

Helpful Tips: Tier 4 Student Visa

The Visa Office provides information and advice about immigration related matters to all our international students. We also ensure that students who hold a Tier 4 student visa are aware of the conditions their visas and your duties as Tier 4 students.

You currently hold or are applying for a Tier 4 student visa, therefore you have a permit to study in the UK under the Tier 4 regulations. Whilst your Tier 4 student visa allows you to study, it also imposes duties and conditions, which you must obey.

Similarly, you must make sure you protect your status as student and be aware of the conducts or actions that may be detrimental for your future studies and visa applications to the UK.

Please take time to read the information in this document and contact the Visa Office if you have any questions

Duties and Conditions of your Stay as a Tier 4 General Student

Study at our University

You must enrol and study at the University of Buckingham because the CAS which you submitted as part of your successful Tier 4 (General) application was issued by our university. If you change your mind and want to leave the University of Buckingham to study at another university, you will have to make a new visa application using a CAS from the new university.

Additionally you must study the course for which you were granted your current Tier 4 student visa. Should you decide to change your course, you will have return to your home country to apply for a new visa to study the new course.

If you at any point consider living the University of Buckingham or changing your course, please seek advice from the Visa Office, as the visa you hold is only valid for the course you are studying and for our University.

Attending Lessons, Tutorials or Training session

Under the Tier4 regulations you must attend all your lessons. If you miss more than ten consecutive sessions, which have not been duly authorised, the university is required to remove your Tier 4 sponsorship. If your Tier 4 sponsorship is removed, your studies will be immediately suspended and your current visa will cease to be valid 60 days after we remove sponsorship (even if the expiry date on the visa is after this date), thus you will need to leave the UK within the 60 days.

Also note that you must sign for your lessons and not ask your friend to do so, as this means that you and your friends will be in breach of Tier 4 regulations and your Tier 4 sponsorship will be removed.

Working as student

As a Tier 4 General student studying in the UK you are allowed to work outside of your studies. Currently, if you are studying at degree level or above, you can work 20 per week during term time and full time during holiday.

Registration with the police

If you are required to register with the police, your visa or the letter which you received when you received your visa at the embassy in your home country will state this. In any case you must register with the police if you are from a country listed below:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Palestine, Peru, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

"No recourse to public funds"

Your immigration conditions prohibit you from accessing 'public funds', which means certain welfare benefits and local authority housing.

Sending your child to a state school, being exempt from the Council Tax, and paying "home" fees for study do **not** count as accessing 'public funds'.

If you claim 'public funds', the UK immigration authorities can refuse your immigration application or remove you from the UK. You might also be barred from returning to the UK for a certain period.

Conducts or actions that may have an impact on your student status

Apart from making sure you behave in accordance with the condition of your tier 4 visa, you must also make sure you obey all the UK laws and regulations as any infringements, like traffic, criminal or immigration offences may affect your ability to apply for future visas to the UK.

If you require further information about this, please contact the visa office.

Duties of the University to Report Immigration Matters to the Home Office

As Tier 4 sponsor, the University of Buckingham has specific sponsor duties. These duties are outlined in Annex 1 of the Home Office's Tier 4 policy guidance and include notifying the Home Office if:

- You have obtained a visa as a Tier 4 General student using a CAS, but you fail to enrol on the course before the last day for enrolment.
- You fail to attend a class or lecture, or submit work for a specific number of times, and the University does not authorise your absence or non-submission of work.

- You defer, postpone or take a break from your studies for any reason.
- You change to a shorter course, or you complete your studies early.
- You withdraw from your studies before you have finished your course.
- You in breach of the Tier 4 regulations, for example working more than 20 hours per week during term time.
- You fail your exams and you are not permitted to proceed with your studies.

If the University notifies the Home Office about any of the above issues, they will bring your Tier 4 student visa to an end. Therefore, it is very important that you attend all your classes and lectures and submit coursework when it is due. If you have problems or any concerns about your studies, you should seek advice from your school and the Visa Office so you can discuss your options.

It is very important that you notify your school if you are ill and cannot attend or if you have to miss your academic commitments for any other reason. Your school will ask you to provide evidence of the reason for your absence, for example a letter from a doctor.

If you decide to leave your course early you must also tell the University. If you are returning home or going to a different institution to study, you should provide the Visa Office with the details of your flight (copy of your flight ticket) or details of your new university and course of study so that they can pass this information to the Home Office. This will help to keep clear records of your immigration history, which will avoid any complication with future visa applications.

For more information on your duties as a student and our duties as your sponsor please read the Tier 4 of the Points Based System – Policy Guidance at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/540421/Tier_4_Migrant_Guidance_July_2016.pdf