



SRUC

# MSc STUDENTS

# YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

## Your visa responsibilities:

Students holding a Student visa for their Masters programme with SRUC are required by law to fulfil certain criteria and have specific duties.

It is important that you understand and comply with the responsibilities of your student visa and co-operate with in fulfilling our shared sponsorship duties. Any breach could have a serious impact on your studies and continued stay in the UK. In using SRUC's CAS to apply for your Student visa, you agree to the requirements outlined in this document.

## What to do on arrival to the UK:

### Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

If your visa application is successful, you will be granted a 30/90-day vignette (sticker) in your passport which will enable you to travel to the UK. The actual visa will be issued as a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) and must be collected within 10 days of arrival in the UK or before your vignette expires, whichever is later. Once you have your BRP you must come to Room 202 to show it to us. EU nationals receive an online visa and do not need to collect a BRP.

## Studying with us:

### Attendance

Visa students are required to engage with their studies, attend all lectures, complete assigned course work, and have regular contact with their tutors. SRUC will monitor and document your attendance via these 'expected contacts'. You will be expected to attend all contact points or let us know in advance, when possible, if you need to miss or postpone an expected contact and provide us with the reason. SRUC will monitor your attendance regularly and has the obligation to withdraw sponsorship of students found

to be breaching the conditions of their leave. SRUC's full attendance policy is under review due to recent immigration changes but will be shared with you shortly.

## Changes you must report

As a visa sponsor, we are obliged to inform the Home Office if there are any changes in your circumstances. You must contact the International Compliance Lead immediately if you:

- change your address or contact details
- intent to withdraw from, suspend or defer your course
- intent to have a break from your studies
- complete your course sooner than expected
- change your immigration category or passport
- intent to change the place of your study
- become involved in a criminal offence
- intent to change your programme

## Can I do extra studies whilst in the UK?

You are allowed to do a supplementary course, for example, an evening class, as well as your main course of study. This supplementary course can be in any subject, and does not have to relate to your main course of study. However, you must make sure that your supplementary course does not in any way hinder your progress on your main course of studies.

## Can I change to part-time study?

Unfortunately not, visa students must be enrolled on a full-time course. If you have leave to remain different to Student Visa, please speak to the International Compliance Lead at SRUC to see your options.



## Can I work whilst in the UK?

You can work up to 20 hours per week during term-time and full-time during the official vacation periods.

You may work full-time after your course has ended provided you have leave to stay in the UK.

If you stop studying before completing your course, you will no longer be entitled to work and will be in breach of your conditions of leave if found working. The Home Office also restricts the type of work possible.

You must not:

- be self-employed or engage in business activity
- be employed as a professional sportsperson including as a sport coach;
- be employed as a doctor in training
- be employed as an entertainer;
- take a permanent full-time job;

## Can I volunteer while I am studying?

The Home office differentiates between volunteering and voluntary work:

- Voluntary workers will usually have contractual obligations to perform the work (e.g. to attend at particular times and carry out specific tasks) with the employer being contractually required to provide the work – the contract does not have to be written. The worker is usually remunerated in kind. Visa students can do voluntary work but this work and any other (e.g. paid) work that you do must not exceed the 20 hours limit.
- Students who are volunteering do not have a contract, they must not be a substitute for an employee and they must not be doing unpaid work – i.e. receiving payment in kind (although they are sometimes reimbursed for reasonable travel and subsistence expenses). Volunteers usually help a charity or voluntary or public sector organisation.  
Visa students can volunteer while they are studying.

## Completing your studies:

If you complete your course at the expected date then your visa expiry does not change. You will be allowed to work full-time after the end date on your CAS providing you have completed your course.

If you complete your course earlier than expected, SRUC is required to report this to the Home Office.

The Home Office will curtail your visa to the normal entitlement period following a course end date, i.e. four months for courses twelve months or longer.

You should always ensure that you either leave the UK or apply to extend your visa on or before your current expiry date. If you don't you will become an 'overstayer', which is an illegal status in the UK.

The Graduate route provides an opportunity for international students who have been awarded their degree to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, at any skill level for two years.

To qualify you must:

- Have successfully completed your MSc
- Apply in the UK and have a valid Student visa at the time of application
- Apply after SRUC has reported your course completion to the Home Office
- You must have held a Student Visa for at least 12 months
- If you were awarded a scholarship by a Government or international scholarship agency covering both fees and living costs for study in the UK, you must provide written consent to the application from that Government or agency.

More information

If you have any questions about these conditions, please contact:

Alejandra Castellano, International Compliance Lead

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