

## UWTSD Graduate Work Route Process

### Policy Guide and Background

1. The Graduate Work route has been introduced by the UK Home Office to allow Tier 4 / Student visa sponsored students, studying towards a degree level qualification (or higher) to stay in the UK after achieving their award and undertake skilled work.
2. The Graduate work visa is not a sponsored route and the length of the visa issued will be for either 2 years (degree and masters students) or 3 years (PhD level students). As a non-sponsored route the University is unable to offer immigration support for any such application but will be able to advise on whether a student meets the eligibility criteria.
3. In order to qualify for the Graduate work visa a student must:

- **hold a Tier 4/Student visa**

Not all courses at UWTSD are eligible for student visa sponsorship and therefore will not be eligible for the Graduate route. This includes most part-time taught courses which are supported under the visitor route. Doctoral graduates with permission under the Doctorate Extension Scheme are not eligible to apply for a Graduate route visa.

- **have studied a Bachelors, Masters, PGCE, Doctoral Award at UWTSD;**

HND, Cert HE and other non-degree awarding qualifications except the PGCE, are not eligible to apply for a Graduate visa.

- **have successfully completed their degree;**

You will be considered to have successfully completed your degree for this purpose once you have received your final results and your record is updated to reflect completion. It does not mean you need to have attended a graduation ceremony. Completion for Doctoral students is unconditional approval, which is normally after the submission of any corrections and confirmation of award by the Research Degree Committee.

You need to have completed the degree for which your Tier4/Student visa was granted, unless it is a change permitted under the student visa policy.

- **have studied for a minimum period of time in the UK on a Tier 4/Student visa:**

All full-time UWTSD on-campus students would usually meet this requirement. The minimum period of study for the Graduate visa is at least 12 months OR the full length of your course, whichever is shorter. Concessions exist for studies during the

pandemic and if you fall into this category you should contact International registry at [international.registry@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:international.registry@uwtsd.ac.uk) before applying for a graduate work visa to establish if you meet the eligibility requirements.

If you switch to a student visa from another immigration category during your course, you would not be eligible for a Graduate visa unless you will have studied the minimum period on a Tier 4/Student visa prior to completion as outlined above. If you are switching from another immigration category to start your studies at UWTSD, you can include the time whilst the application is pending in the minimum study period.

- **provide a letter of consent if financially sponsored by a Government or international scholarship agency;**

If in the 12 months before the date of application you have been awarded a scholarship or sponsorship by a Government or international scholarship agency covering fees and/or living costs for study in the UK, you must provide a letter of consent from the sponsor organisation to support the application.

- **apply in the UK within the validity of your current Tier 4/Student visa.**

Whilst not a sponsored route the UK Home Office have stated prior to submitting an application for the graduate work visa the UK sponsor must have confirmed via the sponsor management system that the student has successfully completed the degree for which they were issued their last CAS and that they also meet the required minimum study period for the graduate route. Given this any student who intends to apply for the graduate work visa must notify the University of their intention to do so prior to making such an application. They should do so by emailing UWTSD International Registry at [international.registry@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:international.registry@uwtsd.ac.uk).

#### Procedural Guide

4. In order to ensure all students are dealt with in a fair and consistent manner the following procedure has been adopted by the University. This procedure applies to all sponsored students across all campuses:

- The student is responsible for ensuring they meet the requirements of the graduate work visa and for making an application for the graduate work visa directly themselves at the appropriate time and using the appropriate visa form. The University will not be responsible for reminding any such student of the ability to do so.
- Prior to submitting an application to the UK Home Office for the graduate work visa the student should email the University at [international.registry@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:international.registry@uwtsd.ac.uk) with the following details:

1. Full Name
2. Date of Birth
3. Student ID number
4. Passport Number
5. A copy of their current Tier 4 / Student Visa BRP
6. Confirmation of current UK address
7. Name of Award achieved.

At the point of receiving the Graduate work visa notification form, the University will check to ensure the final award has been confirmed and that the student has met the required period of time in the UK for the graduate work visa. If the University is content this is the case they will notify the Home Office of the final award and confirm such action has been undertaken to the student who will then be free to make their graduate work visa application.