



The
University
Of
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Recruitment &
Selection
Coordinators
Network.

**Recruitment & Selection Network Coordinators' Network
Update Email: 27 April 2015**

Changes to the Visitor Rules - April 2015

On 24 April 2015 new immigration rules were introduced regarding the visitor routes.

A visitor is a person who is coming to the UK for a temporary purpose. A visitor needs permission to enter the UK with a visitor visa. Certain nationalities such as Australians, Americans, Canadians and New Zealanders do not need to apply for a visa if they are visiting the UK for 6 months or less. **Visitors cannot study or work in the UK unless specifically permitted to do so by the visitor rules.**

The fifteen different visitor visas have been streamlined down to four visitor routes as follows:

1. Visitor (standard)
2. Visitor for marriage or civil partnership
3. Visitor permitted paid engagements
4. Visitor transiting the UK

Which visitor routes are appropriate for the University?

The permitted paid engagements visa allows certain individuals (including academics and lecturers) to come to the UK for up to one month to carry out permitted paid activities (e.g. to be an External Examiner or a Visiting Lecturer) as defined in the visitor rules.

Another visitor route commonly used by visitors to the University is the academic visitor route, which is now under the Visitor (standard) route. The unpaid activities which an academic who is highly qualified and on sabbatical leave can do are:

- take part in a formal exchange with a UK counterpart
- carry out their own research
- take part in someone else's research, teaching or clinical practice - as long as this doesn't involve filling a permanent teaching post

Please note: If an individual wishes to come to the UK to do research the University may need to consider sponsoring them under Tier 5 of the points-based system.

Other changes

Employers may now be asked to provide a written undertaking agreeing to accommodate and maintain their visitor for the duration of their stay under the new rules. An academic can stay in the UK for up to 12 months on a Visitor (standard) visa.

For further information on the visitor routes please see: www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa.

Action: We would ask as part of your role as an R&S Co-ordinator that you familiarise yourself with these changes, and ensure that all visitors to the University apply for the appropriate visa. Please forward this message onto any relevant colleagues for information and action.