

The Graduate route factsheet

▶ When will it be open for applications?

1 July 2021

▶ Where will the new Graduate route be available?

England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland

▶ Who can apply?

- International students who have successfully completed a degree at undergraduate level or above at a UK higher education provider, with a track record of compliance with the government's immigration requirements, and who have valid Tier 4 or Student permission at the time of application.
- A [coronavirus concession](#) on the date by which students must enter the UK, if they started courses in 2020 and are unable to travel due to the pandemic, has been extended to 27 September, recognising the continuing disruption many face due to international travel restrictions.
- Applicants who began their studies in autumn 2020 or in spring 2021 will need to be in the UK with permission as a student by 27 September 2021. Students beginning their course this autumn or early next year will need to be in the UK by 6 April 2022.
- Individuals who already have permission as a dependant of a Student who is applying on this route can also apply to extend their permission as a dependant – however new dependants are not permitted on this route.
- Those who graduate and whose Tier 4 or Student visa leave expires before the route is introduced will not be eligible, however, most of these students will have had no expectation of benefitting from such a route when they applied to study in the UK. They will also be able to apply to a number of other routes, for example Skilled Worker, Start Up, Innovator or Global Talent, among others.

▶ Can students on the Graduate route stay in the UK and work?

- Successful applicants on this route at Bachelor's or Master's level will be able to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, at any skill level for two years. Doctoral students will be able to stay for three years.
- The Graduate route will be unsponsored, meaning applicants will not need a job offer to apply for the route. There will be no minimum salary requirements nor caps on numbers.

Graduates on the route will be able to work flexibly, switch jobs and develop their career as required.

► What's next?

The route does not count towards settlement – however Graduates will be able to apply to other routes at the end of their 2-3 year stay, for example the Skilled Worker, Global Talent or Innovator routes.

Frequently asked questions

Will the Graduate route require a new application?

The Graduate route will require a new visa application, which will only be possible from inside the UK.

What are the costs?

The Graduate route visa application will include the payment of a visa fee of £700 and the Immigration Health Surcharge at the full rate of £624 per year. Students will also need to know the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) they used for their most recent Student (or Tier 4) application in order to apply for the Graduate route.

Will universities be expected to act as sponsors for those students on the Graduate route after they have graduated?

Individuals applying to the Graduate route will not need a sponsor. Student sponsors will not need to fulfil any sponsorship duties for their students once they switch onto the Graduate route and students will not need a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) to apply under this route. However, students' sponsors will need to notify the Home Office that a student has successfully completed their course.

For more information, please visit:

- The government website [Graduate route](#)
- Study UK page [Student visas](#)
- Study UK page [Study in the UK 2021-22](#)
- Study UK page [Covid-19 FAQs](#)
- Study UK page [Post-study work opportunities](#)

*All the information is correct at the time of publication 1 July 2021