

Recruitment Fairs – guidance for international students

This information is for students currently in the UK on a Tier 4 student visa:

If you hope to stay on to work in the UK after your degree or Masters, you will need to have a firm job offer and change your visa status **before** your current visa expires. This may be by getting a job with an organisation on the UK's Sponsor Register, who can sponsor your Tier 2 visa application, or you may be able to secure short term work experience via the Tier 5 route. Find out more on our [pages for international students](#) (Working after studies section).

Organisations attending the fairs tend to be recruiting into **graduate schemes**, where Tier 2 would be the appropriate route. The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) has some helpful [information about Tier 2](#) on their website.

You can check before the fair whether an organisation is already registered as a [Visa sponsor](#).

To be eligible for Tier 2 sponsorship, the job must pay at least £20,800 per year (if you are transferring from a Tier 4 visa). Some jobs have a higher minimum salary to qualify if the new entrant level pays more than this. There is more information about this on the [Careers and Placements website](#).

However, be aware that asking about salary and visa sponsorship is not the best way to start a conversation with an employer at the fair! They want to hear something about your skills, experience and enthusiasm, and to see that you have a genuine interest in their organisation. You could say something like: *I am studying International Management here, and am really interested in opportunities in xxxx – could you tell me a bit more about the xxxx programme on your website?* Ask questions about the company's values and culture, projects and training. Some of the people on the stand are probably recent graduates so ask them about their experience of the graduate training scheme.

The employer representatives at the fair are unlikely to be immigration experts and are probably **not** the best people to talk to about visa sponsorship. So do your research, decide which companies you are most interested in (see How to prepare for the fair, below) and leave questions about visas and sponsorship until later in the recruitment process (interview or job offer).

How to prepare for the fair

- Look at the list of organisations attending on our [events page](#)
- Explore the websites of organisations you are particularly interested in to find out more about their schemes and the kind of graduates they are hoping to recruit
- Think about what you can offer, your strengths and motivation: as well as skills acquired through your course, you might bring cultural knowledge and awareness, language skills, understanding of global markets...
- Have a few simple questions prepared to show your interest in their company
- Make sure you have a good CV – use the CV guide in the VLE and then book an [appointment in Careers](#) for a CV review
- Try to become familiar with the latest regulations so you can explain to the recruiter (eg they won't have to apply the Resident Labour Market Test if they recruit an international student transferring from a Tier 4 student visa in the UK). You can find more on our [Graduate jobs](#) page for international students, and information for employers on [recruiting International talent](#) to help with this.

Alternatives

As well as exploring graduate opportunities, you could consider short term work experience in the UK before your visa expires; explore the options available under the Tier 5 Temporary Worker visa scheme; and research job opportunities back home too. Visit our [international student pages](#) and explore the options available, and come and [talk to us](#) if you need help.

Updated May 2018. For further updates check the information at www.ukcisa.org.uk