

WHAT IS MY STATUS AFTER MY COURSE HAS ENDED?

If you have immigration permission that extends for up to four months beyond the end of your studies, you can work full-time for that extra period once you have completed all your studies. You are still under Tier 4/student rules so there are types of work you cannot do.

WHAT KIND OF WORK CAN I DO?

You can do most kinds of work, but you must **not**:

- be self-employed
- engage in business activity
- be employed as a professional sportsperson including as a sports coach
- be employed as an entertainer
- take a permanent full-time job
- work as a doctor or dentist in training, unless you are on the foundation programme

If you have immigration permission that is more than four months longer than your course, you should:

- make a new immigration application if you are eligible for another category
- leave the UK when you reach the four-month point.

Please note that if you completed your course earlier than the end date given on your CAS it is highly likely that this will have been reported to UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) which means UKVI will probably limit your permission to stay. If you have successfully completed your course, your visa will be curtailed so that you still get an extra 4 months. However, if you have not successfully completed your visa will be curtailed to 60 days. Tier 4 Registry will send you an e-mail if your visa has been reported.

PhD students who have applied for the **Doctorate Extension Scheme** visa and have received formal notification in writing from Registry that they have been awarded a PhD can start working full-time. Prior to confirmation of the award of PhD you are still under Tier 4 work conditions.

Students who have successfully completed a degree at the University and **applied for a Tier 2** visa before their current Tier 4 visa expired can start their Tier 2 job, even before the visa application has been decided by UK Visas.

MY EMPLOYER SAYS I MUST PROVE I CAN WORK DURING MY STUDIES

If you have a visa or Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) that does not prohibit work, you are allowed to take employment as described above without getting any further approval or permission. Your employer can check with UKVI that you are allowed to work. UKVI have an employers' helpline - 0300 123 4699.

Employers have a legal obligation to check that you are allowed to work in the UK, so you must be able to provide evidence of this, usually by showing them your passport or Biometric Residence Permit. You might not have your passport if, for example, it is with UKVI because you have applied to extend your immigration permission in the UK. If you made your immigration application before your previous student immigration permission ended, you still have the right to work under the usual Tier 4 student conditions. However, a new employer must see evidence that you are currently in the UK with Tier 4 student immigration permission before allowing you to start work. This may also apply to your existing employer, who should have noted when your immigration permission ended, and now wants to be sure that you still have the right to work.

In these cases, you will usually have to provide proof from UKVI which confirms that you have made an application to extend your visa before your previous permission expired (a copy of the Application Cover Sheet should be sufficient). If you do not have this, the UKVI's employers' helpline might be able to confirm this to your employer. Contact details are at:
www.gov.uk/penalties-for-employing-illegal-workers

If your employer asks about University holiday periods, you can provide them with a copy of the University's term dates from the University web pages:
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/term-dates.php>

The University cannot provide a special letter for these purposes.

RE-ENTERING THE UK AFTER YOUR COURSE HAS ENDED (for example, travelling during the extra four months)

Be careful about leaving the UK during this period if you want to come back with your Tier 4 immigration permission. You will have to prove that you still qualify for entry using your current visa. It may be possible before your Graduation Ceremony, but you should carry proof from Infohub that you will be attending Graduation. An Immigration Officer can decide that you no longer meet the requirements of the Tier 4 Immigration Rules (particularly after your Graduation Ceremony has taken place). This is particularly important for you if you want to stay in the UK as a student or if you want to make an application in a work category of the Immigration Rules.

It is safer if you either:

- make your next immigration application in the UK before you leave, particularly if this is a work-related visa
- if you are applying for another Tier 4 visa, you can make your next immigration application while you are in your home country
- if you are applying for the Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES), you can only make this application from **within the UK** (not from your home country)

HOW CAN I STAY ON FOR GRADUATION?

September start postgraduate Masters students can graduate in November which is normally within their current visa period.

January start postgraduate Masters students will unfortunately have to return home before their current visa expires and apply to come back for Graduation in June on a Standard Visitor (Tourist) visa - www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa

LETTER FROM THE UNIVERSITY

You can get a letter either to prove that you are a registered student or that you have applied to graduate in person.

Letters can be ordered from the online store – www.store.abdn.ac.uk Go to **Product Catalogue** then **Students** then **Letter Requests**. You will find a choice of letters so you need to select the one which is most appropriate for the visa application.