

Motion to Lobby for Post-Study Work for International Students

Proposer: Mriritunjoy Guha Majumdar, Chair of Executive Committee and Vice-President

Seconded:

The Graduate Union notes:

1. On 12 September 2019, the Government of the United Kingdom passed a new 'Graduate' immigration route for post-study work visas, which will be open to all international students who have valid UK immigration status as a student and have successfully completed a course of study at undergraduate level or above, at an approved UK Higher Education Provider;
2. This post-study work visa will allow eligible students to work, or look for work, at any skill level or subject, giving them valuable work experience at the start of their careers;
3. Currently, graduates with bachelors or master's degrees can look for work for only four months. The recent government policy is a return to the policy that was scrapped by the coalition government in 2012;
4. According to government sources, the new policy builds on government action to help recruit and retain the best and brightest global talent and opens opportunities for future breakthroughs in research and other world-leading work that international talent brings to the UK;
5. The new route will launch for the 2020/21 intake of students to universities in the United Kingdom. After the two years, they will be able to switch onto the skilled work visa if they find a job which meets the skill requirement of the route;
6. The current scheme does not include the current batch of students (2019/20 intake) in its purview and therefore deprives those students of opportunities for post-study work in the United Kingdom.

The Graduate Union believes:

1. The new post-study work visa stands by the principle of international cooperation and promotion of education for all;
2. The human resource that our members constitute is of immense importance and value, and must be supported and promoted as can be best done;
3. The post-study work visa must be fair in its remit and purview, with the inclusion of all students who are currently studying or shall study in the United Kingdom;
4. The government should have clarity and transparency about the purview and details of the new policy.

The Graduate Union resolves:

1. Stand up strongly for post-study work visas for all international students;
2. To campaign for the policy to apply for students in the 2019/20 intake;
3. To work proactively to inform our members of relevant details and changes to the existing policy on post-study work visas;
4. To work with the Careers Services to inform students about and facilitate the accessibility of opportunities for international students when it comes to post-work study.