TIER 4 IMMIGRATION RULES - KEY CHANGES JULY 2015:

On 13th July 2015 UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) announced a number of changes to the Immigration Rules. This document provides details of the key changes due to come into effect, the date of the changes and who they are likely to affect. For full details of the Immigration Rule changes please visit: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-of-changes-to-the-immigration-rules-297-13-july-2015.

Changes effective from 14 July 2015

Entry Clearance Start Dates

- Entry Clearance will now be granted to a Tier 4 student starting one month before the course start date specified on the student’s CAS or seven days before the intended date of travel, whichever is later. This is to ensure that students wishing to travel to the UK closer to or after their course start date can do so.

Who will this affect? Anyone applying for a Tier 4 (General) student visa with the University of Liverpool on or after 14th July 2015.

Changes effective from 3 August 2015:

Banning students at publicly-funded colleges from working

- Work rights are being removed for new Tier 4 students applying to study at publicly-funded further colleges, bringing them into line with students at private colleges.

Who will this affect? This change will not affect anyone applying for a Tier 4 student visa to study with the University of Liverpool. However, this change will affect anyone who applies for a Tier 4 student visa to study with Liverpool International College (LIC).

Academic progression

- Students who wish to extend their tier 4 (General) leave must be moving up a level on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), unless they are a university student and their new course is related to their previous Tier 4 study, or the previous course and new course combination support the applicant’s genuine career aspirations.

Who will this affect? Anyone planning to do a second course of study at degree level or above with the University of Liverpool which will be at the same academic level as their current or previous course. This will not affect PhD students applying to complete a PhD.

Time limit calculations for 5 year cap on studies
The time used to calculate whether a student has breached the 5 year cap on studies will now take into account the amount of time issued on a visa rather than the length of study. Previously the one month before and 4 months after the course was excluded when calculating the time spent studying in the UK.

**Who will this affect?** Anyone who has previously studied at degree level or above and is planning to apply for further study in the UK. For more information on the exceptions to the 5 year limit on studies please see our website: [http://www.liv.ac.uk/studentsupport/ist/visas/studentvisaapplicationsoutsideuk/alimitonyourstudies/](http://www.liv.ac.uk/studentsupport/ist/visas/studentvisaapplicationsoutsideuk/alimitonyourstudies/).

**Changes effective from 12 November 2015**

‘Established Presence’

- The ‘established presence’ provision is being removed so that all students must show that they have sufficient funds to support themselves throughout the duration of their remaining study or up to a maximum of 9 months, whichever is shorter.

**Who will this affect?** Anyone applying for an extension of their Tier 4 (General) visa or a PBS Dependant visa (as a dependant of a Tier 4 student) applying from inside or outside the UK. Previously, students applying for an extension of their Tier 4 student visa would only be required to show two months worth of funds but now they will need to show up to 9 months even if they have a valid visa when they apply.

**Increase in maintenance levels**

- The level of funds that Tier 4 (General) students and their dependants must demonstrate for living costs is being increased. Please see the table below for details of this:

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<tr>
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<th>Current Maintenance Requirement</th>
<th>Maintenance Requirement from 12 November 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tier 4 (General)</strong></td>
<td>£1,020 for inner London; or £820 for outer London; Per month of study up to a maximum of 9 months</td>
<td>£1,265 for inner London; or £1,015 for outer London; Per month of study up to a maximum of 9 months</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tier 4 Dependant</strong></td>
<td>£615 for inner London; or £460 for outer London; Per month of study up to a maximum of 9 months</td>
<td>£845 for inner London; or £680 for outer London; Per month of study up to a maximum of 9 months</td>
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**Who will this affect?** Anyone applying for a Tier 4 or Tier 4 dependant visa from 12th November 2015.
Preventing college students from extending their Tier 4 (General) visa or switching to other points-based routes

- Tier 4 (General) students studying at colleges cannot extend their stay in Tier 4 unless they are studying at a college which UKVI classes as an ‘embedded college offering pathway programmes’, designed to prepare students for entry to a higher education course.

**Who will this affect?** This change will not affect LIC students who complete their course and wish to go on to study with the University of Liverpool. These students will still have the option of applying inside or outside the UK. However, this change may affect any students who complete a course of study below degree level with another college and who wish to apply inside the UK to study with the University of Liverpool. These students may have to leave the UK to make their visa application.

**Accommodation payments**

- The maximum amount already paid for accommodation that can be offset against the maintenance requirements is being increased to £1,265.

**Who will this affect?** Anyone who wishes to apply for a Tier 4 student visa and has already paid some money toward their University accommodation when they apply.