



The following message was received for our website on 16th March, 2015

Tier 4 sponsor guidance

On 4 March, the Home Office updated the Tier 4 sponsor guidance to incorporate new policy on sponsor sites and teaching partnerships. The publication of the new guidance follows a period of consultation with sponsors and sector representatives. We would like to thank those who took part in this exercise.

The new guidance applies the following principles to all arrangements to ensure that sponsors can fulfil their duties:

- institutions which teach students must take responsibility for sponsoring them; and
- institutions or umbrella organisations are not able to hold more than one Tier 4 licence.

Special provisions have been made for some exceptional arrangements where an embedded college or joint venture is an autonomous institution with close links to a single higher education institution. Sponsors must seek agreement from UKVI for embedded colleges to be considered for 'exceptional arrangements', and should refer to the guidance for further information.

The intention of the change is to ensure that the Tier 4 sponsorship system works effectively where there are collaborative arrangements and that the relationship between institutions is open and transparent so that the sponsorship of students can be monitored effectively. It will also ensure that students receive appropriate conditions of stay, as laid out on the Immigration Rules.

You can download the new guidance here -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsor-a-tier-4-student-guidance-for-educators>

If you have any questions please contact the educators' helpdesk:

- Email: educatorshelpdesk@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
- Telephone: 0300 123 4699

Sponsors who receive premium service will be contacted shortly by their licence manager to discuss the changes in more detail.

Biometric Residence Permits

Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) for non-EEA nationals travelling to the UK for more than six months will begin to be issued from the 18th March 2015, starting with applications made in Pakistan.

BRPs provide a more secure, streamlined and faster method for applicants and businesses to verify someone's identity and right to be in the UK.

The rollout will continue in three further phases from mid April (inc. China and India), end May (inc. Japan and Nigeria) and end July (rest of the world).

Applicants will receive a 30 day vignette in their passport instead of a vignette with the full grant of leave. This is to allow the applicant to enter the UK and collect their BRP from a designated post office.

The post office and 30 day travel window will be determined using information provided in the application form. Applicants will receive a letter, if their application is successful, which provides instructions on how to collect their BRP and where to go for more information - [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

Details of the countries included in each phase of the rollout are attached for information, along with a customer-facing Q&A that can be used to answer any questions that applicants might have. Further guidance along will be published on Gov.UK on 18 March.

Home Office Communications