

Graduate Route (GR) Visa FAQs

Overview

- The Graduate Route (GR) will open on 1 July 2021 (9 am).
- You must apply online.
- You can only apply in the UK.
- You do not need a university or an employer to sponsor you.
- You will need your CAS number from your last student visa application.

How long can I stay in the UK under the Graduate Route?

Undergraduate degree	2 years
Masters degree	2 years
PhD degree	3 years

Who can apply?

On the date of the application you must meet the following criteria:

- You must have, or last had, Student permission (Student Route or Tier 4) at the time of application.
- Successfully completed a **UK Bachelor's degree, a UK postgraduate degree or a relevant qualification** listed in [Appendix Graduate](#) 5.2, during your last period of Student permission.
- Studied in the UK for the "relevant" period:
 - If the course is 12 months or less: you must have had Student permission for the whole course.
 - If the course is more than 12 months: you must have had Student permission for 12 months.
- Sponsor (i.e. University of Chichester) has reported successful completion to the UKVI.

The applicant must be awarded a total of 70 points:

Points type	Relevant requirements to be met	Number of points
Successful course completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Successful completion requirement ○ Qualification requirement ○ Study in the UK requirement 	70

Who cannot apply?

You cannot apply under the Graduate Route if,

- your student visa expires before 1 July 2021; and/or
- you have previously been granted a Graduate Route or DES visa.

If you are not eligible for the Graduate Route, you can look at alternative working after studies routes. Please visit the [UKCISA website](#) for an overview of your options.

What if I have been prevented from travelling to the UK due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If you have been prevented from travelling to the UK due to the COVID-19 pandemic and wish to apply under the Graduate Route, you need to be mindful of the date by which you should arrive in the UK in order to be eligible. Please check the [UKCISA website](#) "Study in the UK and COVID Concessions" section for the most up to date information this.

How to apply?

Apply online <https://www.gov.uk/graduate-visa>

What fees do I have to pay?

- Application fee: £700 per person; and
- National Health Service Surcharge: £624 per adult /per year and £470 per child/ per year.

For example, a single student must have access to £1948 to pay the associated GR application fees.

A student with a spouse/child/family will need to pay the above application fee for each member of the family + the relevant NHS surcharge fee.

What documents do I need to apply?

- a valid passport or other travel document that shows your identity and nationality.
- your biometric residence permit (BRP), if you were given one when you applied for your Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa.
- your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) reference number from when you applied for your Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa.

You will receive your CAS number from academic registry when you receive a confirmation email that explains that we have reported your successful completion to the UKVI.

Depending on your circumstances, you might be asked to provide:

- proof of your relationship with [your partner or children](#) if they're applying with you
- a letter from your scholarship or sponsorship provider approving your application, if they paid for your course fees or living costs in the last 12 months

If your documents are not in English or Welsh you'll also need to provide a [certified translation](#).

Do I need to provide evidence of finances as part of the GR application?

There is no need to show evidence of funds. The UKVI expect that you will be able to support yourself by finding employment. Please note that you and your dependants (e.g. spouse and/or children) will not have access to [public funds](#).

Do I need to show my degree certificate/transcript when I apply?

You will not need any paperwork as the University will confirm your successful completion to the UKVI directly.

When can I apply?

You must apply before your Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa expires. You can apply as soon as we have told you that you've successfully completed the course you took with your Student or Tier 4 (General) student visa and that this has been reported to the Home Office. See below. You do not have to wait until you've graduated or have been given a certificate

When does the University confirm the successful completion to the UKVI?

Successful completion is confirmed after the Board of Examiners (BOE) have met to decide on degree outcomes.

How do I know when successful completion has been reported?

Academic Registry will report your successful completion to the UKVI as soon as possible after your programme's BOE meeting. You will receive a confirmation email when this has been done.

What if I apply before the University confirms successful completion to the UKVI?

Your application may be refused. You should not apply before the University informs you that the reporting has been completed.

Do I have to contact the University to ask for successful completion to be confirmed?

There is no need to contact the University. We are expected to report every eligible Tier 4 /Student Route visa holder's successful completion automatically regardless of their plans to apply to the GR route.

Can I apply if I have changed my degree since I started my studies?

If you added a placement or study abroad year retrospectively, or if you changed your degree route and you didn't need to extend your visa to allow for you to finish the new course, you are eligible to apply.

What type of work can I do while the GR visa application is pending?

You will be subject to the Student Route (Tier 4) employment rules (see our [website](#)) until you receive your GR visa.

What type of work can I do on a GR visa?

- Employment and self-employment are permitted.
- You cannot work as a professional sports person including sports coaching or as a doctor or dentist in training.

Can I study on a GR visa?

This visa route is not intended to be used for study purposes. You cannot study on a course that could be undertaken as a student on a Student Route visa.

For example, you can study at an institution that is not a student visa sponsor, or study part-time on an undergraduate course or take part in recreational courses.

Can I apply for this visa again in the future?

No, you can only apply for a GR visa once. For example, if you decide to study after your GR visa expires and plan to apply for another GR visa after you complete your further studies, you would not be eligible.

Can Sabbatical Officers apply to the Graduate Route?

Yes, but you would lose eligibility if you have two grants of Student permission as sabbatical officer after course completion.

Can my dependants (e.g. spouse, children etc..) apply?

Yes, but only if you were allowed to bring dependants during your Student Route permission and the dependants are in the UK when you submit your GR application.

What fees do dependants have to pay?

£700 per person + National Health Service Surcharge: £670 per adult /per year and £470 per child/ per year.

What about babies born in the UK?

This information relates to babies who are not British citizens.

If your baby was born in the UK during your Student Route/Tier 4 visa, your baby can lawfully remain in the UK without making an immigration application. However, if your baby travels abroad, she/he will need immigration permission to return to the UK. Please also see the healthcare related note below.

If your baby was born in the UK during your current Student Route/Tier 4 leave, your baby can apply as a Graduate Route dependant. She/he does not need to have a current Student Route dependant visa to qualify. Please note that the above dependant visa application fee and NHS surcharge fees apply to babies.

Healthcare: If your baby was born in the UK and does not have immigration permission as your Student Route dependant, you will need to consider how you are going to pay their healthcare costs. Babies born in the UK are exempt from paying NHS charges for a period of three months after they were born. After this they are considered overseas visitors and are liable to be charged for NHS treatment, unless they pay the immigration health surcharge, which is only payable as part of an immigration application, or they access private medical care. Please note that if your baby applies for immigration permission as your dependant (Student/Graduate) you must explain how the healthcare costs have been met between the age of three months and date of the dependant visa application.

Useful resources:

Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules – [Appendix Graduate](#) (page 45-51)

[UKCISA](#)

[UK Government information on the Graduate Route](#)

[Caseworker Guidance – Graduate Route](#)

[University website](#)

[ISAS Moodle](#)

[ISAS Help pages](#)

Who should I to contact for visa advice?

Päivi Leivo and Jane Smith, Intentional Student Advisory Service

international@chi.ac.uk

Who can contact about finding work?

Careers and Employability team

careers@chi.ac.uk

The Department for Education in England has produced guidance that is open to all students to support your journey as you leave education:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/studentnews/1706/Graduate-employment-and-skills-guide>