

Important information about Immigration Rule changes for current International (Tier 4) Students

The Home Office has made changes to the rules for international (Tier 4) students effective from 6 April 2016. **This email contains important information for International (Tier 4) Students who are either...**

[A. On a placement or considering going on placement in future](#)

Or

[B. Master's students who have recently applied for, or intend to apply for an extension to the submission date for final dissertation or final project](#)

Or

[C. Considering transferring to another programme at the same, higher or lower academic level \(including PhD to MPhil\)](#)

Or

[D. Information for students who have or are due to resit or retake a module](#)

The notes below cover each of these circumstances and the information is also available on the website [Here](#).

We understand and appreciate that for some of you the changes may have significant implications. Please take time to read through this information and if you are unclear as to whether the changes apply to you, or what your next steps should be, please contact the Home Office Compliance Team (see the [contact details](#) at the end of this note).

A. Information for Tier 4 students on a placement or considering going on placement in future

If you are an undergraduate or taught postgraduate student studying a course that has a placement route, and if you are currently on a placement, or thinking of taking a placement this change could affect you. Any student studying under Tier 4 who needs to extend their visa to complete their course due to studying a placement will need to do so from outside the UK.

The table below shows four possible options that may apply to you and what you need to do to extend your visa:

Mandatory Placement/Placement option	Your current course and visa length	What you need to do [^]	Why you need to do this
1 You are studying a course that has a mandatory placement that is an assessed and integral part of your course.	Your visa covers the full duration of the course and the placement year.	No action required.	Not applicable.
2 You originally applied to study on a course that included a mandatory placement but you have changed your mind and decided not to complete the placement or, were unable to obtain a placement.	Your visa will last for longer than your current course and you will potentially complete your course early.	You should contact your School Office and arrange to transfer to the non-placement version of the programme. The University will then report your change in circumstances to the Home Office.	The University is required to ensure your immigration record is accurate and up to date with the Home Office. This is also important should you wish to return to the UK in the future to work or study as you have a limited amount of time to study at each academic level.
3 You originally applied to study on a course without a placement. However, you are now considering changing to the version of the course that includes a placement.	If you decide to complete the placement you will not complete your full course (including the placement) on your current visa and need to extend it.	If you choose to request a transfer to the placement route of the course you need to be aware of the implications for your visa. These are that, when your current visa expires, you will need to leave the UK and extend your visa in your home country* .	This is because from the Home Office perspective, you will not complete your current course within the timeframe originally given and therefore do not meet the new progression requirement.
4 You originally applied to study on a course without a placement. However, you changed your mind and are currently on a placement or have recently completed a placement.	If your current visa covers you for the taught element of your course only and you will need to extend your visa to complete your course.	If your visa does not currently cover you for the full duration of the course and your placement, sometime* before your visa is due to expire you will need to leave the UK and extend your visa in your home country.	This is because from the Home Office perspective, you will not complete your current course within the timeframe originally given and therefore do not meet the new progression requirement.

[^] Assumes that you are within the current time limit for your level of study – if this is not the case please contact the Home Office Compliance Team (see the [contact details](#) at the end of this note)

* This should be at a time when you do not have to attend classes or assessments in the University.

B. Information for Master's students studying under Tier 4 who have applied for, or intend to apply for, an extension to the submission date of their dissertation or final project

If you have applied for an extension to complete your Master's dissertation or final project and you need to extend your visa to complete your dissertation or final project, you will need to do this from your home country. The table below shows the different situations that could apply to you:

	Extension	Your current course and visa length	What you need to do [^]	Why you need to do this
1	You are coming to the end of your course and you are considering requesting an extension.	You need to be aware that if you do not have enough time left on your current Tier 4 visa and wish to stay in the UK for your extension you are no longer permitted to extend your visa in the UK.	<p>If you feel you are entitled to an extension, you can request one in line with the University of Salford's extension policy for your course. However, if you do this you need to be aware that you are no longer able to extend your visa in the UK.</p> <p>You can either: Leave the UK and complete your extension from your home country, Or; Use the wrap up time at the end of your visa; Or; If your visa does not currently cover you for the full duration of the course and your extension, before your visa is due to expire you will need to leave the UK and extend your visa in your home country*.</p>	The Immigration laws in the UK have changed preventing you from extending your stay within the UK at the same academic level that you are currently studying and this means you must leave the UK and apply from your home country for your visa extension.
2	You currently have a visa to cover your course and	You have four months wrap up time at the end of your	You can use the wrap up time on your visa to complete your dissertation or final project.	You can choose to use your wrap up time as you would like and this

Extension	Your current course and visa length	What you need to do [^]	Why you need to do this
	you have an approved extension.	visa that covers your new submission deadline.	includes using it to complete your study.
3	You currently have a visa to cover your course and you have an approved extension to your submission deadline.	Your visa does not cover the full length of the extension to your deadline. You can either: Leave the UK and complete your extension from your home country Or; Use any wrap up time you have at the end of your visa and submit early; Or; If your visa does not currently cover you for the full duration of the course and your extension, before your visa is due to expire you will need to leave the UK and extend your visa in your home country* .	The Immigration laws in the UK have changed preventing you from extending your stay within the UK at the same academic level that you are currently studying at this means you must leave the UK and apply from your home country for your visa extension.

[^] Assumes that you are within the current time limit for your level of study – if this is not the case please contact the Home Office Compliance Team (see the [contact details](#) at the end of this note).

*This should be at a time when you do not have to attend classes or assessments in the University.

C. Information for Tier 4 students who are considering transferring to another programme at the same, higher or lower academic level (including PhD to MPhil)

If you are considering or have been required to move to another programme at the same academic level or at a higher or lower level, you will need to leave the UK and apply for a new visa to enable you to complete your new course unless the course is at the same level **and** you can complete it within the timeframe of your current visa. The table below shows the different situations that could apply to you:

Transferring/Progressing	Your current Course and visa length	What you need to do [^]	Why you need to do this
1	You are transferring courses at the same level.	You will be able to complete your new course within the timeframe of your current visa.	You do not have to do anything in terms of your visa provided you have enough time on your visa to complete the course and it is the same academic level. Not applicable.

	Transferring/Progressing	Your current Course and visa length	What you need to do [^]	Why you need to do this
			Your transfer request will be processed in line with the University of Salford transfer policy.	
2	You are transferring courses at the same level.	You will not be able to complete your new course within the timeframe of your current visa.	If your visa does not currently cover you for the full duration of the course and your placement, sometime* before your visa is due to expire you will need to leave the UK and extend your visa in your home country.	This is because you are unable to demonstrate academic progression. You are still able to re-apply for a new visa from outside the UK to return.
3	You have successfully completed or are on track to successfully complete one course and are moving to a new course which is at a higher academic level than your previous course.	You completed your course within timeframe of your and have received or are due to receive a CAS for your new course.	You will be able to apply for your new visa for your new course within the UK provided your new course starts within 28 days of your current visa expiring.	This is because you have achieved the learning outcome of your previous course and are therefore able to demonstrate academic progression for the course you were granted leave for.
4	You are studying a course and you have been able to move to a higher award or level of the course before you have been awarded for your current course. Courses this could apply to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPhil to PhD • PGCert or PGDip to Masters level • BEng to MEng[^] [^] In cases such as this you will also need an ATAS.	At the point you are moved to the higher award, you will not have been awarded the qualification you originally obtained your visa for and will need to obtain a new visa to complete the new part of the course.	You need to extend your visa in order for you to complete this qualification you will need to leave the UK* to obtain a new visa to cover you for this course.	This is because you are unable to demonstrate academic progression because you have not attained the learning outcome for the original visa you were granted to enter. You are still able to re-apply for a new visa from outside the UK to return.

Transferring/Progressing	Your current Course and visa length	What you need to do [^]	Why you need to do this
5 Extending at the same level PhD ONLY You are a PhD student and you need an extension to complete your course.	Your visa may or may not cover the full duration of your new course. You will be able to apply to extend in the UK.	You are permitted to extend your visa in the UK in line with the University of Salford CAS request process which can be found here and the Research Award Regulations which can be found here .	This is a noted exception within the immigration rules and you are permitted to extend within the UK provided you meet all other requirements for a CAS from the University of Salford.
6 Moving to a lower award You are a PHD Student and it is decided that you will not achieve the award you set out for but may be eligible for a lower award of MPhil	Your current visa does not cover you for the additional work you are required to do to obtain the MPhil and you will need to extend it.	You need to extend your visa in order for you to complete this qualification you will need to leave the UK* to obtain a new visa to cover you for this course.	This is because you are unable to demonstrate academic progression because you have not attained the learning outcome for the original visa you were granted to enter. You are still able to re-apply for a new visa from outside the UK to return.

[^] Assumes that you are within the current time limit for your level of study – if this is not the case please contact the Home Office Compliance Team (see the [contact details](#) at the end of this note)

*This should be at a time when you do not have to attend classes or assessments in the University.

D. Information for students who have been required to, or are due to resit or retake part of their course with attendance

If you are a registered student and you are required to resit or retake some of your course with attendance, you will need to leave the UK to apply to renew your visa. The table below shows the different options that could apply to you:

Retakes/Resits	Current Visa Length	What you need to do [^]	Why you need to do this
1 You are currently doing a resit/retake or did a retake earlier in your course.	Your current visa is long enough for you to complete the course.	You do not have to do anything in terms of your visa provided you have enough time on your visa to complete the course.	Not applicable

2	<p>You are currently doing a resit/retake or did a resit/retake earlier in your course and not in the final year/assessment part of your course.</p> <p>i.e. you are a first or second year undergraduate or a Masters level student and are unable to progress to Dissertation until you retake modules</p>	<p>Your current visa is not long enough to complete the course.</p>	<p>We are currently awaiting a response from the Home Office in relation to this. We think it is highly likely that if you are currently using or have used the visa you were originally granted to complete your re-sit or retake and you need to extend your visa to complete your course you will need to leave the UK and extend your visa in your home country*.</p> <p>The Home Office have confirmed you can continue with your course on your current visa until just before it expires and at this point a decision should have been made and you will know if you can extend in country or return home and re-apply. If you need to return home during teaching you will need to interrupt your studies and return when your modules are running again</p>	<p>This is because the Immigration laws in the UK have changed and the Home Office may deem you as being unable to demonstrate academic progression at the point you need to apply for your new visa. We are still seeking clarification from the Home Office on this, however we think it is highly likely that this prevents you from extending your stay within the UK and means you must leave the UK and apply from your home country for your visa extension.</p>
3	<p>You will be doing a resit/retake any time after 6 April 2016</p>	<p>Your current visa is long enough for you to complete the course</p>	<p>You do not have to do anything in terms of your visa provided you have enough time on your visa to complete the course.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
4	<p>You will be doing a resit/retake any time after 6 April 2016 and you are not a final year student retaking modules to complete your course</p> <p>i.e. you are a first or second year undergraduate or a Masters level student and are unable to progress to</p>	<p>Your current visa is not long enough to complete the course.</p>	<p>You must use up your current leave and apply for a new visa at a later date. If you choose this option you will need to leave the UK and extend your visa in your home country*. You will be able to apply for a CAS in the normal way and details of this can be found here. You will be asked to provide exit evidence as part of this process.</p> <p>Please be aware while we are still seeking confirmation from the Home Office on this point so, at present, we will only issue a CAS to you</p>	<p>This is because the Immigration laws in the UK have changed and the Home Office may deem you as being unable to demonstrate academic progression at the point you need to apply for your new visa. We are still seeking clarification from the Home Office on this, however we think it is highly likely that this prevents you from extending your stay within the UK and means you must leave the UK</p>

	Dissertation until you retake modules		once you have left the UK. Therefore you must leave the UK and extend your visa in your Home Country.	and apply from your home country for your visa extension.
	You are in the final year or phase of your course and are required to resit or retake modules to complete your course and obtain your award	Your visa does not cover your resits or retake.	You are able to extend your visa within the UK. This is due to an exception within the immigration rules that allows students taking their final exams to obtain a new visa inside the UK in order to complete the qualification.	As you are eligible to apply for your visa inside the UK you just need to ensure you make an in time application to extend your leave.

^ Assumes that you are within the current time limit for your level of study – if this is not the case please contact the Home Office Compliance Team (see the [contact details](#) at the end of this note)

* This should be at a time when you do not have to attend classes or assessments in the University.

** Depending on the course requirements and the feasibility of you being able to complete from your home country.

Further information

Where you are required to leave the UK and apply for a new CAS you will be able to do so the normal way and details of this can be found [here](#). You will be asked to provide exit evidence as part of this process.

If you think you will require an interruption, information about this can be found [Here](#)

More information about the specific rules imposed by the Home Office that relate to this communication can be found in the Tier 4 Migrant Guidance for details please follow the link [Here](#)

The UKVI have the right to change the immigration rules as they see fit to best govern the United Kingdom and this can be done at very short notice. The University of Salford is committed to upholding these regulations and supporting you through these changes. We understand that this is complex and can be confusing, if you have any questions or you would like to speak to someone about your situation you can either:

- Attend a drop in session at University House at one of the following times:
 - Thursday 26 May 15:00 – 16:00 in University House in Derwent
 - Friday 27 May 14:30 – 16:00 in University House in Derwent

If you are unsure where these are, please ask at the AskUs Desk at University House.

- Contact the University of Salford Home Office Compliance Team on 0161 295 2060 or email us at homeofficecompliance@salford.ac.uk
- Make an in person appointment via the Ask Us Referral Lounge Service by attending University House between 09:00 and 16:30 to request a same day appointment.

Important note: While every attempt has been made to ensure this information is accurate please be aware this could still be subject to change by the Home Office.