

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

About this guidance

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	<p>Information owner – This page tells you about this version of the guidance and who owns it.</p> <p>Safeguard and promote child welfare – This page explains your duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and tells you where to find more information.</p>	
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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Key facts

Category: Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)	
Eligibility requirements	<p>This route is for master of business administration (MBA) and other UK graduates identified by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as having developed genuine and credible business ideas and entrepreneurial skills to extend their stay in the UK after graduation to establish one or more businesses in the UK.</p> <p>It is also for overseas graduates identified by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) as elite global graduate entrepreneurs 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"> • sole trader • partnership, or • company registered in the UK.
Application forms	Leave to remain or extension (within UK) – Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)
Cost of application:	Fees for Home Office services (Links to staff intranet removed)
Is biometric information required for applications made in the UK?	Yes
Code of leave to remain granted	Code 4B
Conditions of leave to remain	<p>Leave to remain under this route is subject to the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no recourse to public funds • registration with the police, if this is required by paragraph 326 of the Immigration Rules, • no employment as a doctor or dentist in training, and • no employment as a professional sportsperson (including as a sports coach).
How long is leave to remain normally granted for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One year • Applications can be made to extend by a further one year • 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	Switching into the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) category is

allowed?	<p>only allowed if the applicant has or has last been granted leave as a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier 4 Migrant • 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. <p>An applicant who has, or was last granted, entry clearance or leave to remain as a Tier 2 (General) Migrant must score points from paragraph (b) in the second row of Table 10 of Appendix A.</p> <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"> • 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 MBA- LTR, T1 HS- GE Global- LTR, T1 HS- GE General- LTR
Immigration Rules paragraphs	Paragraph 245F – 245FC

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Changes to this guidance

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

Date of the change	Details of the change
1 July 2013	<div>Change request</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Qualifications:<ul style="list-style-type: none">sub-heading ‘Unacceptable qualifications’, removed ‘qualifications taken at an overseas campus of a UK institution’English language requirement:<ul style="list-style-type: none">fourth paragraph, fourth bullet point, changed to reflect new criteria for Tier 2 (General) migrantsTier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) - evidence required for maintenance:<ul style="list-style-type: none">eighth paragraph, third bullet point, replaced ‘Financial Services Authority (FSA)’ with ‘Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulatory Authority (PRA)’Grant or refuse entry clearance, leave to remain or extension:<ul style="list-style-type: none">sub-heading ‘Granting leave to remain’, wording for front of biometric residence permit changedMinor housekeeping changes.</div>
5 April 2013	Completely revised by the points-based system operational policy team and the modernising

Related links

[Qualifications](#)

[English language requirement](#)

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[Grant or refuse entry clearance, leave to remain or extension](#)

See also

[Contact Information owner](#)

Links to staff intranet removed

		guidance team.		
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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

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

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- Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur), or
- Tier 2 (General) Migrant.

They must not have:

- Ever 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) on more than one occasion.
- Been in the UK in breach of immigration laws except that any period of overstaying 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 1 (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:

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

Applicants are also subject to the following conditions:

- must register with the police if this is required under paragraph 326 of the rules
- no recourse to public funds
- no employment as a doctor or dentist in training

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• no employment as a professional sportsperson (including as a sports coach).	
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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) - limits

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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Points scoring

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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Attributes

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Attributes: pass mark = 75 points	Points available							
<p>The applicant has been endorsed by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) or by a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 among its undergraduate and postgraduate population.	25							
<p>If the applicant’s previous grant of leave was not as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant, within the 12 months immediately before the date of the endorsement, they have been awarded a qualification as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Endorsement - the endorsing institution has awarded the applicant a UK recognised bachelor degree, masters degree or PhD (not a qualification of equivalent level which is not a degree).• Master of business administration (MBA) endorsement - the endorsing institution has awarded the applicant a UK recognised MBA degree (not a qualification of equivalent	25							

	<p>level). Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Endorsement - the applicant has been awarded a degree qualification (not a qualification of equivalent level which is not a degree) which is deemed by UK NARIC to meet or exceed the recognised standard of a Bachelor's degree in the UK. <p>If the applicant's previous grant of leave was as a Tier 2 (General) migrant to work as a post-doctoral researcher, they have been awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a General endorsement from the same body that was their sponsor on the application which led to the previous grant of leave, and • a UK recognised Bachelor degree, Masters degree or PhD (not a qualification of equivalent level which is not a degree) from a UK HEI, at any time before the date of endorsement. <p>If the applicant's previous grant of leave was as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant, the endorsement is from the same body which provided the endorsement for that previous grant of leave.</p>		
	<p>The endorsement must confirm the endorsing body has assessed the applicant and considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the applicant has a genuine and credible business idea, and • the applicant will spend the majority of their working time on developing business ventures, and • if the applicant's previous grant of leave was as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur), they have made satisfactory progress in developing their business since that leave was 	25	

	granted.		
	For more information about the endorsement requirements see related link: Endorsement		
	For more information about the qualification requirements see related link: Qualifications		
	English language: pass mark = 10 points		Points available
	Evidence to prove the applicant speaks English to the required standard and meets the requirements.		10
	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 about the English Language requirements see related link: English language			
For more information about the Maintenance requirements see related link: Maintenance			

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Endorsement

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Qualifications

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- 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 the applicant cannot provide their original certificate for one of the reasons given above and is claiming points for a qualification with a significant research bias, such as a doctorate, an academic transcript is not required, providing the applicant provides an academic reference which includes all 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 UK Border Agency 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 he has been working as a post-doctoral researcher, the HEI must be the same Tier 2 sponsor that sponsored the applicant for their last grant of leave, and the endorsement must confirm that the applicant has at any time been awarded a UK recognised Bachelor 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.

	<p>A UK recognised body is an institution that has been granted awarding powers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Royal Charter • Act of Parliament, or • the Privy Council. <p>For more information on recognised bodies see related link: Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) authorised endorsing bodies</p> <p>Unacceptable qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foundation degrees • honorary degrees • qualifications awarded in the UK by overseas awarding bodies • professional and vocational qualifications • postgraduate certificates and diplomas. <p>Equivalent qualifications</p> <p>Points cannot be awarded to any qualification equivalent to but not a PHD, bachelor or masters degree. For example, a vocational qualification at bachelor degree level that is not itself a degree.</p>	
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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

English language requirement

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as a Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) migrant providing they scored points for their English language ability in that application • as a Minister of Religion (not as a Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) migrant) under the rules in place on or after 19 April 2007, or • as a Tier 2 (Minister of Religion) migrant, provided that when they got that leave they got points for English language for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ being a national of a majority English speaking country ○ having a degree taught in English, or ○ passing an English language test. 	
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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Maintenance

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 there is sufficient, see related link: Points-based system (dependants) policy guidance.</p> <p>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, earnings made in the UK will only be considered 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.</p> <p>For more information on the evidence needed for maintenance, see related link: Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) - evidence required for maintenance</p>	
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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) - evidence required for maintenance

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- 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 (the balance must always be at least £1800 for entry clearance and £900 for leave to remain).

You can accept as evidence:

- other bank statements printed on the bank's letterhead
- electronic bank statements from an online account, 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.

But you cannot accept:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mini-statements from automatic teller machines (ATMs), or • statements which simply show the balance in the account on a particular day. <p>These are not acceptable as they do not demonstrate the applicant holding enough funds for the full period required.</p> <p>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.</p>	
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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) – application for extension of leave

About this guidance Key facts Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) extension requirements Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) – limits Points scoring Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) – application for extension of leave Curtailling leave Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) - change of circumstances Grant or refuse leave to remain or extension Conditions of leave Managing the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) inbox Dependants	<p>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.</p> <p>An applicant can claim the full 75 points if they are making an extension application and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• their previous grant of leave was as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)• they have a new endorsement from the same endorsing body that endorsed their original application.• the endorsing body shows they are satisfied the applicant has made satisfactory progress. <p>An applicant can only have one extension in this category. The maximum time available is two years in total as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur). This does not have to be two consecutive periods of leave as a Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) migrant.</p>	Links to staff intranet removed
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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Curtailling leave

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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) - change of circumstances

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<p>To change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• contact details• details of criminal convictions• representative’s details, or• dependants details. <p>They must complete a change form (see related link: Changes during your stay).</p> <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">• name• date of birth• nationality• gender, or• appearance. <p>A new BRP application must be sent on form BRP (RC), see related link: changes to BRP.</p>			

Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Grant or refuse entry clearance, leave to remain or extension

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	<p>Refuse leave</p> <p>You must refuse leave if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the applicant does not meet all of the requirements of paragraphs 245F, 245FA or 245FB of the Immigration Rules • any of the general grounds for refusal apply, or • the applicant is in breach of immigration laws, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ for any period of overstaying for 28 days or less which will be disregarded, or ○ if the application was submitted before 9 July 2012. <p>For more information, see related link: Applications from overstayers (non family routes).</p> <p>For more information on appeal rights, see related link: 1.0 - Rights of Appeal.</p>	
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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Conditions of leave

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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Managing the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) inbox

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	<p>advised the UKBA they no longer wish to endorse the migrant (Reason).'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: Curtailment of leave. <p>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 UK Border Agency if the applicant has missed a contact. Update CID notes with the missed contact.</p> <p>If the endorsing body states they wish to withdraw their sponsorship, follow the instructions above.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Once you have received a response from the HEO you must reply to the endorsing body.</p> <p>The Higher Education Institution (HEI) has had their licence revoked If you receive notification a licence is revoked or downgraded, you must update the limit monitoring spreadsheet.</p> <p>You must change the Sponsor status field to void. Then contact the curtailments team giving them the details of any other applicants associated with that HEI.</p> <p>You must provide the applicants full name and case ID.</p> <p>The endorsing body says the applicant is breaching their conditions You must establish if there is sufficient 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.</p>	
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	<p>An overseas post is requesting verification of an endorsement</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If the details match those on the spreadsheet you must respond to the post confirming the details supplied are correct.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>You must update the spreadsheet with the endorsement details if the endorsement is correct.</p> <p>You must confirm the information with the post as received from the endorsing body.</p> <p>An overseas post is notifying a case decision</p> <p>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.</p>	
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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Dependants

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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Contact

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Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur)

Information owner

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This page tells you about this version of the Tier 1 (Graduate entrepreneur) guidance and who owns it.

Version	2.0
Valid from date	1 July 2013
Policy owner	Work operational policy team
Cleared by director	Sonia Dower
Director's role	Director, operational policy and rules
Clearance date	2 April 2013
This version approved for publication by	Sonia Dower
Approver's role	Director, operational policy and rules
Approval date	26 June 2013

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

The MGT 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: Modernised guidance team.

Related links

See also

[Changes to this guidance](#)
[Contact](#)

Links to staff intranet removed