



UK Visas & Immigration

If a student has completed their course as expected they will receive a wrap up period of up to 6 months, which will have been included in the length of leave shown on their visa, depending on their course type and sponsor. During this wrap up period they are entitled to leave and return to the UK as often as required and this has been conveyed to Border Force officers. Though, where a Border Force officer is not satisfied that they intend to adhere to the terms of their visa (for example they may not be satisfied they intend to leave before the end of their wrap-up period) they can make a decision to refuse entry, as with any other visa category.

If a student completes their studies early and as a result has their leave curtailed, they will usually be given the same wrap-up period of leave after the new course end date as they were originally given for their original course end date. For example, where the student received their initial confirmation of acceptance for studies for a course of 18 months, even if they complete in less than 12 months, they will still receive a 4 month wrap-up period. In all other circumstances if the course finishes early and the student has not successfully completed their studies, the student's permission to stay will be limited to 60 days, unless they have fewer than 60 days leave remaining.

At the end of the curtailed period the student must either depart from the UK or apply for further leave to remain. Following the expiry of the curtailment period, if no application has been made their leave will lapse.

Where a student has had their leave curtailed, including as a result of completing their studies early, they are then subject to the rules around curtailment. So despite a period of leave equivalent to the wrap-up period being awarded, if the student leaves the Common Travel Area (or is overseas at the time of curtailment), any remaining leave lapses. This means that if a student leaves the UK but wishes to return, for example to attend their graduation ceremony, they will be refused leave to enter unless they have sought an alternative means of entry (such as a visit or short-term study visa depending on their circumstances).

