



## Completing a work placement as part of your Masters degree – Department of Health Policy – January 2025

This guidance is for students on a programme that has a work placement as an integral and assessed part of their Masters degree. It does not relate to internships, which are organised by the individual and are not agreed with the department.

### Can I complete a work placement of more than 20 hours per week as part of my programme?

You can only undertake a work placement as part of your degree if it is an integral and assessed part of your degree, as agreed with your department and reported to the UKVI.

### Does the 20 hour per week work restriction for Student visa holders apply to work placements?

No, because a work placement, which is part of your studies, is study rather than work because you are doing it as an assessed component of your degree programme. Therefore, an agreed work placement which is reported as such to the UKVI can be full-time during term-time, because your studies are on a full-time basis.

### Does this refer to all students?

No. This information is only for Student visa holders to ensure they stay within the conditions of their visa.

### Does this apply to work outside the UK?

No, it only applies to work placements in the UK. However, your department should know where you are due to engagement monitoring requirements.

### How many hours is 'full-time'?

If you are permitted to work full-time, you may work as many hours as you wish. The Home Office do not have a weekly hour restriction for full-time work on a Student visa

### Is there any other work I cannot do whilst on a Student visa?

- You cannot be self-employed; this means that you cannot set up your own business or work freelance or as a consultant on a self-employed basis.
- You are not permitted to work as a professional sports person/sports coach, entertainer or doctor or dentist in training.
- You cannot work full-time in a permanent role (unless you have applied for the Graduate Route and applied for your Student visa on or after 6 April 2022).

**These restrictions apply even if you are working for an overseas organization, whilst based in the UK.**

### Where can I find further information about working in the UK on a Student visa and the conditions in place?

Please refer to the [SAET webpage](#) about work.

### When can I start working full time on my work placement?

**All of the steps below *must* be completed before you work in excess of 20 hours per week:**

- The Department of Health Policy will provide the Student Advice and Engagement Team with a list of all students on an approved project and their place of work.
- The details of your work placement are reported to the UKVI on their Sponsor Management System
- Our team will provide you with a letter confirming your work placement to provide to your employer for a right to work check. Only when you get this letter can you work more than 20 hours per week.

**Important: Remember working in excess of 20 hours, also applies if you have multiple contracts. You should never work above your permitted hours per week even if you are working for an overseas organisation whilst based in the UK.**

### Can I get a retrospective letter if I started working more than 20 hours before following the steps above?

**We cannot issue retrospective letters.**

If you are found to have been working in excess of 20 hours before being reported to the UKVI, it is illegal working and LSE will be required to report this to the UKVI as part of our sponsor licence holder responsibilities. The consequences of this for you can be deportation, a potential ban from the UK of a minimum of 12 months and the need to declare your illegal working not only for visa applications in the UK but for other countries. The School risks losing its ability to sponsor international students and the employer can be fined up.

Over 70% of students at LSE hold a form of immigration permission. Whilst we consider the individual and the case, we also have a responsibility to protect those students who need a visa to study and have not breach the conditions of their visa. ***Plan ahead and be upfront with employers to avoid any risk to you and others from illegal working.***

### My employer wants me to continue working with them after my official programme end date. Is this okay?

The UKVI consider the four extra months at the end of your visa as vacation, so you can continue to work full time. We can only verify your right to work until your official programme end date.