



ACCREDITATION SERVICE  
*for*  
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGES

## TIER 4 – in a nutshell

The Tier 4 statement of intent was released by Liam Byrne MP in August 2008. Below you will find the key points of interest to ASIC accredited colleges. Full details of the Statement of intent can be found at

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/pbsdocs/statementofintent/studentsunderthepointsbased.pdf?view=Binary>

### General

- The new license will replace the existing Register of providers in spring 2009,
- There will be no automatic transfer from the register of providers to the new Sponsors Register,
- Private Colleges will need to prove that they are genuine institutions through a system of accreditation by a Government approved accrediting body. ASIC are one such body,
- Institutions will act as the sponsor of the student and need to issue a Confirmation of Acceptance of Study to the student (CAS),
- UKBA will make the final decision on who is permitted to study in the UK and will *rigorously* check all documentation provided. ECO in posts will check all financial documents and genuineness of qualifications. They will also check to see if the student has any adverse immigration history,  
(Please see the ASIC guidelines on visa documentation)
- Student visas will be granted for the whole period of study up to a maximum of 4 years.

### Institutions

- Need to be accredited by one of the Government approved accrediting bodies such as ASIC, **AND** apply to be a licensed sponsor in order to issue a CAS,
- All education providers will need to report to UKBA quickly, if students do not turn up for their designated course or do not attend lessons regularly,
- Visa students will be issued visas to attend a particular institution and they must inform UKBA if they change institution. A procedure will be put in place to facilitate this,
- All courses will need to lead to an approved qualification which is at least to NQF level 3, (see pages 11 and 12 of the Tier 4 Statement of intent)
- Overseas Nationals who wish to study at a level lower than NQF 3 or to study English, may do so under the student visitor route,

- Colleges offering courses that involve work placement will need to ensure that no more than 50% of the course is on work placement and that at least 50% of the course is based on tuition. NVQ courses should be at NVQ level 3 or above.

## **Students**

- Need to demonstrate that they have a proven track record of study,
- Students will be awarded points if they meet the objective points test demonstrating that they have a place on an approved course and sufficient funds to maintain themselves,
- A CAS does not guarantee a visa,
- UKBA will make the final decision on who will be issued a visa to study in the UK.

## **Licensing Arrangements**

There will be two rankings of sponsors licensing

**A Rated licenses:** These are issued where all the UKBA'S licensing conditions have been fully met. All colleges accepted for a license will automatically be A rated, regardless of who their approved accrediting body is.

**B Rated Licenses:** This ranking is viewed as a temporary ranking which will allow eligible sponsors to continue to sponsor students whilst giving them time to address any identified weaknesses.

In order to maintain sponsorship status institutions must continue to fulfil all requirements of accreditation, which include

- Keeping copies of student passports showing evidence of entitlement to study
- Keep up to date student contact details
- Report to UKBA any students who fail to enrol on their course
- Report to UKBA any unauthorised student absences as detailed in the ASIC conditions of accreditation
- Report to UKBA who discontinue their studies
- Report to UKBA any significant changes in student circumstances
- Maintain accreditation
- Continue to offer courses to international students which comply with UKBA regulations
- Comply with applicable PBS rules and the law
- Co operate with UKBA

Note: All institutions will be closely monitored by the appropriate accrediting body and the UKBA Compliance unit .

## **Record Keeping and Reporting Mechanisms**

Institutions will need to inform UKBA of details of any students who:

1. Fail to enrol no later than 10 days after the expected enrolment date.
2. Misses two weeks of a course .Note: SIC advise their accredited centres to monitor reasons for absence after missing two consecutive lessons.
3. Stops attending for any reason, within 10 study days of this being confirmed.
4. Defers their studies after arriving in the UK .

### **Consequences of large numbers of student no shows, poor attendance or students dropping out.**

This would raise concern by UKBA and ASIC regarding your recruitment policies and systems and could lead to the institution being temporarily downgraded to be B Rated.

In this instance both ASIC and UKBA will work closely with the college to identify problems and assist in improving the colleges recruitment systems.

When UKBA are satisfied that improvements have been made the institution would be reinstated to A Rated, but would be subject to close monitoring by the UKBA and ASIC.

ASIC will be pleased to help you to develop an ethical marketing strategy and we refer you to our series of seminars being offered in 2009.

### **Costs of the New system**

Sponsors License for Tier 4 only	£400 (one time only fee)
Confirmation of Acceptance of Study	£10 per student
Student Visa Fees	£99
Visa Extension Fee (in country)	
Postal	£295
Premium Applications (24 hr turnaround)	£500

### **Maintenance and Funds Test**

The following is a guideline for a student to demonstrate they have sufficient funds

1. *On courses less than 12 months*  
The cost of their course fees plus £800 per month up to a max of 12 months
2. *On courses of more than 12 months*  
First year of fees plus £9600 to cover their first year in the UK

## **Challenging UKBA Decisions (students)**

There will be more formal rights of appeal, however students are entitled to one administrative review per application if they feel an error has been made. Students will not be able to submit any further supporting evidence. The student also has the right to re apply

### **Detailed Information**

Tier 4 Statement of Intent in full:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/pbsdocs/statementofintent/studentsunderthepointsbased.pdf?view=Binary>

Approved Qualifications

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/recognisedukdegrees/index.cfm?fuseaction=institutes.list>

### **Where to find specific information in the Tier 4 statement of Intent**

Record Keeping	page 8
Courses with work placements	page 11
Approved Qualifications	page 11
Length of Leave	page 13
Examination Re sits and Repeat of Study	page 13
Extensions of stay	page 13
Student Application Process	page 16
Student Visitors	page 18
Accreditation requirements	page 20
Approved Accrediting Bodies	page 23
Switching whilst in the UK	page 25