

Latest Immigration News and Updates:

The UK Visa and Immigration unit (UKVI) have introduced a number of changes to the immigration rules today (12th November 2015). As these changes will have an effect on international students from outside the EEU who wish to study in the UK, we are writing to you to clarify the relevant changes where they may apply to you as a current international student studying at Cardiff Met. For more information regarding the new immigration rule changes please visit the UKVI website at www.gov.uk.

Immigration Rule Changes – effective from 12th November 2015:

Tier 4 Maintenance Requirements

From 12th November 2015 the level of funds that Tier 4 (General) students at Cardiff Met and their Dependants must maintain for living costs is increasing as follows:

	Maintenance Requirement BEFORE 12th November 2015	Maintenance Requirement ON/AFTER 12th November 2015
Tier 4 (General)	£820 (outer London per month, up to a maximum of 9 months)	£1,015 (outer London per month, up to a maximum of 9 months)
Tier 4 Dependant	£460 (outer London per month, up to a maximum of 9 months)	£680 (outer London per month, up to a maximum of 9 months)

Established Presence

The provision for ‘established presence’ has now been removed so that all students must show that they have enough money to support themselves throughout the duration of their remaining study, or for up to a maximum of 9 months. This is to ensure that all students can demonstrate that they can maintain and accommodate themselves for the full duration of their course, or up to 9 months whichever is shorter.

This new ‘established presence’ rule means that from 12th November 2015 all current students who need to apply for a visa extension in the UK to start a new course of study or to complete their existing course of study must show £1,015 per calendar month of their course up to a maximum of 9 months. The same also applies to dependants who are applying at the same time as the student.

Dependants must show £680 per calendar month of the student's course up to a maximum of 9 months.

Students applying under the Doctorate Extension Scheme however are still required to show only 2 months' worth of funds for maintenance (£1,015 x 2 = £2,030)

Time-limits for courses at below degree level

From 12th November 2015 the time-limit for Tier4 (General) students who study courses at National Qualifications Framework levels 3-5 (or equivalent) is being reduced from 3 years to 2 years. Students studying courses at below degree level will therefore be permitted to study at this level for a maximum period of 2 years.

Tier 4 Dependants and work

From 12th November 2015 Tier 4 Dependants who accompany students to the UK will be prevented from taking low or unskilled jobs, however they will still be permitted to take part-time or full-time skilled work.