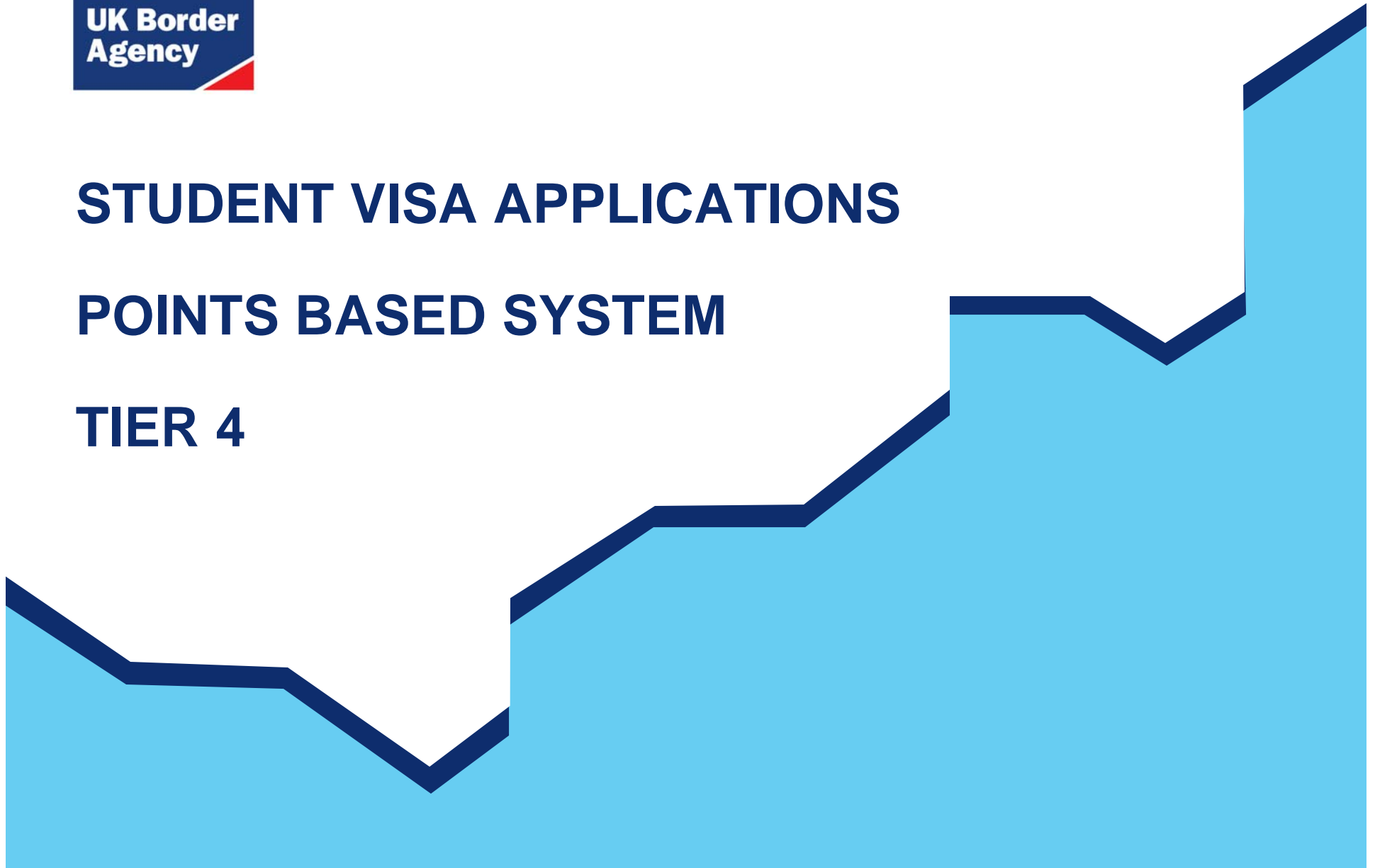




STUDENT VISA APPLICATIONS

POINTS BASED SYSTEM

TIER 4



Points Based System

The new system for managing entry to the UK for the purposes of work, study and training. The main features are:

- Consolidates 80+ existing immigration routes into a structured 5-Tier system.
- Objective decision-making criteria (allowing self-assessment).
- Sponsorship.
- Administrative Review - for out of country applications.

Tier Structure

Tier 1 Highly skilled individuals to contribute to growth and productivity

Tier 2 Skilled workers with a job offer

Tier 3 Low skilled workers to fill temporary labour shortages
Tier 3 is suspended indefinitely

Tier 4 Students

Tier 5 Youth mobility and temporary workers

Tiers 2 to 5 are underpinned by the new concept of sponsorship

Main Changes introduced by tier 4

- **Replaces 10 visa categories with the following:**
 - **General Student** - for post 16 years education
 - **Child Student** - for children between 4 and 17 years in an independent school
- **It does not replace the student visitor visa - for study of less than 6 months in the UK.**
- **All education providers in the UK must be licensed sponsors.**
- **Applicants need to pass a points-based assessment and score 40.**
- **Administrative Review**

Sponsors

The Points Based System (tiers 2 to 5) is underpinned by the principle of sponsorship.

This means that an education provider who wants to recruit overseas students or an organisation that wants to employ an overseas worker, needs to be licensed by the UK Border Agency beforehand.

Students must apply to a licensed education provider. The register is available at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Licensed sponsors take responsibility for overseas students whilst in the UK, including compliance with the terms of their visas.



What do you get points for?

You need to accumulate 40 points.

The criteria are objective.

Points under Tier 4 – Pass mark 40	
Visa Letter	30
Maintenance and Funds Test	10

Visa Letter

A letter from the education provider offering the student a place to study. It is expected to cover information about the student, the sponsor, the course, finances and documents assessed which led to the offer.

You can hold several Visa Letters. But you can only make a visa application with one Visa Letter.

The Visa Letter does not guarantee that you will be issued with a visa.

If a visa is issued, this is valid only for study at the institution identified in the visa application.

From February 2010, the Visa Letter will be replaced by the Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies.

Maintenance requirements

- You need to show that you have enough money to cover your course fees and monthly living expenses for up to 12 months.
- The final guidance will specify the documents you need to provide to establish that you fulfil the maintenance requirements.
- The maintenance requirements depend on the duration and location of your studies in the UK.

Maintenance requirements

Length of course	Where you will study	Maintenance funds
12 months or less	London-based	Course fees + £800 for each month of the course
12 months or less	Outside London	Course fees + £600 for each month of the course
More than 12 months	London-based	First year fees + £9,600 to cover the first year in UK
More than 12 months	Outside London	First year fees + £7,200 to cover the first year in UK

Visa application process

Complete your visa application form (available free on the VFS website), pay your fee and provide:

- **Current passport**
- **Visa Letter from a licensed sponsor**
- **Evidence of finances available - must be documents specified in the published guidance**
- **Documents assessed by the sponsor which led to the offer**

You will also be required to give your biometric data.

Ensure you provide all supporting documentation with your application. No further evidence can be accepted once a decision has been made. Please include any dependent applications with the main application.

Can I work while I study?

Yes, if you have a tier 4 student general visa - you may work part time (no more than 20 hours per week) during term time while studying and full time during holidays.

No, if you have a student visitor visa.

After your studies...

Once you have successfully completed your studies, you may also be eligible to work in the UK for up to 2 years under Tier 1 (post-study work) or to move to work under Tier 2.

Academic Technology Approval Scheme

If your course requires an ATAS certificate, you must get this before you apply for your visa.

You can apply online for the certificate. You will need to know the JACS code for the course.

Please check the following website to find out whether you need to obtain an ATAS certificate:

www.fco.gov.uk/atas



Forged documents

Immigration Rules issued on 1 April 2008.

If you use deception when you apply for your visa, including submitting forged documents, your application and future visa applications to the UK may be refused automatically for the next 10 years.

Validity of student visa

If you are studying at degree level or above, you can stay for the full duration of your course.

If your course is longer than 4 years, you will need to apply for an extension to your visa.

If you are studying below degree level, you may stay for up to 3 years.

Student visitor visas

- **For courses in the UK of less than 6 months.**
- **Not part of the Points Based System.**
- **Applicants will need to meet the same entry clearance requirements as visitors.**
- **Holders of this type of visa are not permitted to work, extend their visa or switch to another category of visa.**

Administrative Review

If your visa application is refused, you may request an Administrative Review.

This is a review of the original decision, by an Entry Clearance Manager who was not involved in the decision.

You cannot submit any new information with an Administrative Review.

It is important that you prepare your visa application and provide all necessary documents when you first apply.

Useful website addresses

www.vfs-uk-np.com

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

www.britishcouncil.org/nepal

www.fco.gov.uk/atas

www.ukinindia.fco.gov.uk

Visqry.newdelhi@fco.gov.uk

Please note: the information contained in this presentation may be subject to change.

Final policy guidance will be published before the end of March 2009