Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.
Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

About this guidance

This guidance tells you about the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category of the points-based system (PBS).

It is based on the Immigration Rules part 6A, paragraphs 245F to 245FC and appendix A.

This route is for graduates who UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) identify as having developed genuine and credible business ideas and entrepreneurial skills to go on to establish one or more businesses in the UK.

Applicants must provide a letter of endorsement from an endorsing body which can award them a maximum of 75 points for attributes.

For the purpose of the Immigration Rules a business is defined as a:

- sole trader
- partnership, or
- company registered in the UK.

Applicants are only allowed a maximum of two years under this route:

- You may grant leave to remain (permission to stay in the UK) for an initial period of one year.
- You may grant an extension for a further year, if their existing endorsing body continues to sponsor them. Or
- You may grant an extension of leave, if they wish to switch endorsing body for their second year of leave.
- Applicants can still only be granted a maximum of two years in total.

Changes to this guidance – This page tells you what has changed since the previous
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## Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

### Key facts

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| Application forms | Entry clearance – VAF9 Appendix 4: Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) |
| | Leave to remain or extension (within UK) – Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Cost of application:</th>
<th>Fees for Home Office services</th>
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</table>

| Is biometric information required for applications made in the UK? | Yes |

| Entry clearance endorsement | CAT D: Tier 1 (Entrepreneur-G) Migrant |

| Length of entry clearance to be granted | 12 months |

| Code of leave to remain granted | Code 4C |
|                               | Code 4B (if application was submitted on or before 5 April 2013). |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Conditions of leave to remain</th>
<th>Entry clearance and leave to remain under this route is subject to the following conditions:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• no recourse to public funds</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• registration with the police, if this is required by paragraph 326 of the Immigration Rules</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• no employment as a doctor or dentist in training, and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• no employment as a professional sportsperson (including as a sports coach).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Historically, applications submitted on or before 5 April 2013, said that applicants must not work in any other employment of more than 20 hours per week.
| How long is leave to remain normally granted for? | • One year.  
• Applications for a further one year period are permitted.  
• Maximum of two years total grant of leave allowed under Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur). |
| Are dependants allowed? | Yes |
| Work and study allowed? | Yes |
| Switching into this category allowed? | Switching into the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category is only allowed if the applicant has or has last been granted leave as a:  
• Tier 4 student  
• student  
• student nurse  
• student re-sitting an examination  
• student writing up a thesis  
• postgraduate doctor or dentist  
• Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant, or  
• Tier 2 (General) migrant - An applicant who has, or was last granted, leave as a Tier 2 (General) migrant must have permission to work as a post-doctoral researcher for the same institution which is endorsing their application as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant.  
Applicants must not have previously been granted entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain as a:  
• Tier 1 (Post study Work) migrant  
• participant in the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme, or  
• participant in the International Graduates Scheme, or,  
• the Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme. |
| Does this category lead to settlement (indefinite leave to remain)? | No |
| CID case type | T1 HS- GE Global- LTR, T1 HS- GE General- LTR |
| Immigration Rules paragraphs | Paragraph 245F – 245FC |
Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Changes to this guidance

This page lists changes to the ‘Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)’ guidance, with the most recent at the top.

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<tr>
<td>11 July 2014</td>
<td>Change request:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Qualifications:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Sub-heading 'Last granted under Tier 2' first sentence amended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 July 2014</td>
<td>Change request:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Maintenance (funds):</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Sub-heading 'Level of funding' figures changed.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>o Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur): evidence required for maintenance:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Sub-heading 'Endorsement from UK Trade and Investment (UKTI)' figures changed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 April 2013</td>
<td>Completely revised by the points-based system operational policy team and the modernising guidance team.</td>
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Related links
Qualifications
See also
Contact
Information owner
External links
Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC
Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

***Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) entry and leave to remain requirements***

This page tells you the requirements a person must meet to be granted entry clearance or leave to remain as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) applicant.

Before you consider an application you must check the:

- application is valid
- applicant's passport or travel document is genuine
- application and biometric information are registered and verified.

For more information, see related links:

- Specified application forms and procedures
- General reasons for refusing
- Biometric information.

**Requirements of paragraph 245FB**

To be granted leave as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur), a person must meet the following requirements:

- score 75 points for attributes
- score 10 points for English language
- score 10 points for maintenance
- for leave to remain—last granted entry clearance or leave to remain as a:
  - Tier 4 student
  - student
  - student nurse
  - student re-sitting an examination
  - student writing up a thesis
  - postgraduate doctor or dentist
  - Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur), or
  - Tier 2 (General) migrant.
They must not have:

- Ever previously been granted entry clearance, leave to enter or remain as a:
  - Tier 1 (Post-study work) migrant
  - participant of the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme, or
  - participant in the International Graduates Scheme (or its predecessor, the Science and Engineering Graduates Scheme).
- Previously been granted leave as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) more than once.
- Been in breach of immigration laws, except any period of overstaying in the UK for a period of 28 days or less that will be disregarded.

An applicant who does not have, or was not last granted, leave to remain as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant or Tier 2 (General) migrant and:

- is currently sponsored in their studies by a government or international scholarship agency, or
- was being sponsored in their studies by a government or international scholarship agency, and that sponsorship came to an end 12 months ago or less

must provide with the application:

- unconditional written consent of the sponsoring government or agency, and
- any specified documents needed to show this requirement has been met.

Applicants are also subject to the following conditions. They:

- must register with the police if required under paragraph 326 of the rules
- cannot have recourse to public funds
- cannot be employed as a:
  - doctor or dentist in training, or
  - professional sportsperson (including as a sports coach).

Translations
All documents provided with an application must be in English. If they are not the applicant
must provide the original and a full translation which has been independently verified.

The translation must:

- confirm that it is an accurate translation of the original document
- be dated
- include the full name and original signature of the translator or an authorised official of the translation company
- include the translator or translation company’s contact details, and
- be fully certified and include details of the translator or translation company’s credentials, if the applicant is applying in the UK.

**Where specified evidence does not meet all the requirements**

If the specified evidence does not meet all the requirements of the rules it may be appropriate for you to contact the applicant or their representative, where applicable, to allow them to correct this. For example, if a bank statement from a series of statements is missing. For more information see related link: Points – based system – evidential flexibility.
**Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)**

**Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur): limits**

This page tells you about the limit on approvals allowed in the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category.

The Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) limit is 2,000 places each year (from 6 April to 5 April). These are allocated as follows:

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<th>Type of endorsement:</th>
<th>Number of places:</th>
<th>Allocated to:</th>
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<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Qualifying UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for them to endorse graduates in any subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) for the purpose of endorsing overseas graduates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This limit does not apply to an extension from an applicant who has, or last had, leave to remain as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant.
## Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

### Points scoring

This section tells you the points scoring requirements in the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category.

To obtain leave in this category an applicant must score:

- 75 points for attributes
- 10 points for English language
- 10 points for maintenance.

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### Attributes

This page tells you how points are scored in the attributes requirement for the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category.

#### Attributes: pass mark = 75 points

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points available</th>
<th>25</th>
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- The applicant has been endorsed by a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) which:
  - has highly trusted sponsor status under Tier 4 of the points-based system
  - is an A-rated sponsor under Tier 2 of the points-based system if a Tier 2 licence is held
  - is an A-rated sponsor under Tier 5 of the points-based system if a Tier 5 licence is held
  - has degree-awarding powers, and
  - has established processes and competence for identifying, nurturing and developing entrepreneurs amongst undergraduates and postgraduates. Or

- The applicant has been endorsed by UK Trade and Investment.

The applicant has been awarded a degree qualification (not a qualification of equivalent level which is not a degree), which meets or exceeds the recognised standard of a bachelor's degree in the UK. For overseas qualifications, the standard must be confirmed by UK NARIC.

The endorsement must confirm that the endorsing body has assessed the applicant and considers the applicant:

- has a genuine and credible business idea
- will spend the majority of their working time on developing
business ventures, and

- has made satisfactory progress in developing their business since that leave was granted, if they are applying for leave to remain and their last grant of leave was as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur).

For more information, see related links:

- Endorsement
- Qualifications.

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<tr>
<th><strong>English language: pass mark = 10 points</strong></th>
<th><strong>Points available</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence to prove the applicant speaks English to the required standard and meets the requirements.</td>
<td>10</td>
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**Maintenance: pass mark = 10**

For leave to remain in the UK the applicant must have specified funds. For more information see related link. 10

For more information, see related links:

- English language
- Maintenance.
Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Endorsement

This page tells you about the endorsement an applicant in the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category needs.

For initial applications, you must establish if the applicant has received an endorsement from a UK Higher Educational Institution (HEI) or UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). For a list of approved UK HEIs see related link: Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) authorised endorsing bodies.

The applicant must provide an original endorsement letter from UK HEI or UKTI, which shows:

- endorsement reference number
- date of issue (including a statement on how long the letter is valid for)
- applicant's name
- applicant's date of birth
- applicant's nationality
- applicant's current passport number
- details of any dependants of the applicant who are already in the UK or who the applicant intends to bring to the UK
- name of the endorsing body
- name and contact details of the authorising official of the endorsing body
- name, level and date of award of the applicant’s qualification, unless the endorsement is a global endorsement or the applicant was last granted leave as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant
- applicant's intended business sector or business intention
- what has led the endorsing body to endorse the application, and
- if the applicant was last granted leave as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant, confirmation the endorsing body is satisfied they have made satisfactory progress.

Points cannot be awarded for an endorsement if:

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In this section

- Attributes
- Qualifications
- English language requirement
- Maintenance
- External links

- Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) authorised endorsing bodies
- Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC
- UK NARIC
• It has been used more than three months after date of issue.
• It has been withdrawn by the endorsing body. Or
• The endorsing body has lost its status as an endorsing institution, including being downgraded on the Tier 4 or Tier 2 and/or 5 sponsor registers. Endorsing bodies must still hold the relevant status at the date of decision.
Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Qualifications

This page tells you the qualifications necessary to score points in the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category.

**Endorsement from the same UK Higher Educational Institution (HEI) that awarded the degree**

If the endorsement is from the same UK HEI that awarded the applicant the degree and the endorsement confirms the applicant has been awarded with a UK recognised qualification of bachelor, masters or PhD level, the applicant does not need to submit further evidence of the degree.

**Endorsement from a different UK HEI to the one that awarded the degree or UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) issued global endorsement**

Points will only be awarded for:

- qualification awarded by a different body to the one issuing the endorsement
- global endorsement from UKTI

if they provide the following specified documents:

- The original certificate of award of the qualification, which clearly shows the:
  - applicant’s name
  - title of the award
  - date of the award, and
  - name of the awarding institution.
- If the qualification certificate is not available an original academic reference from the institution awarding the degree together with an original academic transcript if:
  - the applicant is awaiting graduation having successfully completed their degree, or
  - the applicant no longer has the certificate and the institution who issued the certificate is unable to produce a replacement.
- The original academic reference must be on the official headed paper of the institution and clearly show the:
- applicant’s name
- title of the award
- date of the award confirming that it has been or will be awarded
- Either the date that the certificate will be issued (if the applicant has not yet graduated) or confirmation that the institution is unable to reissue the original certificate or award.

- They must also provide an academic transcript on the official headed paper of the institution and clearly show:
  - applicant’s name
  - name of the academic institution
  - course title, and
  - confirmation of the award.

**Original certificate not available**
If, for one of the reasons above, the applicant cannot provide their original certificate and is claiming points for a qualification with a significant research bias (such as a doctorate) an academic transcript is not required if the applicant provides an academic reference which includes all of the information detailed above.

**Details of qualification not found**
If an applicant cannot find details of their qualification on the points based calculator on the Home Office website, they must also provide an original letter or certificate from UK NARIC confirming the equivalency of the level of their qualification.

**Last granted under Tier 2**
If the applicant’s last grant of leave was as a Tier 2 (General) migrant and the applicant is applying for leave to remain as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur), they must have been working as a post-doctoral researcher, the UK HEI must be the same Tier 2 sponsor that sponsored the applicant for their last grant of leave, and the endorsement must confirm the applicant has at any time been awarded a UK recognised bachelor’s degree, masters degree or PhD (not a qualification of equivalent level which is not a degree) from a UK HEI.

**UK recognised degree**
To be recognised as a bachelors, masters or PhD level degree it must be awarded by a UK
recognised body.

A UK recognised body is an institution that has been granted awarding powers by:

- A Royal Charter
- Act of Parliament, or
- the Privy Council.

For more information on recognised bodies see related link: Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) authorised endorsing bodies

**Unacceptable qualifications**

- foundation degrees
- honorary degrees
- qualifications awarded in the UK by overseas awarding bodies
- professional and vocational qualifications
- postgraduate certificates and diplomas.

**Equivalent qualifications**

Points cannot be awarded to any qualification equivalent to, but not, a PHD, bachelors or masters degree. For example, a vocational qualification at bachelor degree level that is not itself a degree.
## Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

### English language requirement

This page tells you how a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) applicant can meet the English language requirement.

An applicant satisfies the English language requirement if they have an endorsement from the same UK Higher Educational Institution (HEI) that awarded their degree. The applicant has therefore demonstrated they have a degree level qualification taught in English.

If the applicant has an endorsement from a UK HEI that did not award their degree, or an endorsement from UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), they can meet the English language requirement by:

- being a national of a majority English speaking country
- passing an English language test
- holding a degree:
  - taught in English, and
  - is equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree or above.

The applicant can also meet the English language requirement, without the need to provide evidence, if they have ever been given permission to stay in the UK as a:

- Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant, Tier 1 (Entrepreneur) migrant, Tier 1 (Post-study work) migrant or Tier 1 (General) migrant
- businessperson (under paragraphs 200-210 of the Immigration Rules)
- highly skilled migrant programme (HSMP) participant under the Immigration Rules which came into force on 5 December 2006
- Tier 2 (General) migrant under the rules in place from 6 April 2011, provided they got points for achieving or exceeding level B1 of the Council of Europe’s Common European Framework for Language learning in all four components:
  - reading
  - writing
  - speaking, and
- Tier 1 (Exceptional talent) migrant providing they scored points for their English language ability in that application
- Tier 4 (General) student and the confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS) used to support the application was assigned on or after 21 April 2011
- Minister of Religion (not as a Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) migrant) under the rules in place on or after 19 April 2007, or
- Tier 2 (Minister of religion) migrant, provided that when they got that leave they got points for English language for:
  - being a national of a majority English speaking country
  - having a degree taught in English, or
  - passing an English language test.
**Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)**

**Maintenance (funds)**

This section tells caseworkers the maintenance requirements for the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category of the points-based system.

**Level of funding**

If the applicant applies for leave to remain, they must score 10 points for maintenance by showing they have at least £945 of available funds.

If the applicant applies for entry clearance, they must score 10 points for maintenance by showing they have at least £1890 of available funds.

If the applicant cannot score 10 points for maintenance, you must refuse their application, even if they have met all the other requirements.

**Awarding points**

You must award the applicant 10 points if:

- they have personal savings (in line with the appropriate amounts listed above) held for a consecutive 90 day period (finishing on the date of the closing balance on the statement), ending no more than 31 days before the date of their application,
- UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) confirms in the endorsement letter it has awarded the appropriate amount of maintenance funding to the applicant.

When the funds are in a currency other than pounds sterling, you must use the:

- rates published on the OANDA website to convert the amount (see related link), and
- exchange rate on the date of the application.

**Acceptable funds**

Evidence must be in the form of cash funds held in an account (this includes savings accounts and current accounts even when notice must be given).
| **Unacceptable funds**  
Other accounts or financial instruments such as shares, bonds, overdrafts, credit cards, pension funds, are not acceptable, regardless of notice period.  

You must not consider any money earned during a time they were in breach of the UK immigration laws as evidence of maintenance funds. For example, you can only consider earnings made in the UK if the applicant had leave to enter or remain in the UK at the time they were earned, and in a category which permitted them to take that employment.  

For more information on the evidence needed for maintenance, see related link: Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) - evidence required for maintenance  

| **Multiple or joint accounts**  
If the applicant supplies evidence of multiple accounts (on which they are named), you can take the closing balance of the account that most favours the applicant as long as it ends no earlier than 31 days before the date of application, and use any other monies from any other accounts to make up the funds required.  

If the money is in a joint account the applicant’s name must be on the account along with one or more other named individual(s).  

| **Dependants**  
Any dependants must also provide evidence they have access to sufficient funds, even if they are joining the applicant at a later date. For more information on what funds they need and how to calculate there is sufficient, see related link: Points-based system (dependants) policy guidance. |
Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) evidence required for maintenance

This page tells caseworkers what evidence an applicant must provide as proof of maintenance to support an application under Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur).

**Endorsement from UK Trade and Investment (UKTI)**

No further evidence is required from the applicant for maintenance if UKTI confirms in the endorsement letter it has awarded the applicant funding of at least:

- £1890 (for entry clearance applications), or
- £945 (for leave to remain applications).

If the endorsement does not state the applicant and/or their dependants are awarded funding, they must provide evidence of their own money using the evidence below.

**All other cases**

The applicant must provide evidence of personal savings which cover a period of 90 consecutive days, and end no more than 31 days before the date of application.

The documents must:

- be original
- be on the organisation’s official letter-headed paper or stationery
- have the organisation’s official stamp (if the applicant provides a print out of electronic statements from an account), and
- have been issued by an authorised official of that organisation.

**Evidence**

Evidence must be in the form of cash funds held in an account (this includes savings accounts and current accounts even when notice must be given). Other accounts or financial instruments such as shares, bonds, overdrafts, credit cards, pension funds, are not acceptable, regardless of notice period.

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If it is a joint account the applicant must be named on the account along with one or more other named individual.

The applicant must provide one of the following:

- Personal bank or building society statements covering 90 consecutive days. The most recent statement must be dated no earlier than 31 days before the date of the application.
- Building society pass book covering 90 consecutive days and ending no earlier than 31 days before the date of application.
- A letter from a financial institution regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulatory Authority (PRA) or, in the case of an overseas account, the home regulator (official regulatory body for the country in which the institution operates and the funds are located), confirming the funds and that they have been in the bank for at least 90 days. The letter and balance end period must be dated no earlier than 31 days before the date of application.

The information must clearly show:

- the applicant's name
- the account number
- the date of the statement
- the financial institution's name and logo
- transactions covering the 90 day period, and
- there are sufficient funds present in the account.

You can accept as evidence:

- other bank statements printed on the bank's letterhead
- electronic bank statements if:
  - they contain all of the details listed above
  - the applicant provides a supporting letter from the bank, on company headed paper, confirming the statements provided are authentic, or
  - the statements have the official bank stamp on every page.
You must not accept:

- mini-statements from automatic teller machines (ATMs), or
- statements which simply show the balance in the account on a particular day.

These do not show the applicant holds enough funds for the full period required.

You must not consider any money earned during a time that the applicant was in breach of the UK's immigration laws as evidence of maintenance funds.
This page tells you the requirements for an applicant already in the UK as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) who wishes to extend their leave.

An applicant can claim the full 75 points for attributes if they make an extension application and:

- their previous grant of leave was as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)
- an endorsing body shows they are satisfied the applicant has made satisfactory progress
- they have a new endorsement from the same endorsing body that endorsed their original application, or
- they have a new endorsement from a different endorsing body to that of their initial application.

For extensions, the UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) does not need to be on the current list of endorsing bodies (with places in the limit). However, to endorse extensions, the UK HEI must still meet the attributes listed in table 10 of appendix A of the Immigration Rules. They must:

- have highly trusted sponsor (HTS) status under Tier 4 of the points-based system
- be an A-rated Sponsor under Tier 2 of the points-based system if a Tier 2 licence is held
- be an A-rated Sponsor under Tier 5 of the points-based system if a Tier 5 licence is held
- have degree-awarding powers, and
- have established processes and competence for identifying, nurturing and developing entrepreneurs with its undergraduates and postgraduates.

The maximum time available as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant is two years in total, not necessarily two consecutive periods of leave. An applicant can therefore have an
extension which may be with their original or new endorsing body.
## Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

### Curtailing leave

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<tr>
<td>Key facts</td>
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<td>Curtailing leave</td>
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This page tells you about curtailing the leave of a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant. You can curtail a migrant’s leave in this category if the institution that endorsed the application for the current grant of leave:

- loses its status as an endorsing institution for Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrants
- loses its highly trusted status for any reason
- ceases to be an A-rated sponsor under Tier 2 or Tier 5 of the points-based system because the licence is downgraded or revoked, or
- withdraws the migrant’s endorsement.

The Home Office may also curtail leave for other reasons, for example if the applicant commits a serious offence or breaches the conditions of their stay.

For more information see related link: Curtailment of leave.
## Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) change of circumstances

This page tells you about a change of circumstances for a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant.

The applicant must use the appropriate form:

### A change form (see related link: changes during your stay) to change:

- contact details
- details of criminal convictions
- representative’s details, or
- dependants’ details.

If not already done so you must note the change of circumstances on GCID.

### If the current grant of leave is a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP), to change their:

- name
- date of birth
- nationality
- gender, or
- appearance.

A new application must be sent on form NTL or TOC, see related link: Transfer your visa to a new passport.
## Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

### About this guidance
This page tells caseworkers how to issue or refuse an application under the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category of the points-based system.

### Key facts
This page tells caseworkers how to issue or refuse entry clearance for a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) applicant.

### Grant entry clearance
You must issue entry clearance if:

- the applicant meets all the requirements of paragraphs 245F-245FC of the Immigration Rules, and
- none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 320 apply.

### Length of entry clearance
If the application is issued the applicant will be given 12 months entry clearance.

The endorsement is: CAT D: Tier 1 (Entrepreneur-G) Migrant.

### Refusing entry clearance
You must refuse the application:

- when the applicant has not provided the required evidence to show they meet all of the requirements of the relevant paragraphs of the Immigration Rules, or
- if any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 320 apply.

### Appeal rights
There are no appeal rights for those applying overseas, except where the appeal is on human rights or race discrimination grounds.

Applicants can ask for an administrative review if they feel there is an error in their decision.
Granting leave to remain
You must grant leave to remain if:

- the applicant meets all the requirements of paragraph 245FB of the Immigration Rules, and
- none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 323 apply (see related link).

You must grant leave on code 4C.

The wording on the Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) is as follows.

Front:

- T1 GE MIGRANT – LTR / T1 GE GLOBAL – LTR
- LEAVE TO REMAIN
- RESTRICTED WORK
- NO DR/DEN TRAIN
- OR SPORTSPERSON.

Reverse:

- NO PUBLIC FUNDS
- REGISTER/REPORT TO POLICE (if applicable).

For applications submitted on or before 05/04/2013, you must grant leave on code 4B

Front:

- GR ENTREPRENEUR
- LEAVE TO REMAIN
- BUSINESS AND
- 20HR WORK NO DR
- DEN TRAIN/SPORT

Reverse:

- NO PUBLIC FUNDS
- REGISTER/REPORT TO POLICE (if applicable).

**Refuse leave**

You must refuse leave if:

- the applicant does not meet all of the requirements of paragraphs 245FB of the Immigration Rules
- any of the general grounds for refusal apply, or
- the applicant is in breach of immigration laws, except:
  - for any period of overstaying for 28 days or less which will be disregarded, or
  - if the application was submitted before 9 July 2012.

For more information, see related links:

- Applications from overstayers (non family routes)
- 1.0 – Rights of Appeal.
### Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

**Conditions of leave**

This page tells caseworkers about the conditions an applicant must meet if they are granted leave as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant.

Applicants granted leave in this category are subject to the following conditions:

- no recourse to public funds
- they must register with the police, if they are required to do so by paragraph 326 of the Immigration Rules, and
- they cannot take employment as a:
  - doctor or dentist in training
  - professional sportsperson (including as a sports coach), for applications submitted on or before 5 April 2013, or
  - any other employment of more than 20 hours per week.

For more information, see related links:

- Public funds
- Police registration
- Immigration Rules - paragraph 326.

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**Related links**

- Immigration Rules - paragraph 326

**External links**

- Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC
Managing the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) inbox

About this guidance
This page tells caseworkers how to manage the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) inbox.

Key facts
You must check the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) mailbox on a daily basis. Below are examples of the types of emails you may receive and how to deal with them.

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) entry and leave to remain requirements
Once you have dealt with the email you must move it from the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) inbox to the ‘Endorsement Notifications’ folder, see related link.

Points scoring
The endorsing body have issued an endorsement
They will have provided a copy of the endorsement with the email. You must update the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) limit monitoring spreadsheet stored in the team’s local area.

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur): limits
Each endorsing body has a specific number of secure reference numbers (SRNs). You must record the applicant’s details against the correct SRN detailed on the endorsement.

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur): application for extension of leave
You must record the following information and then save the spreadsheet:

- date of the endorsement
- applicant’s name
- qualification details, and
- business intention.

Curtailing leave

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur): change of circumstances

Grant or refuse entry clearance, leave to remain or extension

Conditions of leave

Managing the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) inbox

The endorsing body has withdrawn their endorsement for an applicant
The endorsing body can withdraw their endorsement at any time, including during the application process or after the application is approved.

Identify at what stage of the process the application is at on CID:

- If there is no application currently recorded you must record details of the endorsing body’s decision on the limit monitoring spreadsheet. Change the status from ‘Endorsement Given’ to ‘Endorsement Withdrawn.

Dependants

Related links
Links to staff intranet removed

External links
Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC
• If the application is under consideration you must record details of the endorsing body’s decision on CID comments. An example of the wording required is below, then record the decision on the limit monitoring spreadsheet:
  o ‘Notification received from (State name of endorsing body) on (date). The HEI has advised the Home Office they no longer wish to endorse the migrant (Reason).’
• If a grant of leave has already been made the applicant’s current leave may fall to be curtailed you must follow the current curtailment guidance, see related link.

The endorsing body says the applicant has missed their regular contact
The applicant must make contact with the endorsing body on a regular basis. The endorsing body must advise the Home Office if the applicant has missed a contact. Update CID notes with the missed contact.

If the endorsing body states they wish to withdraw their sponsorship, follow the instructions above.

The endorsing body is asking a policy question or general query
If you cannot provide a direct response to the endorsing body you must liaise with your higher executive officer (HEO) and complete a policy referral form. You must send a holding response to the endorsing body.

Once you have received a response from the HEO you must reply to the endorsing body.

The Higher Education Institution (HEI) has had their licence revoked
If you receive notification a licence is revoked or downgraded, you must take the following action:

• update the limit monitoring spreadsheet
• change the Sponsor status field to void then contact the curtailments team giving them the details of any other applicants associated with that HEI, and
• provide the applicants full name and case ID.

The endorsing body says the applicant is breaching their conditions
You must establish if there is enough evidence to curtail the applicant. If there is enough
evidence to prove the applicant is breaching their conditions you must complete the curtailment in line with current procedures, see related link.

If there is not enough evidence note CID with details of the endorsing body email and no further action is required.

**An overseas post is requesting verification of an endorsement**
You must check the SRN and applicant details given by the post match with the details given previously by the endorsing body which are stored on the limit monitoring spreadsheet.

If the details match those on the spreadsheet you must respond to the post confirming the details supplied are correct.

If the details do not match you must send a holding response to the post and contact the endorsing body to confirm the endorsement is as issued.

You must:

- update the spreadsheet with the endorsement details if the endorsement is correct, and
- confirm the information with the post as received from the endorsing body.

**An overseas post is notifying a case decision**
You must check the details of the applicant on the limit monitoring spreadsheet, to make sure it matches, and update it with the post decision.
Dependants

This page tells caseworkers which dependants can join a person who comes to the UK as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant.

Under paragraphs 319A-319K of the Immigration Rules, the following dependants are allowed to come to the UK to join a person granted entry clearance or leave to remain in this category, provided they meet the requirements of the rules:

- spouse, civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner, and
- dependent children.

For more information on the requirements that dependants must meet in order to be granted leave in line with a Tier 1 migrant, see related links:

- Family members of points-based system migrants
Contact

This page explains who to contact for more help with a specific case in the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category.

If you have read the relevant Immigration Rules and this guidance and still need more help with this category, you must first ask your senior caseworker or line manager.

If the question cannot be answered at that level, you may email work operational policy team for guidance on the policy.

Changes to this guidance can only be made by the Guidance, rules and forms team (GRaFT). If you think the policy content needs amending you must contact the work operational policy team (see related link), who will ask the GRaFT to update the guidance, if appropriate.

The GRaFT will accept direct feedback on broken links, missing information or the format, style and navigability of this guidance. You can send these using the related link: Email: Guidance, rules and forms team.
This page tells you about this version of the ‘Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)’ guidance and who owns it.

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<td>Naomi Hatton</td>
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<td>Head of migration policy</td>
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