There have been important changes to the immigration rules relating to visa extensions inside the UK. These changes affect people who will:

(a) transfer to a new course (whether this is due to a change in your interests or recommended by your department),
(b) extend their visa to complete a course.

**Transferring to a different course**

If you intend to transfer to a different course of study before completing your current course and your current visa is not long enough to complete it, you will need to apply for a new visa before the transfer can take place. In the majority of cases, this visa application will need to take place outside the UK.

Sometimes when students receive their examination results and are not making good progress, the School may recommend that you change to a different course. When you receive your results it is important to keep in mind that, if changing course is a recommendation that is given to you, you would need to plan a trip home to extend your visa.

If you plan to transfer to a new course and your current visa will cover the new course length, you may remain in the UK and study on your current visa if:

- The University confirms that your new course is related to your previous course; or
- The University confirms that your previous course and your new course in combination support your genuine career aspirations.

**Extending your visa to complete a course of study**

If you plan to extend your visa to complete your current course, this application can be made in the UK only in certain circumstances:

- If you will be repeating/re-sitting exams (this does not include if you are currently repeating/re-sitting exams or have done in the past), or
- Studying a PhD, or
- Have been elected to serve as an officer in the Guild of Students and will return to studies.

If you do not fall within one of the 3 categories above then your visa application must be made outside the UK.

**Extending your visa to begin a new course of study**

If you will begin a new course after completing a previous course in the UK, and the new course is at a higher level than the previous course (such as starting a Masters after completing an undergraduate degree), you may apply for your new visa in the UK.

_We understand that these changes are very different to what has come before and that they might greatly impact upon your studies. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the team so that we can provide answers and assistance._