

Graduate Visa

FAQs

Is the Graduate visa the same as the post study work visa?

Yes. The Home Office introduced a two-year work visa for graduates (three-years for PhD graduates) and called it the 'Graduate Route visa'. Many students refer to this visa as a 'post study work visa'.

The Graduate route requires 'successful completion'. Can I apply while I am waiting for my results?

Successful completion means that you have completed your course and received your final results which confirm that you have been awarded your degree.

What if my final results are that I will leave with a lower award or that I am required to resit / resubmit work?

If you leave with a lower award, for example a Dip HE, a postgraduate certificate or a postgraduate diploma, you will still be able to attend your graduation ceremony (if you wish) but you will not be eligible to apply for a Graduate route visa. The reason for this is that the Graduate route is for degree graduates only.

If you are required to resit or resubmit work, or you are given an extension to your dissertation submission date, this may affect your eligibility for the Graduate visa. In these situations you should contact visa@manchester so we can provide you with more information on your personal circumstances.

How will I know the report has been made to the Home Office confirming I have been awarded an eligible qualification?

You will be sent confirmation to your student email address that we have verified your successful completion to the Home Office, providing you meet all other eligibility criteria you can go ahead and make your Graduate Route application.

I have not received an e-mail from the University confirming that UKVI have been notified of my successful course completion. What should I do?

We are unable to confirm your eligibility for the Graduate Route if there is an NSI on your record for missing passport or visa information as well as debt. These need to be resolved and removed before the report can be made. For debt enquiries please contact the Universities credit control team using the following link: www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/tuition-fees/payments/late-non-payment

If you are unsure about any of the above markers on your record and believe your eligibility report should still have been made, please email visa@manchester.ac.uk so we can investigate this for you.

When is the earliest I can make my application?

You should not make your Graduate visa application until you have received confirmation from our team that your eligibility has been reported to the Home Office. After the examination board has ratified degree results you will be issued with your final results by your Faculty or Doctoral Academy for PGR students, they will also 'complete' your student record. The Student Immigration Team will then report on the completed records to the Home Office. You do not have to of graduated to apply.

What is the latest I can make my application?

You have until midnight on your current visa expiry date to make your application, but you should not leave it this late as you could face technical difficulties. If you make your application after your visa expires your application will be refused.

If your student record is updated to show you have completed your course earlier than expected, you will be reported to UKVI as an early completion and your visa will be curtailed (shortened). This means that if you want to apply for the Graduate Route visa you should do so as soon as you are eligible and that you remain in the UK whilst your application is under consideration.

How can I get a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number to use in my application?

You do not need a new CAS number for the application and should use your most recent one that was used as part of your student visa application. If you are unable to find your latest CAS number please email visa@manchester.ac.uk with the subject line 'CAS number for Graduate visa' and include your student ID number so we can send you your CAS number.

If my student visa will expire before I receive my final results, can I extend my student visa?

Unfortunately, the UKVI does not permit a student visa extension to wait for results. A further CAS may only be issued for a student visa extension if you still have academic work to complete such as resits (in attendance) or an extension to your dissertation deadline or a requirement to resubmit your dissertation.

I have dependants, can they also apply?

Dependants will only be able to apply if they are already in the UK with student dependant permission and can make an application at the same time as you.

If I travel, will it affect my eligibility for the Graduate Route?

During your course:

- Your student visa was for a full-time course of study in the UK. Absence from the UK during official vacation periods for your course, required study abroad period or overseas fieldwork approved by your programme are all acceptable. You may also have left the UK for short term travel/ vacations (e.g. 1-2 weeks). Longer term absence from the UK during your academic programme may affect your eligibility for the Graduate route visa.

While you are waiting for results:

- You are free to travel after you have submitted all academic work for your programme (e.g. submitted your dissertation / final project).

Once you have received your results:

Important! If you complete your course early, then you should not leave the UK after you receive your final results as you will not be able to re-enter the UK using your student route visa. This will affect your ability to apply for a Graduate visa as this visa requires you to be in the UK with a valid Student visa at the time of application.

Once you have applied for your Graduate visa:

- You should not leave the UK while your Graduate visa application is being processed as this may have the effect of cancelling your visa application.

When can I start working under the Graduate route conditions?

You should wait until your visa is granted before working under the Graduate Route conditions, until then you must adhere to the conditions of your student visa. These can be found here:

www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/immigration-and-visas/working/working-during-your-studies/

Can I get the Graduate Route Visa more than once?

The Graduate Route visa can only be granted once and there are no exceptions to this.

If you are planning further study in the UK, you should think carefully about when you apply for your Graduate Route visa.

Can I extend my visa after 2 years (3 years for PhD graduates)?

No, the Graduate Visa is non-extendable.

I am a PhD graduate but I have only been given a 2-year visa instead of a 3-year visa. Can I get this corrected?

If you have been granted the incorrect amount of leave you will need to contact UKVI and ask for this to be amended using the following link: www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk

How long can I spend outside the UK once I have the Graduate Visa?

UKVI have not set out any specific rules on the amount of time you can spend outside of the UK before your visa is cancelled but the purpose of this route is to remain here and work. If you do not use the visa for its intended purpose, reside overseas, or use it for frequent travel there is a chance it could be cancelled at the border.

I am unsure if I will apply, will the Home Office still be made aware of my eligibility?

Yes, the Home Office requires that universities notify them of all students who successfully complete their course on a student visa regardless of whether they will apply for a Graduate visa.

Will I be able to switch to a Skilled Worker from the Graduate visa?

If you find a job that you can be sponsored as a skilled worker then you can switch to this from the Graduate visa. See the UKCISA information on the [Skilled Worker visa route](#) for more information.

If I change programme, will I still be eligible for the Graduate Route?

If you change to another degree programme but can complete your studies in the same amount of time meaning you do not require a new student visa you will remain eligible for the Graduate Route. If your programme change to another degree course requires you to obtain a new student visa providing you still successfully complete your degree you will also remain eligible.

If you exit your degree course with a lower award, for example a DipHE or a postgraduate certificate or diploma, you will not be eligible to apply for the Graduate route visa.

I need more advice on the Graduate Route, where can I get this?

UKVI rules do not permit universities to give individual advice on the Graduate route visa, which unfortunately means our support is limited to our webpage and FAQs which should be sufficient for most applicants. If you have a complex immigration situation, then you may wish to seek specialist advice for example from an immigration solicitor. The Universities careers service has information on a solicitor's firm who can offer free 30-minute zoom appointments.

UKVI: [Graduate visa: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/graduate-visa)

UKCISA: [UKCISA - international student advice and guidance - Working after studies](#)

Careers Service: [Working in the UK after study \(The University of Manchester\)](#)

[How to find an immigration solicitor: Law Society](#)