

# New Graduate Route Visa (Post Study Work Visa)

The Graduate Route Visa is now open to applications.

All information about the Graduate Route is contained within the Appendix Graduate, which you can find here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-graduate>

**Please ensure you read the information above before applying for the Graduate Route**

## What is the new Graduate Route Visa?

The Graduate Route will allow successful applicants to stay in the UK for a period of 2 years (for Undergraduate and Masters students) or 3 years (for Doctorate students, e.g. PHD) after completing studies to work and to look for work.

## How much will the Graduate Route Visa Cost?

The fee for the Graduate Route is £822

Applicants will also have to pay the [Immigration Health Surcharge](#) (IHS) for each year of the visa. The IHS is £624 per year (so £1248 for the 2 year visa and £1872 for the 3 year visa) which is taken in one payment.

## How do you get the Graduate Route Visa?

It is not automatically granted. To obtain the Graduate Route Visa, you will need to meet all the requirements of Appendix Graduate (detailed below in the 'What are the Requirements for the

Graduate Route' section) and make an application online via the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/graduate-visa/apply> for the visa.

You must be in the UK to be able to apply.

## When should I apply?

You can only apply once you have received an email from LJMU confirming successful completion of your course (see below) and you must apply before your current visa expires.

You can only apply if:

- ✓ you're in the UK
- ✓ your current visa is a [Student visa or Tier 4 \(General\) student visa](#)
- ✓ you studied a UK bachelor's degree, postgraduate degree or other eligible course for a minimum period of time with your Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa
- ✓ you've successfully completed that course

You are not required to show you have a certain amount of money in your bank account to be able to apply for this visa (maintenance).

## How do I apply for the Graduate Route visa?

Applications are made online via the gov.uk website here: <https://www.gov.uk/graduate-visa/apply>

If you have eligible dependants who want to apply, they should also apply via this link.

## How long does it take to get a decision?

Once you have applied and submitted your documents and proved your identity, it takes 8 weeks to get a decision.

## What are the requirements to apply for a Graduate Route Visa:

The following are the main requirements to be able to apply for the Graduate Route Visa.

- ✓ You must have successfully completed an undergraduate, postgraduate or doctoral degree or another eligible course\* at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) in your last grant of student permission (Tier 4 or Student Route)
- ✓ Student Union Sabbatical Officers are eligible to apply if they have successfully completed

their course in the period immediately prior to their current leave

- ✓ LJMU will need to notify the Home Office (UKVI) of your course completion before you apply for the Graduate Route visa
- ✓ There is no requirement for you to show you have a certain amount of money available to you in your bank account (maintenance)

- ✓ If your course of study is 12 months or less, your studies must have been completed in full while you were in the UK, except for periods of permitted, required study abroad or distance learning due to Covid-19\* (see below)
- ✓ If your course of study is longer than 12 months, you must have held a student visa for at least 12 months and spent that time studying in the UK except for periods of distance learning due to Covid-19\* (see below)
- ✓ Your studies must have been the same as that for which your most recent Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) was issued, except in very limited cases where course changes are permitted on an existing student visa
- ✓ You must apply in the UK, and have a valid Tier 4 or Student visa at the time of application
- ✓ You must not have previously been granted leave as a Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES) student –this was a working visa for PHD students only

*\*Other eligible courses*

- *a law conversion course validated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (referred to by its previous name of 'Joint Academic Stage Board' in the Graduate route immigration rules) in England and Wales*
- *the Legal Practice Course in England and Wales, the Solicitors Course in Northern Ireland, or a Diploma in Professional Legal Practice in Scotland*
- *the Bar Practice Course in England and Wales, or the Bar Course in Northern Ireland*
- *a foundation programme in Medicine or Dentistry*
- *a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) or Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)*

## I have changed my course can I still apply?

Normally you must have completed this course during your current period of Tier 4 or Student permission and it must be the same course for which your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) was assigned.

However, there are some exceptions:

1. If you were allowed by LJMU to switch to a different course without applying for new Tier 4 or Student permission, you can use that new course as the relevant qualification.
2. If LJMU changed the name of your course without changing the content, or if you added an assessed work placement or study abroad programme
3. If your last period of Tier 4 or Student permission was granted to work as a Student Union Sabbatical Officer, it is fine if the relevant qualification was gained during your period of Student or Tier 4 permission immediately before it.
4. If your CAS was assigned for an integrated programme, and you successfully completed an

undergraduate or postgraduate degree as part of that programme, you can use that degree as the relevant qualification. This is only for degrees, not for other types of course.

### **What documents do I need to apply for the visa?**

What documents you need will depend on your personal circumstances. You can read more on the gov.uk website here, which gives a list of documents you may need to use:

<https://www.gov.uk/graduate-visa/documents-youll-need-to-apply>

You will need:

- 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

Your CAS number was issued to you when you get a place on the course or when you applied for a CAS for a visa extension.

If you do not have your CAS, you can request a copy via the MY LJMU Portal in the Student Enquiry form in the My Services section here: <https://myservices.ljmu.ac.uk/Forms/RegistryHelp.aspx>

### **Other Documents you may need:**

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 application includes any documents which are not in English or Welsh, you must also include a translation of each document. Each translation must contain:

- confirmation from the translator / translation company that it is an accurate translation of the original document
- the date of the translation
- the full name and signature of the translator, or of an authorised official of the translation company
- the contact details of the translator or translation company; and
- (if you are already in the UK and are applying for further leave) certification by a qualified translator and details of the translator or translation company's credentials

## How will I know LJMU has reported my successful completion? Do I need to do anything?

LJMU will notify UKVI that you have successfully completed your studies and you will receive an email to confirm this once the report has been submitted to UKVI.

You should not make an application for the Graduate Route visa until you have received the confirmation email from LJMU confirming successful completion.

You do not need to inform LJMU that you have successfully completed your course.

## What kind of work can you do with a Graduate Route Visa?

You can do almost all kinds of work with a Graduate Route Visa. There is no minimum qualification or income requirement for the work. You do not require sponsorship from an employer, and you will be free to change jobs as and when necessary.

You can work in almost any field of employment and the work does not have to be related to your studies or qualification.

You will not be able to work as a professional sports person.

## Can you bring your family as dependants with the Graduate Route Visa?

Only graduates who already have their family members with them in the UK as dependants will be able to have their dependents apply.

Each of the applicant's parents must either be applying at the same time as the applicant, or have permission to be in the UK (other than as a visitor). There are some limited exceptions to this outlined in Appendix Graduate GR 12.2.

Dependants must apply at the same time as the graduate and they do so via the same gov.uk website link here: <https://www.gov.uk/graduate-visa/apply>

## Can you study with a Graduate Route Visa?

Study which would otherwise be sponsored under the Student Route, would not be permitted. This would exclude studying for example, a master's degree at most UK universities while in the UK with a Graduate Route visa.

Other study at non Student Route Sponsor institutions will be permitted.

## What do I do if my application has been refused?

If your application for permission to stay has been refused and you think the Home Office has made an error in considering their application, you can apply for an Admin Review.

Please contact the International Advice team on [internationaladvice@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:internationaladvice@ljmu.ac.uk) for further information.

## Is there any else you need to know?

If you have been in receipt of Official Financial Sponsorship from a government, you will need to obtain a letter confirming permission from that government for you to apply to the Graduate Route

You can only have the Graduate Route visa once. It is not possible to extend the visa, but it will be possible to switch to another type of visa from the Graduate Route.

You are not eligible to apply if you have previously been granted permission under the Doctorate Extension Visa.

If you later wish to apply to switch to the new Skilled Worker Route visa (which has replaced the old Tier 2 visa), you can do so if you have a Skilled Worker Route employer who offers sponsorship to you.

As with holders of the Student Visa, holders of the Graduate Route visa applying to switch to the Skilled Worker Route can be considered as 'new entrants' for Skilled Worker sponsorship, which means the minimum salary offer to be sponsored can be the lower minimum salary new entrants rate.

The Graduate route is not a route to settlement.

## Where can I get further information or advice?

The application process and guidance is on <https://www.gov.uk/graduate-visa>

### **The International Student Advice Team at Liverpool John Moores University**

- ✓ Email us at [InternationalAdvice@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:InternationalAdvice@ljmu.ac.uk)
- ✓ [www.ljmu.ac.uk/international-advice](http://www.ljmu.ac.uk/international-advice)

### **The UK government website**

- ✓ [www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas](http://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas)
- ✓ [The UK's Points Based Immigration System Policy Document \(page 38\)](#)
- ✓ [UK Government Announcement of Graduate Route Visa](#)
- ✓ [Draft Immigration Rules – Statement of Changes 4 March 2021 \(pages 45 -51\)](#)

### **The United Kingdom Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)**

- ✓ [www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies)