

Can I work while I study in the UK?

You **can** work while studying in the UK if:

1. You are on a Student or Tier 4 Student visa, **and**
2. Your passport sticker or identity card says one of the following:
'No recourse to public funds. Work (and any changes) must be authorised' or 'Work as in Tier 4 rules'

You **cannot** work if you are in the UK on a **Short-term Student visa** or **General Visitor (tourist) visa**.

How many hours per week can I work as a student?

- International students on a full time degree course can work:
 - for a maximum **20 hours per week during term time**
 - **full time during vacation** (outside of term-time)
- Term dates for Undergraduate Students are available from:
www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/currentstudents/termdates
- Masters (MSc) students are permitted to work full-time during Christmas and Easter vacations (see term dates above) and after their course end date (usually 31 August / 30 September). The only exception to this is on a work placement as described below. **Masters level students are NOT considered to be on vacation during the summer months.**
- Postgraduate Research (PhD) Students: your vacation begins once you have **completed all your academic requirements** (i.e. submitted your thesis including final corrections).

What kind of work can I do during my studies?

You can do most kinds of work, but you must not:

- be self-employed
- provide services as a professional sportsperson or entertainer
- take a full time permanent vacancy

Work placements

You can work full-time on a work placement if:

- You have immigration permission (visa) as a Student/Tier 4 Student
- You must not spend more than 50% of the time on your course doing a work placement, or work placements.
- Your work placement must be an **assessed part** of your course, and it can take place at any point in your studies.
- Your employer is monitoring your attendance and reporting back to your department who remain responsible for you during the work placement.
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Internships

Some UK companies offer students an opportunity to undertake an internship during their vacations. All student/Tier 4 student visa holders are permitted to undertake an internship during the Christmas and Easter holidays. However, **only undergraduate students can undertake an internship during the summer vacation**. The summer vacation starts after your formal end of term (see www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/currentstudents/termdates)

MSc students who wish to undertake employment during the summer must adhere to the rules for work placements defined above.

Can I continue working after my course has ended?

Your Tier 4 student visa is likely to continue for **4-6 months after your course end date**. Upon reaching your formal course end date (on in the case of PhD students completing your academic work, i.e. submitting your dissertation/thesis including final corrections) you can start working full time on a temporary contract up until your visa expiry date or a maximum period of four months (whichever is sooner). **NB: If you are one a one year Masters level programme under the Tier 4 Pilot Scheme, you can work for the 6 month period granted at the end of your course.**

You must not continue working after this period even if your Tier 4 student visa lasts for more than 4 months beyond your course end date.

Once you reach your visa expiry date / the 4 month period after your course end date (whichever is sooner) you must either:

- Seek sponsorship from an employer for a Tier 2 General (Skilled Workers) visa.
- Seek sponsorship from Imperial College under Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) visa. Please note that there are limited places per participating institution.
- Investigate the possibility of a Tier 5 visa. Tier 5 covers temporary workers and the most relevant category within this tier for Imperial graduates is the "Tier 5 Temporary Worker – Government Authorised Exchange".
- PhD students may be eligible to apply for the Tier 4 Doctorate Extension Scheme
- Leave the UK.

Proof of eligibility to work in the UK

- For more information please see:
www.imperial.ac.uk/study/international-students/visas-and-immigration/working-in-the-uk-after-your-studies
- If your employer has any further questions about your eligibility to work in the UK, please ask them to contact the UK VI employers' helpline on 0300 123 4699. Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 17:00 and Friday 09:00 to 16:30 (excluding public holidays)

Please be aware that any breach of your Tier 4 student visa (such as working more than 20 hours per week when you are not permitted to do so) is considered a serious immigration offence and must be declared on any future UK visa applications.