



British Consulate
New York

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845 Third Avenue
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PLEASE NOTE: *The guidance on the inserted web links, the UKBA PBS Policy guidance and Entry Clearance Guidance supersedes any information on this document. Please check the websites for the most current information.*

Web www.ukvisas.gov.uk
www.visainfoservices.com

CLINICAL ROTATION – UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

Link: To be published shortly

Overseas medical students will be permitted to apply as study abroad students under Tier 4 of Points Based System.

Overseas undergraduate medical students who wish to undertake training electives in the UK will now be considered as "study abroad" students under Tier 4 of the PBS. Applications may therefore be accepted under Tier 4 and the applicant will need to present a CAS and meet the Tier 4 study abroad requirements.

Such students must be enrolled in their home country; and be coming to the United Kingdom for no more than 50% of the total length of their course; and will be returning home to finish their degree course (which must be equivalent to a United Kingdom degree). A full description of a study abroad programme is set out in the Tier 4 guidance.

The teaching hospital at which the students undertake their clinical training, forms part of a UK university, and it is this university, as a licensed sponsor under Tier 4 that is expected to act as the sponsor of these students.

The current restriction on the amount of time a student may spend on a course-related work placement states that the work placement must not exceed half of the total length of studies undertaken in the UK. UKBA have accepted, however, that because of the nature of medical degree courses in general, the clinical training element for which these students are coming to the UK will mostly be based within the UK teaching hospital, rather than in the lecture hall. The clinical rotation period, therefore, is a well-defined and closely supervised part of a student's medical studies, and so the work placement restriction is not applicable to these students.

CLINICAL ROTATION – POST-GRADUATE STUDENT

Link: Post-Graduate Doctors & Dentists <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/ecg/visitandtransit/doctorsdentistsclinical>

Overseas doctors or dentists who wish to work in the UK may undertake periods of clinical attachments or dental observation posts in order to familiarise themselves with UK working practices. These clinical attachments and dental observation posts are unpaid and involve observation only and not treatment of patients.

Overseas doctors and dentists can apply for leave to enter to undertake clinical attachment or dental observation posts. However, doctors who are already in the UK on leave to take the PLAB test, or on leave as postgraduate doctors, dentists and trainee general practitioners, can undertake clinical attachments or dental observation posts under their existing leave. They will only have to apply separately under the specific rules on clinical attachments or dental observation posts where their period of existing leave (to take the PLAB Test or as a postgraduate doctor/dentist/trainee general practitioner) is due to expire before the end of the clinical attachment or dental observation post.

Although all the requirements of Paragraph 75G must be met, the main points on which the ECO needs to be satisfied are that anyone seeking entry to the UK in this capacity:

- is a graduate from a bona fide medical or dental school; and
- can provide documentary evidence of a clinical attachment or dental observer post which:
 - (a) Will involve observation only and not treatment of patients
 - (b) Will be unpaid; and
- meets the relevant requirements of the Rules relating to visitors , Paragraph 41 of the Rules, including:
 - that they will be able to maintain and accommodate himself and any dependants adequately without recourse to public funds; and
 - that they do not intend to take up employment during leave under this paragraph

RESEARCHERS

Link: Tier 4 <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/Tier4migrantguidance.pdf>

Link: Tier 5 <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/tier5temporaryworkerguidance.pdf>

Link: Academic visitor <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/ecg/visitandtransit/academicvisitor>

Tier 4 - Postgraduate researchers: Post-graduate researchers entering the United Kingdom to study for an accredited United Kingdom academic qualification (rather than for the purpose of academic research work that does not lead to a UK academic qualification) should enter as students if they meet the relevant requirements of the Immigration Rules. If they do not meet the student rules then they will need to meet the requirements of Tier 5 or Tier 2 of the Points Based System.

Tier 5 – Government Authorised Exchange - Sponsored researchers: A sponsored researcher is a person who wishes to come to the UK to lead or to take part in any formal research project. Formal research projects are those hosted but not necessarily funded by a UK research institution including universities, non-commercial research organisations, charitable organisations and national research councils (such as the Medical Research Council). The sponsored researcher fills a research post and works under the full or partial control of the institution, which will itself benefit from the research. Sponsored researchers can be funded from sources in the UK or overseas.

A higher education institution can also recruit sponsored researchers under the Tier 5 (Temporary workers - government authorised exchange) category. It does not need to do so through an overarching body, nor have support for the recruitment from a government department, but it must already be licensed as a Tier 4 sponsor.

Academic Visitor: Academic visitors must be either:

- a person on sabbatical leave from an overseas academic institution who wishes to make use of their leave to carry out research here (to do research for a book for example);

NB Those who are on sabbatical leave from private research companies are not eligible for leave under the academic visitor provisions.

or

- academics (including doctors) taking part in formal exchange arrangements with United Kingdom counterparts; or
- eminent senior doctors and dentists coming to take part in research, teaching or clinical practice.

In addition they must:

- not receive funding for their work from any United Kingdom source (payments of expenses or reasonable honoraria may be disregarded, as may payments on an exchange basis);

- not engage in any work other than the academic activity for which they are being admitted;
- not be filling a normal post or a genuine vacancy;
- not stay in the UK for more than 12 months;
- not intend to take employment in the UK;
- intend to leave the UK at the end of their visit;
- be able to maintain themselves and any dependants without having recourse to public funds (or be adequately maintained and accommodated by relatives or friends);
- be able to meet the cost of the return or onward journey from the UK

Lecturers : A person who wishes to come to the United Kingdom solely to undertake a series of lectures for which they will receive a fee will normally be required to seek entry under Tier 2 of the Points Based System. Academics may, however, be eligible to enter as a mainstream business visitor for a maximum of 6 months if they are coming to participate in a conference or seminar where it is a single or occasional event, and the event is not a commercial venture.

STUDENT VISITOR

Link: Student Visitor <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/ecg/visitandtransit/studentvisitor>

Visitors who intend to undertake a short course or period of study which will be completed within their stay may apply as a student visitor. A student visitor can only be in the UK for a maximum of 6 months and cannot switch courses.

A student visitor is someone who intends to do a course of less than 6 months and who does not intend to take part-time employment or undertake a paid or unpaid work placement as part of their course. Their study is effectively an additional part of a visit. Examples: 4 week intensive English language course as part of a holiday, a 4 day training seminar, a flower arranging course, etc.

Entry as a student visitor does not confer student 'status' in the UK, which means that work and work placements are not permitted and extensions beyond 6 months will not be allowed.

Those studying overseas for UK qualifications (distance learners who do not qualify as students) who occasionally need to visit the UK for classes or revision sessions can be considered under the Student Visitor category i.e. although the course of study might be longer than 6 months, each period of study is less than six months.

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