until this has been done.

CAS Number

You will need the CAS number from your current Student (or Tier 4) visa. If you do not have this, it will be provided in the e-mail from the Student Immigration Compliance Team.

Qualification Requirement

You must have successfully completed a degree at undergraduate level or above during your current period of Tier 4 or Student permission. PGDE or DPLP are acceptable qualifications but not PG Dip due to not completing a Masters degree

Financial evidence

You are not required to provide financial evidence.

English Language

Successful completion of your degree course will satisfy this requirement.

Official Financial Sponsor's Letter

If your tuition fees and living costs have been paid by a government or an international scholarship agency within the 12-month period before you apply, you must provide a letter confirming your Official Financial Sponsor's consent to your application under the Graduate route. This does not apply if you were sponsored by a university or an international company.

Work Before Applying for the Graduate Route

- The 4-month visa period after a PGT student's official course end date (as shown on the CAS) is outside term-time
- Full-time work is permitted but you are not allowed to take up a permanent, full-time vacancy such as a graduate job
- You cannot be self-employed or engage in business activity

Work After Applying for the Graduate Route

Student Visa before 6 April 2022

You are not permitted to start a permanent position until your Graduate visa has been granted

Student Visa after 6 April 2022

If you submit a valid Graduate Route application while still holding this visa, you will be allowed to take up a full-time permanent vacancy (not self-employment or entertainer) on successful completion of your course while waiting for a decision on your Graduate visa application

Travel After Completion

The Home Office's Student Route Caseworker Guidance says:

Students are able to travel outside of, and re-enter, the UK whilst they hold valid permission as a Student, including in the period after they have completed their course and still hold permission under the route.

You should print off and carry this guidance with you. It can be found on page 90 of the Student Route Caseworker Guidance at [Student and Child Student \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

- Proof of why returning to the UK (Graduation Ceremony)
- Any travel after you have completed your studies is at your own risk.
- If you intend to apply for the Graduate visa, allow sufficient time to do this. Do not travel back to the UK close to your visa expiry date.

Visa for Resits and Graduation

- It is not possible to support a Student visa extension application if there is a long gap between your original course completion date and the date of your resits
- It is not possible to extend your Student visa solely for Graduation purposes nor is it possible to switch into Visitor status from within the UK.
- For resits and Graduation – you can go home and apply for a Standard Visitor visa. Depending on your nationality, you might not need to apply for a Standard Visitor visa before travelling to the UK. You can check online at: [Check if you need a UK visa - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-need-a-uk-visa)
- It is not possible to apply for a Graduate visa if you are in the UK on a Standard Visitor visa
- Those who successfully complete before their visa expiry date can apply under the Graduate Route.

Other Work Visa Options

- Skilled Worker Visa
- Innovator – rules due to change in April 2023
- Temporary Work – Government Authorised Exchange Scheme
- Youth Mobility Scheme
- India Young Professionals Scheme

Points to Note

- For Graduate visa applications you can apply from the time your successful completion is reported to UK Visas up to your visa expiry date
- You can only apply for a Graduate visa from within the UK
- The International Student Advisers can only provide general guidance on the Graduate Route not specific advice
- The International Advice and Compliance Team do not provide letters for any purpose (proof of student status, holidays, letter for employer)
- Overstaying your visa is illegal. There is no 'grace period'

Useful Web Links

[Immigration and Student Visas | Students | The University of Aberdeen \(abdn.ac.uk\)](#)

[UKCISA - international student advice and guidance - Working after studies](#)

[Work in the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Careers and Employability Service | The University of Aberdeen \(abdn.ac.uk\)](#)