The Tier 5 visa route enables you to do short term, temporary employment in the UK after you have finished your studies. There are several different Tier 5 schemes but the 2 most likely to be of relevance to Imperial students are:

- Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange (GAE)
- Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS)

**Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange (GAE)**

This scheme is made up of 4 separate programmes:

- **Work Experience Programme** – for internships and job shadowing. 12 month visa.
- **Research Programme** – for work on a specific scientific, academic, medical or government research project. 24 month visa.
- **Training Programme** – to carry out undertake a formal, practical training programme in Science and/or medicine. This would normally lead to a professional qualification. 24 month visa.
- **Overseas Government Language Programme** – for language teachers sponsored by their overseas government to carry out teaching placements in the UK. 24 month visa.

Whichever programme you apply for, you will need to be sponsored by a ‘licensed overarching body’ (unless you are a sponsored researcher at a university – in this case, the university will be your sponsor). These bodies are responsible for the running of the programmes and may help you to find a placement.


Two of the most relevant “overarching bodies” for Imperial College students are:

- **Tier 5 Intern scheme**: enables international graduates to get experience in most UK companies except in the care, hospitality or agriculture sectors. You will need to find your own placement and your prospective employer must contact GTI Recruiting Solutions. Fee: £750 + visa application fee + maintenance [http://tier5intern.com/](http://tier5intern.com/)
- **ISIS – International Students Internship Scheme** – for Chinese students looking for temporary internships in the UK. The company you work for “must have overseas operations or intend to develop their business in China.” Fee: £1000 + visa application fee + maintenance [http://www.ukisis.org/](http://www.ukisis.org/)

The role you carry out must:

- Be at a minimum of NQF level 3
- Meet UK National Minimum Wage legislation
- Not be used to fill a permanent job vacancy

**Applying for the Tier 5 GAE visa**

You may only apply for your visa in the UK if:

- You have a student or Tier 4 General visa **and**
- You have been awarded a UK degree during the validity period of your visa **and**
- You are being sponsored under Tier 5 (GAE) **either** to carry out postgraduate professional training or work experience, necessary to obtain a professional qualification or professional registration in the same field as your UK qualification **or** you are being sponsored for up to **12 months** to undertake an internship which directly relates to your studies **and**
- Your employer does not intend to employ you in the UK at the end of your training/internship

If you do not meet these requirements, you will need to return to your home country to make your application.
How to apply

1. Apply to the ‘overarching body’ in which you are interested – see above links. If your application is successful, you will be given a CoS (Certificate of Sponsorship), which you will need for the visa application process in the next step.

2. Make your visa application. If you applying in the UK, you will need to use the Tier 5 Migrant form at the UKVI website: https://apply.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/
   Overseas applications are made via the Visa4UK website: https://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/

Documents required

- **Bank statements**: You currently need to present original bank statements proving that you have a minimum daily balance of £945 (if applying in the UK or overseas) for a continuous 3 month period.
- **Current passport** and any previous passports containing UK visas
- **Proof of English language**: Current IELTS certificate or your degree certificate. See the Home Office guidance (link below) for other ways you can prove this.
- **2 recent passport photos** on a cream or light grey background.

You may be required to provide documents in addition to this - see https://www.gov.uk/tier-5-government-authorised-exchange/documents-you-must-provide for full information.

NB: In addition, you may need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge prior to making your visa application. Check if you need to pay the health surcharge, and calculate how much you have to pay at https://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/type. Once you have paid the surcharge, keep your reference number safe as you will need it for your visa application.


Application Fees

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<tr>
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<th>Fee if you applying by post in the UK</th>
<th>Fee if you are applying in person inside the UK</th>
<th>Fee if you are applying outside the UK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main applicant</td>
<td>£225</td>
<td>£625</td>
<td>£225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main applicant if you are a citizen of Turkey or Macedonia</td>
<td>£170</td>
<td>£570</td>
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Dependants

You can include your dependants in your Tier 5 Migrant form (available from the UKVI website: https://apply.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk).

The PBS dependant guidance notes for dependants applying from within the UK are available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-dependants-of-uk-visa-applicants-tiers-1-2-4-5

Dependant applicants from overseas should apply online via the Visa4UK website https://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/

Currently the maintenance requirement for each dependant is £630 (whether applying in the UK or overseas).
Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS)

The Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme is only open to nationals/passport holders of:

- Australia,
- Hong Kong SAR
- Monaco
- South Korea
- Canada
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Taiwan

And

- British overseas citizens
- British overseas territories citizens
- British nationals (overseas)

Holders of this visa can do most jobs in the UK for up to 2 years (except be a Doctor/Dentist in training or a sportsperson/coach. For further information see [https://www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility](https://www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility)

Eligibility

To apply for this visa you must:

- Be a relevant national/passport holder as listed above
- Be aged 18-30 on the day you make your application
- Never have held a previous Tier 5 (YMS) or Working Holidaymaker visa
- Not have any dependants. Your spouse/partner must make a Tier 5 YMS application in their own right if they meet the above requirements. No child dependants are allowed.

The visa cannot be extended beyond 2 years. You will not be able to switch into another visa category from within the UK.

How to apply

You can apply for this visa from any overseas country where you have been resident for 6 months or longer. Overseas applications are made via the Visa4UK website [https://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/](https://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/) and the application fee is £225.

Documents required

- Current passport
- Bank statements: You currently need to present original bank statements proving that you have £1890 in your bank account on the day of your application
- Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) if you come from Hong Kong, Taiwan or South Korea (see [https://www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility/eligibility](https://www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility/eligibility))
- 1 recent passport photo on a cream or light grey background

You may be required to provide documents in addition to this. See [https://www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility/documents-you-must-provide](https://www.gov.uk/tier-5-youth-mobility/documents-you-must-provide) for full information.

NB: In addition, you may need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge prior to making your visa application. Check if you need to pay the health surcharge, and calculate how much you have to pay at [https://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/type](https://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/type). Once you have paid the surcharge, keep your reference number safe as you will need it for your visa application.

We also advise that you read the Home Office guidance: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-visa-applications-under-tier-5-youth-mobility-scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-visa-applications-under-tier-5-youth-mobility-scheme)