

To whom it may concern,

Switching from Student Visa to Skilled Worker Visa

This letter aims to provide information to employers regarding the UKVI rules and guidance and is not intended to replace the need for employers to seek their own legal advice where required.

Students who hold a Student Visa and wish to switch into the Skilled Worker Visa from within the UK are subject to the following immigration rules:

SW 1.5A. An applicant who is applying for permission to stay and has, or last had, permission as a Student, must fulfil one of the Conditions A, B or C below on the date of application:

(a) Condition A: the applicant must have completed the course of study for which the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies was assigned (or a course to which ST 27.3 of Appendix Student applies); or

(b) Condition B:

(i) the applicant must be studying a full-time course of study at degree level or above with a higher education provider which has a track record of compliance; and

(ii) the Certificate of Sponsorship in SW 1.2(d) must have a start date no earlier than the course completion date; or

(c) Condition C:

(i) the applicant must be studying a full-time course of study leading to the award of a PhD with a higher education provider which has a track record of compliance; and

(ii) the Certificate of Sponsorship in SW 1.2(d) must have a start date no earlier than 24 months after the start date of that course.

UKVI guidance for caseworkers includes the following information regarding course completion (highlighting added by UWE):

An applicant who is applying for permission to stay and has, or last had, permission as a student must meet one of the following conditions:

- they must have completed the course of study for which the confirmation of acceptance for Studies was assigned – this means they must have studied to the end of the course, although they do not need to have passed it
- they must have completed a course to which paragraph ST 27.3 of Appendix student applies – this means they may have changed to a different course, which must be at the same level or above as the course on their Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS), unless it is the lower level of an integrated master's or PhD programme
- they must be studying a course which will have finished before the start date on their CoS
- if their course is leading to a PhD award, they must have completed at least 24 months of that course

You can normally determine whether the applicant has completed their course by checking the end date on the (CAS). However, the applicant may have completed their studies, and therefore met the requirement of the Rules, in advance of the end date on the CAS. If the end date on the CAS indicates they have not yet completed their studies, you should consider whether the course may have been completed by looking at any information provided with the application (for example: a results transcript) and any notifications made by the Student Sponsor. You should also check if the course stated on the CAS was at PhD level, and if so, use the course start date to assess whether they have completed at least 24 months.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/skilled-worker-visa-caseworker-guidance/skilled-worker-caseworker-guidance-accessible>

It is essential that both employers and students are confident that they understand and comply with UKVI requirements. The Immigration Advice Service at the University of the West of England are unable to offer full advice on switching into the Skilled Worker Visa category and cannot produce documents which confirm either academic status or eligibility to make a Skilled Worker Visa application. Students are encouraged to provide employers with their most recent CAS as clarification of their course end date. Students can also download a HEAR document confirming their academic status from MyUWE.

Yours sincerely

Immigration Advice Service

Email: immigrationadvice@uwe.ac.uk

This letter is based on UKVI rules and guidance current as of 20 November 2025. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this letter, the University stresses that details may be subject to alteration or omission.