



# World Youth and Student Travel Conference

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## Opportunities for youth travel and study in the UK

**Nigel Farminer**  
Head of Temporary Migration Team  
Immigration Policy



# Why a Points Based System?

## Points Based System has taken us from...

- 80 schemes and routes to work, train and study in the UK designed to meet particular needs as they arose
- A complex mix of application routes, some of which required separate work permits & visas
- Decisions based on wide range of entry criteria, some of which were subjective.

## To...

A five-tiered system designed to deliver in relation to UK economic and control objectives

A more straightforward application process for all applicants.

Decisions made using an expanded points system and other objective criteria with greater transparency

# Points Based System Overview

		Implementation dates
Tier 1	Highly skilled individuals to contribute to growth and productivity	29 February 2008
Tier 2	Skilled workers with a job offer to fill gaps in the UK labour force	27 November 2008
Tier 3	Limited numbers of low skilled workers needed to fill temporary labour shortages	<i>Currently Suspended</i>
Tier 4	Students	Ph2: 31 March 2009 Ph3: Autumn 2009 Ph4: February 2010
Tier 5	Youth mobility and temporary workers. People allowed to work in the UK for a limited period of time to satisfy primarily non-economic objectives	27 November 2008

Tiers 2 – 5 are underpinned by the new concept of sponsorship

# Benefit of students

The Government is committed to encouraging people of all ages from overseas to study and train in Britain because:

- International students contribute to the UK economy
- They bring cultural benefits
- They return home with an enhanced appreciation of British life, ideas and values
- As they rise to positions of influence in their professions, they are likely to look to Britain for ideas, technology, trade and investment
- Support for the education and training of students from developing countries is an integral part of HM Government's overseas development policy.

# Who can come to the UK under Tier 4?

**There are two types of visa under Tier 4:**

**Child Student** – for those studying at independent schools and any 16-17 year olds studying NQF level 2 courses at FE colleges; and

**General Student** - for all those coming to the UK for their post -16 education. General Student applicants can only apply to study for courses at a minimum level of National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 3 or equivalent or above. English language students are expected to have already started to learn English. The minimum level of course acceptable for this type of student is at Common European Framework of Reference for Languages level A2.

Both are considered according to simple, objective criteria

# Tier 4 – Phased Implementation

## Phase 1

28 July 2008.  
Sponsor register  
opens to Tier 4  
sponsors

## Phase 2

31 March 2009.  
Tier 4 policy is  
launched

## Phase 3

October 2009.  
Issue CAS on a  
voluntary/trial  
basis

## Phase 4

February 2010. Full  
IT implementation  
for all students in  
and out of country.  
Mandatory CAS  
usage

## Tier 4 – Phase 2

### How it is progressing

- Tier 4 has been operational since 31 March 2009
- Just over 1800 institutions on the sponsor register
- Applications numbers saw an initial dip, as we saw with all Tiers immediately after introduction, and are now returning to levels which are comparable with 2008
- Refusal rates were initially higher than last year, although never as high as rumoured, and have now returned to pre PBS levels
- Whilst UKBA acknowledges that some of our decisions have not been correct, in the majority of cases refusals have been due to Sponsors not putting the right information on the visa letter
- Overseas application turnaround times are strong: the standard target of 90% within 3 weeks is being met globally. 100% of applications are completed within 6 weeks.

## Tier 4 – Phase 2

### How it is progressing

BUT, we are not complacent

- Recent feedback from stakeholders about concerns of the education sector
- We are actively responding to queries about application inconsistencies
- We are targeting communications to share the facts about PBS
- We are committed to making this work and to seeking out and responding to feedback
- We believe PBS is working – but we need to work harder to communicate this

# Tier 5: Temporary Workers

Tier 5: Temporary Workers of the Points Based System comprises five subcategories:

- **Creative & Sporting** - for applicants who are coming to the UK for short term contracts or engagements in these sectors
- **Religious Worker** - those coming to work temporarily as religious workers, who may preach, do pastoral work or non-pastoral work
- **Charity Worker** - for migrants to take up unpaid voluntary work in line with the aims of the UK sponsor which must be a charity
- **Government Authorised Exchange** - for applicants coming through approved schemes to share knowledge, experience and best practice through work placements, whilst experiencing the wider social and cultural life of the UK
- **International Agreement** - for those coming to the UK under contract to provide a service covered under international law

## Tier 5: Temporary Workers Government Authorised Exchange

- Around 40 schemes have been established under this category.
- Schemes provide a wide variety of opportunities for migrants of all ages to come to the UK to gain skills in a variety of sectors through work placements, for a maximum of two years
- Schemes include: BUNAC Intern in Britain scheme, Fullbright UK/US Teacher Exchange Programme, The Law Society scheme for migrant lawyers (covers internships and placements), the Mountbatten Programme.
- Full list of schemes and contact details available on UKBA website at:  
[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/tier5/governmentauthorisedexchanged](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/tier5/governmentauthorisedexchanged)

## Tier 5: Youth Mobility Scheme

- The Tier 5: Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) is for sponsored young people aged 18-30 who wish to live and work in the UK for up to 24 months.
- Countries must first apply to join the YMS and show that they meet the criteria for the scheme which relate to
  - » Low immigration risk
  - » Satisfactory returns arrangements
  - » Reciprocal provision for young UK nationals
- So far the YMS is operated with the following countries: Japan, Canada, and Australia and New Zealand.

# Visitors

- The visitor routes sit outside the Points Based System and allow entry to the UK, normally for up to 6 months.
- Visitors are not permitted to take any employment, whether paid or unpaid, during their stay in the UK.
- The General visitor route allows for the entry of tourists to the UK.
- The Student visitor route allows students wishing to undertake a short course of study, for up to six months.
- Information on other visitor routes is available on the UKBA website at: [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visitingtheuk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visitingtheuk)