

## International Services – Immigration FAQ's

### What will happen to my Tier 4 visa if I'm studying remotely?

The University is required to monitor the attendance of all our Tier 4 sponsored students. However, in light of the alternative arrangements being made for teaching/assessment/supervision in response to COVID-19 please be advised as follows:

#### Undergraduate and Postgraduate taught students

If you wish to leave your campus and continue your studies remotely, you should check with your Department/School that you do not need to be here for educational reasons. Providing you continue to engage and progress academically, the University will not need to take any action to withdraw our Tier 4 sponsorship and your Tier 4 immigration status will remain valid.

If you are finishing your course this year and wish to leave the UK permanently to complete your course remotely from overseas, please check with your Department/School via email to ask if you can do so and copy in [international@essex.ac.uk](mailto:international@essex.ac.uk) so that we can ensure you obtain further guidance regarding your Tier 4 visa.

#### PhD students

Provided that you continue to engage and progress academically and remain in contact with your Supervisor monthly via Zoom/Skype, the University will not need to take any action to withdraw our Tier 4 sponsorship and your Tier 4 immigration status will remain valid. If you are intending to leave the UK permanently and will submit your thesis remotely, please check with your Department/School via email to ask if you can do so and copy in [international@essex.ac.uk](mailto:international@essex.ac.uk) so that we can ensure you obtain further guidance regarding your Tier 4 visa.

Please look out for further updates from the University in the coming days and weeks via email and check our [COVID-19 page](#) regularly for guidance. Don't forget to update your contact details we hold for you via your myEssex portal if they change.

### I would like immigration advice about travelling to another country

We're sorry but we are only authorised to provide immigration advice to our students about the UK's student Immigration rules. You can check the official government website for the country you would like to go to.

### I've finished my studies but can't leave the UK before my current visa expires, what will happen?

The UK government have released new guidance today for those nationals who have or will be unable to leave the UK by the date their current visa expires.

If your visa expires between 24 January 2020 and 30 May 2020 and you cannot leave the UK because of COVID-19, please contact the coronavirus immigration helpline to request that your visa is extended until 31 May 2020. If you need to extend your Tier 4 visa to complete your current course, you should be able to do so in the UK up to the 31 May 2020, this includes students who would usually have had to make the application overseas due to the Tier 4 academic progression rules. If you think this applies to you, contact us for further advice by emailing [international@essex.ac.uk](mailto:international@essex.ac.uk).

Read the [government website](#) for further information and contact the coronavirus immigration helpline if you have any other immigration queries relating to coronavirus.

### I have a Tier 4 visa, what will happen if the situation continues and I can't get back to the UK for the start of the next academic year?

We very much hope that the situation will improve and that you will be able to travel back to the UK in time for the start of term in October 2020. We will continue to update our published information as the

situation progresses and our Registration team will be in touch with you later in the summer regarding registering for 2020/2021.

### **I'm starting a new Essex course, can I apply in the UK for my new Tier 4 visa**

This will depend on a number of factors including the date your current Tier 4 visa expires and your current sponsor. If your Tier 4 visa expires more than 28 days before your new course start date and/or you are studying at the International College, the Tier 4 rules require you to make your Tier 4 visa application overseas in a country where you legally live (you can't be a visitor in that country). Our [Admissions team](#) will be able to advise you further. If you are going to another institution to study your new course you'll need to contact their advice services.

The Home Office haven't made any concessions to the Tier 4 rules and requirements at the time of writing. Please check the [UKCISA](#) website for up to date information and guidance about applying for Tier 4.

### **I've lost my BRP (Biometric Residence Permit) what should I do?**

What you need to do will depend if you are in the UK or overseas and when your Tier 4 leave expires. Check our [immigration pages](#) for more information and contact us if you need to via the 'ask us a question' section.

### **Can I work full time?**

Tier 4 students can only work part-time during term-time, including during the time that teaching is to be delivered remotely due to the COVID-19. It's important that you know what term-time applies to you as this varies for different courses/levels of study. Those students who have Short-term student visas can't work at all in the UK. To find out more about your work conditions please check our [immigration pages](#).