



Tier 4 Key Messages

1. All education providers wishing to bring students from outside the EEA into the UK will need a licence from the UK Border Agency.
2. Education providers who want to be able to sponsor would-be students when Tier 4 opens to migrant applications in March 2009 should:
 - a) Apply no later than 2 February 2009 in order for the UK Border Agency to ensure that a sponsor application is processed in time for the March 2009 policy implementation.
 - b) Applications will still be accepted after this date, but the UK Border Agency cannot guarantee that the application will be processed in time for the March implementation date.
3. Education providers not recruiting students at this time will still need to ensure they are licensed by the UK Border Agency in time for any student intake after this date.
 - a) Any student visa applications or applications for an extension of leave made after the end of March will be refused if the education provider is not licensed by the UK Border Agency on the new Sponsor Register.
5. From the end of March 2009, students applying to come to the UK will be assessed under the new points system. Changes to the current system will include:
 - a) Only allowing adult students from overseas to study in the UK where they have a proven track record in studying before they come here; and
 - b) All students must be enrolled on a course at Level 3 or above on the National Qualification Framework (NQF) or its equivalent or a course at Level A2 of the European Common Framework of Reference for Language if they are seeking to learn English.
 - c) Students applying to come to the UK from March 2009 must show that they have:
 - i. Evidence of sufficient funds to pass a maintenance test;
 - ii. The education documents used to obtain an offer from the sponsor, such as qualification certificates.
 - d) From March 2009, education providers must:
 - i. Ensure that students comply with the terms of their visa; and
 - ii. comply with record keeping duties – keeping copies of passports, keeping and updating student contact details
5. In Autumn 2009 the UK Border Agency will trial the IT system to support the route. This will enable institutions to issue Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) to potential students, who must provide this when applying for a visa to the UK, and to fulfil their sponsorship obligations to report back to the UK Border Agency if a student fails to enrol.
 - a) Before the IT system is introduced, sponsors must issue potential students with acceptance of confirmation letter which includes the following:
 - i. the would be student's name, nationality and address in country of present residence;
 - ii. the sponsor's licence number;



- iii. course title;
- iv. course start date;
- v. expected course end date;
- vi. the list of documents used by the sponsor to assess academic ability to complete the course;
- vii. the would be student's passport number.

b) Reporting failure to enrol on a course, non-attendance and discontinuation of course will only be mandatory once the IT system is trialled in Autumn 2009, although sponsors will be able to provide these details voluntarily prior to this date.

- The Sponsorship Management System (SMS) will be available from Autumn 2009 for sponsors to trial the gradual roll out of issuing CAS across application types.

6. From February 2010, ALL potential students in and out of country will require a sponsor issued CAS to apply to the UK Border Agency. Sponsors will use the SMS to issue a CAS to all potential students who are applying in or out of country.

7. Further information on sponsorship under the points based system can be found at:
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points/>

The sponsorship and employers' helpline can be reached on **0845 010 6677**

8. Events are being held in November to aid those education establishments who will bring students from outside the EEA. The table below shows the date and contact for these events.

Location	Date	Timing	Email
London	17th November	AM and PM events	UKBALondon&SERegionEvents1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
Glasgow	19th November	PM Event	Lynn.Macintosh2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
Birmingham	21st November	AM and PM events	UKBABox1@ind.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk UKBABox2@ind.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk