

**This information is for:**

**Applicants** who are non-EU/EEA nationals, and who are considering applying, or have applied, to University College Falmouth for entry to a course after 31 March 2009.

**Current students** at University College Falmouth who may need to extend their student visa at any time after the end of March 2009.

As part of its major review of immigration, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) has introduced a Points Based System (PBS) for those coming into the UK to work and study. The launch of Tier 4 (students) of PBS begins on 31 March 2009. The new system is underpinned by the principle of sponsorship. University College Falmouth is an A-rated, government approved education provider. Acceptance to study at UCF takes you a long way towards gaining entry to the UK; once you have been accepted, you should apply as a student under Tier 4 of the Points Based System. The Points Based Scheme (PBS) is a new immigration scheme that consists of five tiers which allows nationals from outside of the EU/EEA to live, work or study in the UK.

<b>Tier 1</b>	Highly skilled individuals who will contribute to growth and productivity
<b>Tier 2</b>	Skilled workers with a job offer to fill gaps in the United Kingdom labour force
<b>Tier 3</b>	Low-skilled workers who are needed to fill specific temporary labour shortages
<b>Tier 4</b>	<b>Students</b>
<b>Tier 5</b>	Youth mobility and temporary workers, who are allowed to work in the United Kingdom for a limited period of time to satisfy primarily non-economic objectives

The phased introduction of PBS starts from 31st March 2009, continues in autumn 2009, and will end with full implementation in February 2010.

This information is for guidance only and represents the latest information available. However, you should note that there may be further adjustments and changes to the scheme, so please keep checking UKBA website for the most recent information.

**Applying for a student visa after 31 March 2009**

Your visa application as a student will be assessed under the new points based criteria. You should make your application under Tier 4 – General Student. This applies to under 18 year olds too. **To gain a student visa, you are required to reach 40 points;**

<b>40 Points</b>	<b>30 Points</b>	<b>30</b> points will be gained by providing a “visa letter” (from March 2009) or a 'Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS)' number (from autumn 2009) from University College Falmouth
	<b>10 Points</b>	<b>10</b> points by showing you have enough money to meet the maintenance requirement set by the UK Border Agency.

The maintenance requirement is evidence that you have sufficient funds, over the cost of your tuition fees, to live in the UK.

Course Duration	Maintenance Requirement evidence
Courses lasting longer than 9 months	Your tuition fees, plus £5,400, plus £400 per month per dependant up to a maximum of 12 months.
Courses lasting 9 months or less	Your tuition fees, £600 per month, plus £400 per month per dependant.

#### Examples of maintenance requirement level:

Sandeep is planning to come to the UK alone to study BA English with Media Studies at UCF starting September 2009. He will need to provide evidence that he has £9,097 (course fee) + £5,400 (maintenance requirement) = £14,497 to support his student visa application.

Anita is planning to come to the UK, with her husband and 2 children, to study for an MA in Photography starting October 2009. She will need to supply evidence that she has £11,160 (course fee) + £5,400 (maintenance requirement) + £14,400 (maintenance requirement for dependants £400 x 3 x 12 months) = £30,960 to support her student visa application.

Once your student visa is issued using University College Falmouth documentation, you will be able to study at University College Falmouth only.

#### Applying for extensions to student visas after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

If you are already enrolled at University College Falmouth and wish to extend your student visa after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, then you will have to apply for your extension under the new Points Based Scheme.

You will need to show the UK Border Agency a letter from University College Falmouth - as your sponsor - confirming essential details of your course, our sponsor number and other personal information. In addition, you will need to meet the new maintenance requirement. **To gain a student visa, you are required to reach 40 points** (see table above).

Your "visa letter" confirming that you are a student at University College Falmouth is available from the International Office at Woodlane; please allow a minimum of 48 hours for these to be produced following your request. To secure this letter, you may be asked for additional information such as your passport number, as this now needs to be included in the supporting documentation. The maintenance requirement is evidence that you have sufficient funds, over the cost of your tuition fees, to live in the UK.

#### Application procedure

Once you have been issued with a "visa letter" or CAS, you will be able to apply for your student visa. In addition to completed application forms, you will be required to show evidence of your main educational qualification, as well as evidence that you meet the maintenance requirements.

#### Course registration requirements

From 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, when you register for your course at University College Falmouth, as well as the usual requirements of completing registration such as paying your course fees and confirming your personal details, you will be required to submit a copy of your entitlement to study in the UK. **This evidence may be a copy of a valid student visa from your passport or a copy of your**

**biometric ID card. You will also be required to ensure that you keep us up to date with your latest contact details such as your address and telephone number.**

### **Our role as your sponsor**

As well as registering as a sponsor and providing course applicants and visa extension applicants with the right documentation, we have a duty, as your sponsor, to comply with UK Border Agency requirements.

From autumn 2009, we will be obliged to inform the UK Border Agency if non-EU/EEA nationals here as students under the Points Based Scheme:

- fail to enrol no later than 10 working days after the end of their prescribed enrolment period
- are absent for prolonged periods – 10 expected contact points during the academic year
- withdraw or go in to abeyance from their studies
- defer their studies after arrival in the UK
- change their programme in any significant way e.g. change mode of study or shorten the duration of the course.

Current international students on a course who applied for their student visa prior to the introduction of the Points Based Scheme are not affected by these new requirements.

### **Your role and responsibilities as a student**

Whilst in the UK, you must comply with the conditions of your student visa. Please pay particular attention to the following areas:

*Police registration* - if you are required to register with the Police, you should usually do so within 7 days of arrival in the UK. You will be given a certificate that you should keep safely, as should you need to change address or extend your visa, you will need to refer to this certificate.

*Registering for your course* - it is essential that you fully register for your course, including making any payment arrangements for your tuition fees.

*Work* - generally, international students that are in the UK on a student visa are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week during term time and full time during vacation time, if they are on courses of 6 months or more. But, there are instances where working rights are not given. You should check your student visa carefully to ensure you are eligible for work. Students on courses where there is an integral period of placement, e.g. a sandwich course, are allowed to work full time for this part of their degree programme.

### **Where to find further information**

If you are making an application from outside the United Kingdom for entry clearance you should go to the International Group website (formerly known as UK Visas) at [www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/vafs](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/vafs) where you can find the forms and more information on how to fill them in.

For the immigration rules in full and more information on how to apply, go to the UK Border Agency website which can be found at [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/).