

## **Home Office immigration action against education institutions: factsheet**

### **Sponsor suspensions June 2014**

Universities and colleges that wish to recruit students from outside the European Economic Area under Tier 4 of the immigration Points Based System must hold a Tier 4 sponsor licence.

The Home Office has a responsibility to take immediate action where we have reason to believe that a sponsor is no longer fulfilling its obligations. Education providers have a duty to take their immigration responsibilities seriously.

On 24 June 2014, the Home Office took action against three universities:

- Glyndwr University (Tier 4 licence suspended);
- University of West London (assigned zero Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies i.e. unable to sponsor new students); and
- University of Bedfordshire (assigned zero Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies i.e. unable to sponsor new students).

In addition, the Home Office suspended the Tier 4 sponsor licences of 57 private colleges. The vast majority of Tier 4 sponsors and international students were not affected by this action.

### **Latest update 06 January 2015:**

The Home Office reinstated the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) allocation for the University of Bedfordshire on 5 August 2014 and University of West London on 3 September 2014. We have worked closely with these universities to improve their standards for recruiting international students and will continue to work with them to ensure these standards are maintained.

The Home Office reinstated the sponsor licence of Glyndwr University on 21 November 2014 on a limited basis, until a further review in January 2015. The reinstatement is subject to strict conditions.

The Home Office has revoked the Tier 4 sponsor licences of a number of private colleges (listed below).

## **What support is available for students at an institution that has surrendered its licence or had its licence revoked?**

The Home Office set up a sponsorship working group with representatives from the education sector, to discuss how the sector can support students about whom we have not been notified by ETS of a withdrawn English language test certificate. The Home Office informed the group of any new developments, while other working group members reported any issues affecting students.

The members of the sponsorship working group are listed below:

1. Association of Colleges (AoC)
2. Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)
3. British Council (BC)
4. English UK
5. Guild HE
6. Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
7. Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)
8. Million+
9. National Union of Students (NUS)
10. Russell Group
11. Scottish Funding Council
12. Study UK
13. UCAS
14. UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)
15. Universities UK (UUK)
16. University Alliance
17. Welsh Assembly Government

The working group has developed an online Course Information Tool (CIT) to help students about whom we have not been notified by ETS of a withdrawn English language test certificate and who were studying at the institutions listed below, to find an alternative sponsor. The CIT contains details of courses that licensed Tier 4 sponsors are offering to students who wish to find a new sponsor, in order to continue their studies in the UK.

## **When can students whose sponsor's licence has been revoked take action to find a new sponsor?**

Students can choose to use the CIT or to find a new sponsor by other means.

The CIT is now available for use and the Home Office is currently writing to students that are being assisted as part of the working group process, with details of how to access the tool. These students can use the tool as soon as they receive the details from the Home Office.

Students who have been studying at an institution that has surrendered its licence or had its licence revoked, do not need a curtailment letter from the Home Office in order to find a new sponsor. Sponsors wishing to offer a course place to such a student do not need to see a curtailment letter before they issue a CAS.

## **What action is the Home Office taking in relation to these students' leave to remain in the UK?**

The Home Office is writing to students being assisted by the working group to tell them that their leave to remain in the UK is being curtailed. In most cases, leave will be curtailed to 60 days from the date of the letter, to give them time to find a new sponsor and apply to the Home Office to extend their leave.

The Home Office has delayed taking this action until December, to give students being assisted by the working group the opportunity to apply for courses starting in the New Year.

Students who have travelled overseas since the revocation/surrender of their sponsor's licence must apply for a new visa if they wish to return to the UK. If they attempt to enter the UK without obtaining a new visa, they will be refused entry.

## **Can the Home Office help students in relation to tuition fees?**

The Home Office cannot assist students seeking a refund of any educational fees. Students should discuss any such issues directly with the institution involved. If an individual feels that they have been the victim of financial fraud, then they should contact the Police or seek legal advice.

## Which students can use the Course Information Tool?

Students about whom we have not been notified by ETS of a withdrawn English language test certificate, from the following list of institutions can use the CIT, upon receiving a letter from the Home Office with their log-in details:

1. Alpha College – Revoked
2. Alpha Meridian College – Revoked
3. APS Computer Solutions Ltd Trading As Pitman Training Centre Peterborough – Revoked
4. Birmingham Informatics College Ltd – Revoked
5. Birmingham Institute of Education Training and Technology – Revoked
6. Blake Hall College – Revoked
7. Bradford College of Management – Surrendered
8. Bradford Metropolitan College – Revoked
9. Bradford Regional College – Revoked
10. Bristol College of Accountancy – Revoked
11. Britain College – Surrendered
12. CAHRO Academy Ltd – Revoked
13. Central College London (a division of Huawei Institute) – Revoked
14. Central College of Studies (CCS) – Revoked
15. Central Cranbrook College – Revoked
16. Citizen 2000 Education Institute – Revoked
17. City College Nottingham – Revoked
18. City of London Academy – Revoked
19. College of Advanced Studies – Revoked
20. College of East London – Revoked
21. College of Excellence Limited – Revoked
22. Docklands College – Revoked
23. Empress College – Surrendered
24. Essex College Ltd – Revoked
25. Eynsford College – Revoked
26. Forbes Graduate School – Revoked
27. Hammersmith Management College – Revoked
28. Helios International College – Revoked
29. IIM Bedford – Revoked
30. Interlink College of Technology and Business Studies – Revoked
31. Katherine and King's College of London – Revoked
32. Kinnaird College – Revoked
33. LIT LON Ltd – Revoked
34. London Academy of Management and Business (LAMB) – Surrendered
35. London Churchill College – Surrendered
36. London College of Finance and Accounting – Revoked
37. London College of Business Management and Computing Studies – Surrendered
38. London Corporate College – Revoked
39. London Educators Limited – Revoked
40. London Empire Academy – Surrendered
41. London Metropolitan College – Revoked

42. London Premier College Limited – Revoked
43. London Regal College – Revoked
44. London School of Advanced Studies – Revoked
45. London School of Marketing Trading As LS Business School – Revoked
46. London School of Technology – Revoked
47. London St. Andrew's College – Revoked
48. Manchester College of Management Sciences Limited – Revoked
49. Manchester International College – Revoked
50. Manchester Trinity College Limited – Revoked
51. Midlands Academy of Business and Technology – Revoked
52. North West College Reading – Revoked
53. Pharez UK Ltd Trading As Pharez College – Revoked
54. Queensbury College – Revoked
55. Radcliffe College – Revoked
56. Sanjari International College – Revoked
57. Shakespeare College – Revoked
58. Stanfords College UK Limited – Revoked
59. South London College – Revoked
60. Superior College London – Revoked
61. UK Business Academy – Revoked
62. UK Vocational Training College Trading As UK College of Arts and Technology – Revoked
63. Vernon Community College – Revoked
64. West George College – Revoked
65. West London Business College Ltd – Revoked

This list is correct as of 06 January 2015. Further institutions may be added in due course.

Students at an institution other than those listed above should refer to the sponsor register on the [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK) website if they wish to find an alternative sponsor.

### **Who can students contact for advice?**

Students at one of the institutions listed above, who are concerned about how this affects them can contact the Home Office on 0114 207 1688 between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday and 9:00am to 1:00pm on Saturday. Further updates will be published on the [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK) website.

Date factsheet updated: 06 January 2015. This factsheet will be updated as required.