

Graduate Route (GR) Visa FAQs

Overview

- You can only apply in the UK and you must stay in the UK while your application is pending.
- You do not need a university or an employer to sponsor you.
- You will need your CAS number from your last student visa application.
- You must successfully complete your degree before student visa expires.

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.

Who cannot apply?

You cannot apply under the Graduate Route if,

- you have previously been granted a Graduate Route or DES visa.

Are there other working visas I could look into?

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.

How to apply?

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

What fees do I have to pay?

- Application fee: £880 per person; and

- National Health Service Surcharge: £1035 per adult /per year and £776 per child/ per year.

For example, a single student must have access to £2950 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 and 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 eVisa.
- your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) reference number from when you applied for your 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 expires. You can apply as soon as we have emailed you to confirm that you've successfully completed the course and that this has been reported to the Home Office. Please see below. You do not have to wait until your graduation ceremony or have your degree certificate to apply.

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. Your academic department can confirm your departmental BOE date for you.

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 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 happens if my student visa expires before my Graduate Route visa is granted?

As long as you apply for your Graduate Route visa after your successful completion has been reported and before the expiry date of your student visa, you will be able to legally live and work in the UK until you receive your GR visa. You will be covered by something called Section 3 C Leave until a decision is made. More information on Section 3 C Leave is available on the UKCISA [website](#).

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

As you have studied at an institution that is a Higher Education Institution with a Track Record of Compliance, you can start a full-time permanent job after making your Graduate route application. But you must wait for your GR visa to be granted before you start self-employment or work as an entertainer.

You must not work as a professional sports person or coach.

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 sponsor dependants during your Student Route permission and the dependants are in the UK when you submit your GR application.

What about resits and reassessments?

You will need to successfully complete your degree before your student visa expires. If you have any resits or reassessments and the university does not require you to attend taught sessions or supervision and your visa expires before you complete these, you will not be eligible for the Graduate Route visa.

If you have irrevocably failed a module(s) and the Board of Examiners allow that you can retake this, and your continued participation is required, you may be able to extend your student visa and apply for the GR visa once you have successfully completed your studies. Contact international@chi.ac.uk to discuss your options as soon as possible.

What about tuition fee debt?

If you are in debt to the University, this will prevent your results from being published, your degree certificate from being released to you and the Graduate Route Successful reporting from taking place. To be able to benefit from the Graduate Route visa opportunity, you need to make sure you have paid your tuition fees in full before the Board of Examiners meetings take place.

Can I travel home after completing my studies and return to the UK to apply for the GR visa before my student visa expires?

Yes, you can travel home during your “wrap-up period” and return to the UK within your visa validity dates to apply for your next visa under the Graduate Route.

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 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 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:

[UKCISA](#)

[UKCISA International Student Employability Group](#)

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

[Caseworker Guidance – Graduate Route](#)

[University website](#)

[International Advice Moodle](#)

A British Council Document – [An International Students Guide to Working in the UK after you Graduate](#)

Who should I to contact for visa advice?

Chichester International Advice

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. Please click [here](#).