Immigration Guidance

Working in the UK after your studies

Tier 4 (General) students moving to Start-up, Tier 5 or Ancestry
Working after your studies

If you hold a Tier 4 (General) visa and want to work in the UK after your studies, you may have the following options available to you.

Your eligibility for each of the following visas depends on several factors, for example, your nationality, your family history and personal circumstances.

The information in this leaflet outlines the criteria for each visa:

- Start-up visa
- Tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme)
- Tier 5 (Temporary Worker)
- UK Ancestry

Start-up visa

This visa category is for people seeking to establish a business in the UK for the first time. Applicants must have an innovative, viable and scalable business idea supported by an endorsing body. The University of Edinburgh is one of the endorsing bodies for this immigration route.

Edinburgh Innovations, The University’s commercialisation service, are responsible for selecting suitable applicants for the Start-up visa route. The Student Immigration Service provide full visa application support to those who have been endorsed for the visa.

Full information on applying for this visa can be found here: [www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/immigration/working-in-the-uk/after-studies/start-up-visa](http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/immigration/working-in-the-uk/after-studies/start-up-visa)

Tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme)

The Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme allows you to work in the UK for two years if you’re aged between 18 and 30 and a national of:

- Australia
- Canada
- Japan
- Hong Kong
- Monaco
- New Zealand
- Taiwan
- Republic of Korea*

You can also apply if you are a British overseas citizen, British overseas territories citizen or a British National (overseas).

Citizens from the Republic of Korea must obtain a sponsorship reference number in order to apply: [www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility/eligibility](http://www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility/eligibility)
To apply for the Tier 5 Youth Mobility visa you must have £1890 in your personal bank account. You cannot switch into this visa category from within the UK - you must make the application from overseas. However, you cannot apply for this scheme if you have already held a Working Holidaymaker visa for the UK.

Further information is available on the UK Visas and Immigration website: [www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility](http://www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility)

**Tier 5 (Temporary Worker)**

The Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) visa provides individuals with the opportunity to come to the UK with a job offer for a specific purpose or for temporary/short term employment (for up to one year or two years, depending on the scheme).

There are five subcategories across a range of different sectors:

- Creative and sporting
- Charity workers (for voluntary work)
- Religious workers
- Government authorised exchange
- International agreement (work covered by international law)

The Government Authorised Exchange category is particular relevant to graduates and consists of a number of individual schemes designed to share knowledge, experience and work practice through placements in the UK. A list of the schemes can be found on the UK Visas and Immigration website: [www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-n-authorised-exchange-schemes](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-n-authorised-exchange-schemes)

To be eligible to apply, you must:

- Have a Certificate of Sponsorship from an organisation on the list of Approved Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange schemes, and;
- Have evidence, dated within one month of your application, that you have held at least £945 of maintenance funds in your name for 90 consecutive days. This is not required if your Tier 5 sponsor is A-rated and is willing to confirm on your certificate of sponsorship that you will not claim public funds during your stay in the UK.

Most people applying for the Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) visa must submit their application from outside the UK. However, in limited circumstances an exception is made for Tier 4 students who have completed their studies and are doing internships which directly relate to their degree.

More information on this route can be found here: [www.gov.uk/tier-5-government-authorised-exchange](http://www.gov.uk/tier-5-government-authorised-exchange)
UK Ancestry

The Ancestry visa will allow you to work in the UK for up to five years.

There are certain restrictions – you must be:

- A Commonwealth citizen, and
- Aged 17 or over, and
- Able to provide evidence, such as an original birth certificate, that your grandparent was born in:
  - the UK (this includes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man)
  - on a British-registered ship or aircraft, or
  - the Republic of Ireland before 31 March 1922
- Able to work in the UK
- Have enough money without help from public funds to support and house yourself and any dependants

You must make the application for UK Ancestry from outside the UK. Further information is available here: [www.gov.uk/ancestry-visa](http://www.gov.uk/ancestry-visa)

More information

The Student Immigration Service can give advice, guidance on student immigration rules and limited information on work visa routes. You can also get more information at:

- [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)