



Home Office

# Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Version 16.0

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# 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 whom UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the Department for International Trade (DIT) identify as having developed genuine and credible business ideas and the 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 lead to them being awarded them a maximum of 75 points for attributes.

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

- sole trader
- partnership
- company registered in the UK

Applicants are only allowed a maximum of 2 years under this route. You may:

- grant entry clearance or leave to remain (permission to stay in the UK) for an initial period of one year
- grant an extension for a further year, if their existing endorsing body continues to sponsor them
- grant an extension of leave, if they wish to switch endorsing body for their second year of leave and they have provided an endorsement letter from their new endorsing body - applicants can still only be granted a maximum of 2 years in total

## Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior caseworker cannot help you, or you think that the guidance has factual errors, then email the Economic Migration Policy team.

Border Force officers can also email Border Force OAS enquiries.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on), or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance, then you can email the Guidance Rules and Forms team.

## Publication

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was published:

**Page 4 of 41 Published for Home Office staff on 05 November 2018**

- version **16.0**
- published for Home Office staff on **05 November 2018**

## Changes from last version of this guidance

This version reflects changes to the removal of the requirement of documents submitted to the Home Office to be only originals. This is in line with the Immigration Rules changes of 5 November 2018. It replaces the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) guidance version 15.0 which has been withdrawn and archived.

### Related content

[Contents](#)

[Endorsement](#)

[Qualifications](#)

[English language](#)

[Maintenance funds](#)

Safeguard and promote child welfare

### Related external links

[Immigration Rules, paragraphs 245E to 245EF](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

[Safeguard and promote child welfare](#)

## Key facts

This page shows you the key facts for the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category.

Key fact	Summary
Eligibility requirements	<p>This route is for graduates whom UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the Department for International Trade (DIT) identify as having developed genuine and credible business ideas and the entrepreneurial skills to go on to establish one or more businesses in the UK.</p> <p>For the purpose of the Immigration Rules, 'business' means an enterprise as a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sole trader</li> <li>• partnership</li> <li>• company registered in the UK</li> </ul>
Application forms	Entry clearance – Visa4UK or VAF2 Leave to remain or extension (within UK) – Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)
Cost of application:	<a href="#">Fees for Home Office services</a>
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)
Conditions of leave to remain	<p>Entry clearance and leave to remain under this route is subject to the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no recourse to public funds</li> <li>• registration with the police, if this is required by paragraph 326 of the Immigration Rules</li> <li>• no employment as a doctor or dentist in training</li> <li>• no employment as a professional sports person (including as a sports coach)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• study subject to the condition below</li> </ul> <p>The migrant is allowed to study, but they must obtain an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate for the course or research they intend to undertake and present it to their education institution before they start your study if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• they are over age 18 (or will be over 18 by the time their leave expires)</li> <li>• their course is one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a doctorate or master's degree by research in one of the disciplines listed in paragraph 1 of <a href="#">appendix 6</a> of the Immigration Rules</li> <li>○ a taught master's degree or other postgraduate qualification in one of the disciplines listed in paragraph 2 of <a href="#">appendix 6</a> of the Immigration Rules</li> <li>○ a period of study or research in excess of 6 months in one of the disciplines listed in paragraphs 1 or 2 of <a href="#">appendix 6</a> of the Immigration Rules at an institution of higher education where this forms part of an overseas postgraduate qualification</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>If their course (or research) completion date is postponed or delayed for more than 3 calendar months, or there are any changes to the course contents (or the research proposal), they must apply for a new ATAS certificate within 28 calendar days, and must provide a printout of the new certificate to their institution promptly.</p> <p>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.</p>
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How long is leave to remain normally granted for?	<p>One year.</p> <p>Applications for a further one year period are permitted.</p> <p>Maximum of 2 years total grant of leave allowed under Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur).</p>
Are dependants allowed?	Yes
Are work and study allowed?	Yes
Is switching into this category allowed?	<p>Switching into the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category is only allowed if the applicant has, or has last been granted, leave as a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tier 4 student</li> <li>• Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul> <p>Applicants must not have previously been granted entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain as a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tier 1 (Post study Work) migrant</li> <li>• participant in the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme</li> <li>• participant in the International Graduates Scheme</li> <li>• the Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme</li> </ul>
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 245FB – 245FC

### Related content

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[Qualifications](#)  
[English language](#)  
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**Related external links**

[Immigration Rules, paragraphs 245E to 245EF](#)  
[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

# Entry or extension 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 that 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 grounds for refusal
- Biometric information

## Requirements of paragraph 245FB

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

- score 75 points for attributes
- score 10 points for English language
- score 10 points for maintenance
- for leave to remain, have last been granted entry clearance or leave to remain as a:
  - Tier 4 student
  - Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)
  - 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 in the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme
  - 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 for any period of overstaying allowed under the Immigration Rules

An applicant who was a sponsored student must provide with their application:

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

An applicant was or is a sponsored student if they do not have, or were not last granted, leave to remain as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant and either:

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

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
  - professional sports person (including as a sports coach)
- can study subject to the condition set out below

The migrant is allowed to study, but they must obtain an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate for the course or research they intend to undertake and present it to their education institution before they start their study if:

- they are over age 18 (or will be over 18 by the time their leave expires)
- their course is one of the following:
  - a doctorate or master's degree by research in one of the disciplines listed in paragraph 1 [appendix 6](#) of the Immigration Rules
  - a taught master's degree or other postgraduate qualification in one of the disciplines listed in paragraph 2 of appendix 6 of the Immigration Rules
  - a period of study or research in excess of 6 months in one of the disciplines listed in paragraphs 1 or 2 of appendix 6 of the Immigration Rules at an institution of higher education, where this forms part of an overseas postgraduate qualification

If their course (or research) completion date is postponed or delayed for more than 3 calendar months, or there are any changes to the course contents (or the research proposal), they must apply for a new ATAS certificate within 28 calendar days, and must provide a printout of the new certificate promptly to their institution.

#### **Related content**

[Contents](#)

Knowledge of language and life in the UK

ILR – calculating continuous period in UK

#### **Related external links**

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

[Appendix 6 of the Immigration Rules](#)

# Documents not in English

This page tells you about what an applicant must provide if they are providing a document which is not in English.

All documents provided with an application must be in English. If they are not, the applicant must provide a copy of 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 signature of the translator or an authorised official of the translation company
- include the translator or translation company's contact details
- be fully certified and include details of the translator or translation company's credentials, if the applicant is applying in the UK

## **Related content**

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## **Related external links**

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

# Documentary evidence

This page tells you about documentary evidence.

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 more information, see: Points-based system – evidential flexibility.

## **Related content**

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## **Related external links**

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

# 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:

<b>Number of places:</b>	<b>Allocated to:</b>
1900	Qualifying UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for them to endorse graduates in any subject.
100	The Department for International Trade for the purpose of endorsing overseas graduates.

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.

## Related content

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## Related external links

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

# 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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## **Related external links**

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

# Attributes

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

<b>Attributes: pass mark = 75 points</b>	<b>Points available</b>
<p>The applicant has either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• been endorsed by a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) which:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ has Tier 4 sponsor status</li> <li>○ is an A rated sponsor under Tier 2 of the points-based system if a Tier 2 licence is held</li> <li>○ is an A rated sponsor under Tier 5 of the points-based system if a Tier 5 licence is held</li> <li>○ has degree-awarding powers</li> <li>○ has established processes and competence for identifying, nurturing and developing entrepreneurs amongst undergraduates and postgraduates</li> </ul> </li> <li>• been endorsed by the Department for International Trade (DIT)</li> </ul>	25
<p>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.</p>	25
<p>The endorsement must confirm that the endorsing body has assessed the applicant and considers that the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a genuine and credible business idea</li> <li>• will spend the majority of their working time on developing business ventures</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul> <p>The endorsement must also confirm their intended business sector (points will not be awarded for businesses engaged in property development or property management).</p>	25



<b>English language: pass mark = 10 points</b>	<b>Points available</b>
Evidence to prove the applicant speaks English to the required standard and meets the requirements.	10
<b>Maintenance: pass mark = 10</b>	
For entry clearance or leave to remain in the UK, the applicant must have specified funds.	10

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**Related external links**

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

# 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 the Department for International Trade (DIT). For a list of approved UK HEIs, see: [Tier 1 \(Graduate entrepreneur\) authorised endorsing bodies](#).

The applicant must provide an endorsement letter from a UK HEI or DIT, which shows:

- the endorsement reference number
- the date of issue (including a statement on how long the letter is valid for)
- the applicant's name
- the applicant's date of birth
- the applicant's nationality
- the applicant's passport number
- details of any dependants of the applicant who are already in the UK or whom the applicant intends to bring to the UK
- the name of the endorsing body
- the name and contact details (telephone number, email and workplace address) of the authorising official of the endorsing body and an administrative contact, such as a secretary, at the endorsing body
- the 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
- the applicant's intended business sector or business intention
- what has led the endorsing body to endorse the application
- that the applicant has a genuine and credible business idea
- that the applicant will spend the majority of their working time on developing business ventures
- 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:

- it has been used more than 3 months after date of issue
- it has been withdrawn by the endorsing body
- the endorsing body has lost its status as an endorsing institution, including being downgraded on the Tier 4, Tier 2 or Tier 5 sponsor registers - endorsing bodies must still hold the relevant status at the date of decision

The endorsement must also confirm the applicant's intended business sector. Points are not awarded if this business is mainly engaged in property development or property management.

Property development in this context means any development of property owned by the migrant or their business in order to increase the value of the property, with a view to earning a return either through rent or a future sale or both.

Property management in this context means the management of property (whether or not it is owned by the migrant or their business) for the purposes of renting it out or resale.

The principle is that business income must be generated from the supply of goods or services and not derived from the increased value of property or any income generated through property, such as rent.

This restriction applies to all migrants making initial or extension applications on or after 6 April 2015.

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### **Related external links**

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

[Tier 1 \(Graduate entrepreneur\) authorised endorsing bodies](#)

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# 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's, master's or PhD level, the applicant does not need to submit further evidence of the degree.

A bachelor's degree is the minimum requirement for this route.

## Endorsement from a different UK body

Points will only be awarded for a qualification awarded by a different body to the one issuing the endorsement or a global endorsement from the Department for International Trade (DIT) if the applicant provides the following specified documents:

- the certificate of award of the qualification, which clearly shows the:
  - applicant's name
  - title of the award
  - date of the award
  - name of the awarding institution
- an academic reference from the institution awarding the degree, together with an academic transcript, if the qualification certificate is not available because:
  - the applicant is awaiting graduation having successfully completed their degree
  - the applicant no longer has the certificate and the institution who issued the certificate is unable to produce a replacement

The 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 certificate or award

An academic transcript must be on the official headed paper of the institution and clearly show:

- the applicant's name

- the name of the academic institution
- the course title
- confirmation of the award

## Degree certificate not available

If, the applicant cannot provide their certificate, as they are awaiting graduation or no longer have it, 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.

## Letter from UK NARIC

If the degree is not a UK qualification, applicants must also provide a 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 satisfy all of the following:

- 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
- the endorsement must confirm the applicant has at any time been awarded a UK recognised bachelor's degree, master's 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 bachelor's, 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
- an act of Parliament
- the Privy Council

For more information on recognised bodies, see: [Tier 1 \(Graduate entrepreneur\) authorised endorsing bodies](#).

## Unacceptable qualifications

Unacceptable qualifications include:

- 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, bachelor's or master's degree - for example, a vocational qualification at bachelor's degree level that is not itself a degree.

If an applicant has more than one qualification, they can rely on whichever qualification meets the appropriate criteria. If this is an overseas degree, the standard of overseas qualifications must still be confirmed by UK NARIC. A bachelor's degree is the minimum requirement for this route.

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### Related external links

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

[UK NARIC](#)

# English language

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 the Department for International Trade (DIT), 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 which is:
  - a UK Bachelor's degree, Master's degree or PhD
  - awarded by an establishment outside of the UK and is deemed by UK NARIC to meet the recognised standard of a Bachelor's degree or Master's degree or a PhD
  - deemed by UK NARIC to meet or exceed the recognised standard of a Bachelor's or Master's degree or a PhD in the UK, and is from an educational establishment in one of the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America

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 to 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 4 components:
  - reading
  - writing
  - speaking
  - listening
- 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 from 19 April 2007
- 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
  - passing an English language test

For more information, see: English language.

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[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules Appendix B](#)

[Tier 1 \(Graduate entrepreneur\) authorised endorsing bodies](#)

[UK NARIC](#)

English language



# Maintenance funds

This section tells you 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 [levels of funding](#) required) 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
- the Department for International Trade confirms in the endorsement letter that 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
- 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: [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.

## Dependants

Any dependants must also provide evidence that 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 if there are sufficient funds, see: Points-based system (dependants) policy guidance.

### Related content

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[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules Appendix C](#)

# Evidence of maintenance

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

## Endorsement from the Department for International Trade (DIT)

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

- £1890 for entry clearance applications
- £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, which ends no more than 31 days before the date of application.

The documents must:

- be on the bank or building society's official headed paper or stationery
- have the bank or building society's official stamp (if the applicant provides a printout of electronic statements from an account)
- 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 and pension funds are not acceptable, regardless of notice period.

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
- building society pass book covering 90 consecutive days
- a letter from a financial institution regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) or the Prudential Regulatory Authority (PRA) confirming the funds and that they have been in the bank for at least 90 consecutive days

- if the applicant provides an overseas account, a letter from 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

In all cases, the letter, pass book or most recent statement, and the 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
- that 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 [relevant details](#)
  - the applicant provides a supporting letter from the bank, on company headed paper, confirming the statements provided are authentic

Electronic banks statements would also be acceptable if the statements have the official bank stamp on every page.

You must not accept:

- mini statements from automatic teller machines (ATMs)
- 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.

#### **Related content**

[Contents](#)

#### **Related external links**

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)  
[Immigration Rules Appendix C](#)

# Extensions

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
- 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 Tier 4 sponsor status
- 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
- have established processes and competence for identifying, nurturing and developing entrepreneurs with its undergraduates and postgraduates

If the extension endorsement is from the same endorsing body which supported the initial application, the extension endorsement must use the same reference number which appeared on the initial endorsement letter.

The maximum time available as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant is 2 years in total, not necessarily 2 consecutive periods of leave. An applicant can therefore have an extension which may be with their original or new endorsing body.

## Related content

[Contents](#)

[Endorsement](#)

[Maintenance funds](#)

## Related external links

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

[Register of sponsors – Tier 2 and Tier 5](#)

[Register of sponsors – Tier 4](#)

# Curtailing leave

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 Tier 4 sponsor 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
- 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 their conditions of their stay. For more information, see: Curtailment of leave.

## **Related content**

[Contents](#)

## **Related external links**

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

# 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:

<b>Change of circumstances</b>	<b>Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)</b>
<p>A change form (see: <a href="#">changes during your stay</a>) to change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• contact details</li><li>• details of criminal convictions</li><li>• representative's details</li><li>• dependants' details</li></ul> <p>If not already done so, you must note the change of circumstances on GCID.</p>	<p>If the current grant of leave is a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP), to change their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• name</li><li>• date of birth</li><li>• nationality</li><li>• gender</li><li>• appearance</li></ul> <p>A new application must be sent on the no time limit (NTL) or transfer of conditions (TOC) form, see: <a href="#">Transfer your visa to a new passport.</a></p>

## Related content

[Contents](#)

## Related external links

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

# Grant or refuse entry clearance, leave to remain or extension

This page tells you how to grant or refuse an application under the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category of the points-based system (PBS).

## Grant entry clearance

You must grant entry clearance if:

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

## Length of entry clearance

If the application is granted, 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 if:

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

## Biometrics for entry clearance

Successful applicants for entry clearance are given a [Biometric residence permit \(BRP\)](#). If the entry clearance application is successful, they must be given a 30 day visa to allow them to collect their BRP after they have arrived in the UK.

## Appeals

The appeal rights for PBS cases changed for all applications made on or after 2 March 2015 and migrants no longer have a limited right of appeal. See: [appeals guidance](#).

## Rights of appeal and administrative review - out of country applications

If an application for entry clearance is refused under the points-based system, the applicant cannot appeal against our decision. However, if they think the Home Office



has made an error in considering their application, they can apply for an administrative review.

For further information on administrative reviews, see: [Ask for a visa administrative review](#).

## Granting leave to remain

You must grant leave to remain if:

- the applicant meets all the requirements of paragraph 245FB of the Immigration Rules
- none of the general grounds for refusal in [paragraph 322](#) apply

You must grant leave on code 4C.

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

Front:

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

Reverse:

NO PUBLIC FUNDS

For applications submitted on or before 5 April 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 [paragraph 245FB](#) of the Immigration Rules
- any of the general grounds for refusal apply
- the applicant is in breach of immigration laws, except:
  - for any period of overstaying allowed under the Immigration Rules
  - if the application was submitted before 9 July 2012

For more information, see: [Rights of appeal](#).

## **Rights of appeal and administrative review: in country applications for leave to remain made before 2 March 2015**

If the application was made before 2 March 2015, depending on their appeal rights, applicants may be able to submit an appeal if they want to challenge a refusal decision for leave to remain (permission to stay in the UK). Details of whether and how they can appeal against our decision must be included in the decision letter.

## **Rights of appeal and administrative review: in country applications for leave to remain made on or after 2 March 2015**

If the application was made on or after 2 March 2015, applicants cannot appeal against our decision. However, if they think the Home Office has made an error in considering their application, they can apply for an administrative review. Details of how to make an administrative review application must be included in the decision letter.

### **Related content**

[Contents](#)

### **Related external links**

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)

[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

[Immigration Rules – paragraph 320 -324](#)

# Conditions of leave

This page tells you 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
- they cannot take employment:
  - as a doctor or dentist in training
  - as a professional sportsperson (including as a sports coach), for applications submitted on or before 5 April 2013
  - of more than 20 hours per week
- they can only study subject to the condition below

The migrant is allowed to study, but they must obtain an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate for the course or research they intend to undertake and present it to their education institution before they start their study if:

- they are over age 18 (or will be over 18 by the time their leave expires)
- their course is one of the following:
  - a doctorate or master's degree by research in one of the disciplines listed in paragraph 1 of [appendix 6](#) of the Immigration Rules
  - a taught master's degree or other postgraduate qualification in one of the disciplines listed in paragraph 2 of [appendix 6](#) of the Immigration Rules
  - a period of study or research in excess of 6 months in one of the disciplines listed in paragraphs 1 or 2 of [appendix 6](#) of the Immigration Rules at an institution of higher education where this forms part of an overseas postgraduate qualification

If their course (or research) completion date is postponed or delayed for more than 3 calendar months, or there are any changes to the course contents (or the research proposal), they must apply for a new ATAS certificate within 28 calendar days, and must provide a printout of the new certificate to their institution promptly.

For more information, see:

- Public funds
- Police registration
- [Immigration Rules - paragraph 326](#)

## Related content

[Contents](#)

## Related external links

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)



# Entry clearance checking endorsement validity

This page tells entry clearance officers how to check the validity of endorsements.

You must check the validity of any endorsement provided with a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) application by contacting the Tier 1 Graduate entrepreneur administration inbox, stating:

- the name of the applicant
- the secure reference number
- the name of the endorsing body (Higher Education Institution (HEI) or Department for International Trade (DIT))
- the contact name on the endorsement letter

Once the Tier 1 Graduate entrepreneur administration inbox manager has confirmed the validity of the endorsement, you must reply to this email stating the following:

- the decision on the application
- the date the decision was made
- the date the application was submitted

This process must be followed in all cases.

## **Related content**

[Contents](#)  
[Endorsement](#)

## **Related external links**

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)  
[Immigration Rules appendix A](#)

# Managing the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) inbox

This page tells leave to remain caseworkers how to manage the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) inbox.

You must check the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) inbox on a daily basis. This section gives examples of the types of emails you may receive and how to deal with them.

Once you have dealt with an email, you must move it from the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) inbox to the 'Endorsement Notifications' folder.

## The endorsing body has 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.

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.

You must record the following information and then save the spreadsheet:

- date of the endorsement
- applicant's name
- qualification details
- business intention

## 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.

You must identify 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'.

If the application is under consideration, you must record details of the endorsing body's decision on CID comments, then record the decision on the limit monitoring spreadsheet. The following is an example of the CID wording required:

'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.

## **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 in the [endorsing body has withdrawn their endorsement](#) section.

## **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 with the Economic Migration Policy team. 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 that a licence is revoked or downgraded, you must:

- 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
- provide the applicant's 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.

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 that 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
- 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.

### Related content

[Contents](#)

[Endorsement](#)

[Curtailing leave](#)



# Dependants

This page tells you 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
- 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:

- Family members of points-based system migrants
- [Paragraphs 319A-319K of the Immigration Rules](#)

## Related content

[Contents](#)

## Related external links

[Immigration Rules paragraph 245F - 245FC](#)