

WORK IN THE UK AFTER GRADUATION

HIGH POTENTIAL VISA (HPI) WEBINAR

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HPI: Overview

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General information about HPI

- It is a **temporary** immigration work route introduced on **30 May 2022**
- It **does not** lead to settlement (indefinite leave to remain) in the UK
- It is aimed at international graduates awarded **an overseas degree-level academic qualification equivalent to a UK bachelor's or postgraduate degree**
- The qualification must have been awarded **within 5 years prior to the application** being made
- It must be from a university that appears on the Global Universities List (GUL) which covers the date of award (the list is published annually, and **the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) has appeared on the GUL from 1 November 2019 to date**)
- You **do not need a job offer** prior to applying to qualify
- This is an unsponsored route and you will be allowed to work once in the UK without having a sponsor
- **Partners and children (under the age of 18 years old)** can apply to come with you
- You can use a legal representative when submitting the application

Immigration requirements: validity

- you can apply in or outside the UK using a specified online application form
- you must pay a Home Office fee and an Immigration Health Charge
- you must enrol biometrics
- you must provide a passport or travel document that confirms your identity and nationality
- you must be aged 18 years old or over
- you must not have previously been granted permission under the Student Doctorate Extension Scheme, as a Graduate or as an HPI
- there are additional restrictions and requirements for those applying for permission to stay in the UK

Immigration requirements: suitability

- You must not fall for refusal on the basis of general grounds for refusal
- If applying in the UK, you must not be in breach of immigration laws or on immigration bail
- Decisions on suitability are either mandatory or discretionary and must be compatible with the UK obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights
- Grounds for refusal or cancellation of entry clearance or permission to stay include
 - having an exclusion or deportation order or travel ban
 - being non-conducive to public good
 - criminality
 - being excluded from asylum or humanitarian protection
 - being involved in a sham marriage
 - having made false representations
 - having committed a previous breach of immigration laws
 - failure to provide required information when required
 - others

Immigration requirements: eligibility

Entry requirements

- You must apply for and be granted entry clearance as an HPI before travelling to the UK
- Those applying for entry clearance may need to provide a TB screening certificate (depending on where you will be submitting the application and where you reside, you may be exempt from this requirement)

Points requirement – 70 points (mandatory)

- GUL degree requirement – **50 points**
 - You must have been awarded an overseas degree level academic qualification which is equivalent to the UK bachelor's or postgraduate degree
 - The degree must have been awarded in the **5 years immediately prior** to the date of application
 - The equivalency of the degree level and the date of award must be confirmed by Ecctis (<https://www.ecctis.com/>)
 - There is no requirement for how the qualifying degree is delivered (remotely or in person)

Immigration requirements: eligibility (cont)

- English language requirement at **level B1 – 10 points**
 - You must show English language ability in reading, writing, speaking and listening
 - You can do so by proving that either
 - You are a national of a majority-English-speaking country (e.g. USA)
 - You have been awarded a degree or degree-level qualification taught in a university or college in a majority-English speaking country
 - You have passed an approved Secure English Language Test
- Financial requirement – **10 points**
 - If applying for entry clearance, then you must have at least **£1,270** held for a **28-day period**
 - If applying for permission to stay in the UK and you have resided in the UK for 12 months or longer on the date of application, then you will meet this requirement without having to show evidence of funds

Period and conditions

Period of permission

- Degree below PhD or other doctoral level qualification – **3 years**
- Bachelor or master's degree – **2 years**

Conditions

- You can work in an employed, self-employed or voluntary capacity (save for working as a professional sportsperson or sports coach) – you can work in most jobs or use the time you are in the UK to look for work
- You can study (but not with a Student sponsor)
- Any studies that you undertake will be subject to the ATAS condition

Family members (dependants) joining you

- A person applying for entry clearance or permission to stay in the UK as a partner or child of an HPI must meet eligibility and suitability requirements similar to those of the HPI
- To be eligible, the partner of the HPI must meet relationship requirements and the child must meet (a) relationship requirements; (b) care requirements; and (c) age and independent life requirement
- Financial requirement for a partner or child applying for entry clearance:
 - At least £285 for a partner;
 - At least £315 for the first child;
 - At least £200 for each additional child
- The funds must be held for a 28-day period
- The period of grant will be the same as for the HPI

Step-by-step application process

- You must complete the specified application form online for yourself and any dependants
- You must ensure that all the details contained in the application form are accurate
- You must pay Home Office fees and Immigration Health Charge before submitting the form in respect of each applicant
- Once you have submitted the application form, you will be required to register with VFS Global (a commercial partner of UK Visas and Immigration)
- VFS Global provides a number of add-on services
- You will need to book an appointment with an USCIS Application Support Center (if applying in the USA)
- You will be required to upload your supporting documents electronically or provide hard copies for scanning
- You will also be required to send your original passport or travel document to the New York Hub by courier

Fees

- **£219** – Ecctis checks
- **£822** – Home Office application fee for the main applicant
- **£1,035** – Immigration Health Charge per year for each applicant aged 18 years old and above
- **£776** – Immigration Health Charge per year for each applicant aged below 18 years old

Processing times

- If applying outside the UK (e.g. in the USA) – **15 working days (3 weeks)**
- If applying in the UK – **8 weeks**

eVisa

- If your application is approved, your passport or travel document will be endorsed with a vignette (if applying for entry clearance) and you will be served with a decision
- The vignette (or entry clearance) is valid for 90 days
- You will use this vignette to travel to and enter the UK
- You will then be instructed to register a UK Visas and Immigration account to get access to your eVisa
- An eVisa is an online record of your UK immigration status

Switching to other immigration routes while in the UK

Once in the UK as an HPI, you will be able to switch into other business and family immigration routes that lead to settlement for you and your family including

- Skilled Worker visa
- Global Talent visa
- Innovator Founder visa

Bringing your pets to the UK

- You can bring a pet dog, cat or ferret to the UK
- You must bring them via an approved route
- Your pet must be microchipped
- Your pet must be vaccinated against rabies (you must wait for at least 21 days to travel)
- You must get a pet passport from your registered vet
- A pet dog will require a tapeworm treatment (no more than 5 days before travelling)

If you do not follow the above rules, your pet may be put into quarantine for up to 4 months and you will be responsible for any fees or charges.

About the speaker

Elena has been a solicitor since 2006 and specialises in immigration, nationality, asylum and human rights. She joined CDS Mayfair, a multidisciplinary law firm in the heart of London, in January 2018 after merging her boutique law firm into the practice. She provides a bespoke service offering representation and advice in respect of complex immigration, nationality, asylum and human rights law matters to globally based English, Russian and Arabic speaking migrants, high net worth individuals and businesses drawn to the UK.

Elena has experience in a variety of human rights, asylum, nationality, and business and personal immigration cases. Elena has a loyal client base, drawn by her tailor-made, conscientious and comprehensive approach. She has established a foothold as a provider of radical administrative and judicial solutions to migrants and sponsors. Elena closely monitors policy and legislative changes allowing her to constantly adapt her service format to accommodate to the changing needs of clients.

Elena is the author of a book on immigration law, "**A Practical Guide to Immigration Law Relating to Students**" and has, over the years, written a number of specialist articles online and in print. She also speaks at and attends immigration seminars and conferences in the UK and abroad. During the global pandemic, she also contributed to a number of webinars and podcasts. She is a long-standing member of the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association, a professional association for immigration practitioners in the UK.

Q&A

Time for Q&A



For further assistance please contact:

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