

Guide for International Students to Working While Studying in the UK

International students may be permitted to work while studying in the UK, but their work rights depend on the level and mode of study, the type of Student sponsor and the conditions attached to their immigration permission. Working can provide useful experience and help with some day-to-day expenses, but it should not interfere with academic study.

Working During Term Time

Students following a full-time course at degree level or above, sponsored by a higher education provider with a track record of compliance, can normally work for up to 20 hours per week during term-time.

Students following a full-time course below degree level with such a provider can normally work for up to 10 hours per week during term-time. Other study, including part-time study, may carry no work permission.

Type of Study	Working Hours During Term-Time
Full-time degree level or above with an eligible higher education provider	Normally up to 20 hours per week
Full-time below degree level with an eligible higher education provider	Normally up to 10 hours per week
Other study, including part-time study	No employment permitted in most cases

Working Outside Term Time

Where their visa conditions permit work, eligible students may normally work full-time during official vacation periods. Students should check their university or college term dates and the work conditions attached to their immigration permission before increasing their hours.

Restrictions on Employment

Students who are permitted to work are subject to restrictions. They must not normally be self-employed or engage in business activity, work as a professional sportsperson or sports coach, work as an entertainer, or fill a permanent full-time vacancy, except where specific Immigration Rules allow otherwise.

Employment must also comply with UK employment regulations, including the applicable National Minimum Wage.

Working Cannot Finance Your Studies

Students should not plan to fund their UK education and living costs through part-time employment. Student visa applicants are generally required to meet UKVI financial requirements for their course fees and living costs, although some applicants are exempt from providing financial evidence.

Part-time work should therefore be regarded as a way of gaining experience and helping with some expenses rather than as the principal means of financing study in the UK.

The Key Message

International students may be permitted to work alongside their studies, but the hours and type of work allowed depend on the course, Student sponsor and individual visa conditions. Part-time employment can provide useful experience and supplementary income, but study must remain the priority. Students should always check the work conditions attached to their visa before accepting employment.

Disclaimer: This information is provided in good faith and was believed to be accurate at the time of publication. Fees, dates, entry requirements, visa regulations and other information may change. Students should check current requirements before making any financial or study commitments.