

POLICY DOCUMENT

PROPOSER: Muhammed Sheriff
SUBJECT: Post Study Work Visa Now
APPROVAL DATE:
RENEWAL DATE:
CONTACT: Students Union, Education Officer 2018/19

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION NOTES:

1. There are 442,375 international students in the UK, including 312,660 non-EU international students. At Hallam alone, we have over 4000 international students.¹
2. The Post-Study Work Visa scheme was an idea initially established in Scotland, under the name Fresh Talent Scheme in 2005. It was soon integrated into a UK-wide system (called the Tier 1 Post-Study Work Visa Scheme) from 2008.
3. The Tier 1 Post-Study Work Visa Scheme allowed international graduates to remain and work in the UK for two years post-graduation. It was scrapped in 2012 with no comparable replacement.
4. Post-study work (PSW) visas are common policy in Higher Education competitor countries - the US and Canada allow students to stay for three years after graduating, while Australia allows them to stay for four.²
5. International students already pay staggering amounts of money in tuition fees, visa costs, and NHS bills - its estimated international students' total costs are £24,000 per year on average.³ At Hallam, international undergraduate students pay a minimum of £12,750 per year as of 2018/19, which is due to rise to £13,250 for 2019/20, compared to static undergraduate UK fees of £9,250. UK postgraduate students pay as low as £4,000 minimum compared to overseas students paying £13,250.⁴
6. The international student community contributes a net £20.3 billion to the UK economy annually - not to mention the cultural diversity, global outlook, and internationally relevant skills they bring to the UK.⁵
7. In 2015, it was found that 36% of prospective students who chose not to study in the UK cited post-study work options as a reason for their decision. This was the principal factor given as a reason for not

¹ https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/International/International%20Facts%20and%20Figures%202018_web.pdf

² <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Pages/post-study-work-proposal.aspx>

³ <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/guide-uk-tuition-fees-and-student-visas-preparing-university-international-student#survey-answer>

⁴ <https://www.shu.ac.uk/international/fees-scholarships-and-discounts/tuition-fees>

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/study-here/options/graduate-school/fees>

⁵ <https://www.hepi.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Economic-benefits-of-international-students-by-constituency-Final-11-01-2018.pdf>

studying in the UK, followed by two very similar concerns about job prospects in the UK and ability to stay in the UK.⁶

8. Many major organisations, including Universities UK (the UK Higher Education sector's umbrella organisation) have called for the reimplementation of PSW visas.^{7 8}

9. *Post Study Work Visa Now* launched in Scotland on International Students' Day 2018. Many Students' Unions, such as the University of Strathclyde and the University of Manchester, have continuously supported this issue.⁹

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION BELIEVES:

1. Most international graduates are being forced to go home unjustly despite having built their lives in their city of study, and despite making the UK culturally, socially, intellectually and financially stronger. It is a disgrace that international graduates are being deported or otherwise forced to leave.
2. International students are fed up with the long wait and empty promises that have constituted the conversation about re-establishing a post-study work visa in the UK – this should be a tangible campaign outcome, not a buzzword or unfulfilled manifesto pledge.
3. It is time the government reintroduced a fair visa option for international students wishing to stay in the UK for a period after graduation, without restrictions on how quickly they must find work or how much they have to earn in order to qualify.
4. We should support our international students by standing with NUS Scotland and other Students' Unions working to bring back post-study work visas.

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the *Post Study Work Visa Now* campaign and work with other campaign signatories to raise the campaign's profile.
2. To support *Post Study Work Visa Now* by signing and campaigning for their petition, which demands:
 - Government to reintroduce a post-study work visa that allows graduates to work in the UK for at least two years after graduation.
 - A lower, regional salary threshold.
 - No restrictions – a post-study work visa should be offered to anyone who graduates from an FE or HE programme that lasts for 11+ months in the UK.
 - Healthy ecosystem – the government must support FE and HE institutions in offering opportunities to enhance employability, build capacity and engage with the job market while in education.
 - FE & HE institutions to include employability and local as well as overseas job opportunities in their internationalization strategy.
 - Students to be removed from the net migration target.

⁶ <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2018/uuk-parliamentary-briefing-post-study-work.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Pages/post-study-work-proposal.aspx>

⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/sep/04/bring-back-work-visas-overseas-graduates-say-uk-universities>

⁹ Live policy on Post-Study Work Visa and Employment for International Students, and campaigns led by past sabbatical officers like Raj Jajraj & Roza Salih, demonstrate this.

Appendix:

For Universities UK's full parliamentary briefing paper, summarising the arguments for reestablishing a post-study work visa, see here: <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2018/uuk-parliamentary-briefing-post-study-work.pdf>