



The Westwood Organisation
Clear and concise immigration advice

TWO Summary Immigration Categories

Immigration Status	Work Restrictions	Study Restrictions	Other Comments	Switching Permitted? (in UK – assuming destination category rules are met)
Tier 1 General	No restrictions except Dr / Dentist in training or professional sportsperson	No restrictions	These visas are being phased out and are not open to new applicants	Closed category so no switching permitted
Tier 1 Investor	Any work except Dr / Dentist in training or professional sportsperson	No restrictions	Any self-employment	Can switch from Tier 1, 2 or 4. Can switch from this category but why would you?
Tier 1 Entrepreneur	Can only work for your own business			Can switch from Tier 1, 2 or 4. Can switch from this category but why would you?
Tier 1 Exceptional Talent	Free to work in your own field for any employer; except as Dr or Dentist in training or professional sportsperson	Higher level study (Masters; PhD) only		Can switch from Tier 1, 2, 5 GAE sponsored researcher only Potential to switch out of this category
Tier 2 General	Employment only with sponsor and restricted to job described on certificate of sponsorship	No restrictions as long as the study doesn't interfere with sponsored employment	supplementary work: this must either be in a shortage occupation or be in the same sector and at the same level as your sponsored role, and for up to 20 hours per week outside your normal working hours	Limited switching into this category, can switch out
Tier 2 ICT	Employment only with sponsor and restricted to job described on certificate of sponsorship	No restrictions as long as the study doesn't interfere with sponsored employment	supplementary work: this must either be in a shortage occupation or be in the same sector and at the same level as your sponsored role, and for up to 20 hours per week outside your normal working hours	No switching (but change of employer MAY be possible in UK)

Correct as at 14 May 2020.

Please note the publication date of this article; changes may have occurred.

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Tier 2 Sports person	Employment only with sponsor and restricted to job described on certificate of sponsorship	No restrictions as long as the study doesn't interfere with sponsored employment	supplementary work: this must either be in a shortage occupation or be in the same sector and at the same level as your sponsored role, and for up to 20 hours per week outside your normal working hours	As for Tier 2 general
Tier 4 DES	Any employment or self-employment except as Dr / Dentist in training or professional sports person	No restrictions, but work has to be main activity – therefore study should be part time		
Tier 4	Student employment rules: p/t during term time f/t in holidays. Visa specifies if p/t is 10 hours or 20 hours per week. NB some students have no work rights and this is specified on the visa	Only with sponsor		Switching to and from this category is permissible
Tier 5 Creative and Sporting	Only with sponsor and as detailed on certificate of sponsorship	No restrictions as long as the study doesn't interfere with sponsored employment	Part time supplementary work is permitted if in the same sector and at same level as sponsored work; or if on shortage occupation list. Must be outside of normal hours of work and no more than 20 hours per week	In practice – no switching to or from this category (as it is temporary work) but some limited exceptions to this
Tier 5 Religious	Only with sponsor	No restrictions as long as the study doesn't interfere with sponsored employment	Part time supplementary work is permitted if in the same sector and at same level as sponsored work; or if on shortage occupation list. Must be outside of normal	In practice – no switching to or from this category (as it is temporary work) but some limited exceptions to this

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Tier 5 GAE	Only with sponsor	No restrictions as long as the study doesn't interfere with sponsored employment	Part time supplementary work is permitted if in the same sector and at same level as sponsored work; or if on shortage occupation list. Must be outside of normal hours of work and no more than 20 hours per week	In practice – no switching to or from this category (as it is temporary work) but some limited exceptions to this
Tier 5 International Agreement	Only with sponsor	No restrictions as long as the study doesn't interfere with sponsored employment	Part time supplementary work is permitted if in the same sector and at same level as sponsored work; or if on shortage occupation list. Must be outside of normal hours of work and no more than 20 hours per week	In practice – no switching to or from this category (as it is temporary work) but some limited exceptions to this
Tier 5 Charity	Only with sponsor.	No restrictions as long as the study doesn't interfere with sponsored employment	Part time supplementary work is permitted if in the same sector and at same level as sponsored work; or if on shortage occupation list. Must be outside of normal hours of work and no more than 20 hours per	In practice – no switching to or from this category (as it is temporary work) but some limited exceptions to this
Tier 5 YMS	Any work except Dr / Dentist in training or professional sportsman	No restrictions	Small scale self-employment only – no premises; less than £5000 in equipment and no employees	No switching to or from this category
Spouse	No restrictions	No restrictions		Switching permitted
PBS Dependant	No restrictions	No restrictions		Can't switch into this category, limited switching out

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EEA Family Member	No restrictions	No restrictions		Switching permitted
Indefinite Leave to Remain	No restrictions	No restrictions		No reason to switch
Asylum Seeker	Can work if permitted and according to restrictions imposed on individual	No restrictions		Can claim asylum whilst in the UK in another category
Refugee	No restrictions	No restrictions		No reason to switch
Ancestry	No restrictions	No restrictions but – have to be in work or seeking work for the duration of the visa – so p/t study only?	Any self-employment	Cannot switch into this category, no reason to switch away from it
Visitor	Only permitted business activities	Only as short-term student if intention has been declared to UKVI	No self-employment	No switching permitted
Fiancé(e) and Proposed Civil Partner	No work permitted	None		Can only switch to spouse / CP after marriage

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