

Dear Colleague,

There is a lot of information in the press at the moment about changes to immigration rules for international students planning to study in the UK. These changes are being introduced over the next few weeks and months and will impact on FE and HE in different ways. Below is a summary of the changes and the anticipated impact.

Change and date	Impact on FE	Impact on HE
Removal of the right to work from 3 August	Will apply to new T4 students applying to study at publically funded FE Colleges. This will bring publically funded colleges into line with privately funded colleges	This will not apply to T4 students in HE. Degree level students on T4 visas can work 20 hours a week during term time and full time during vacation periods
Academic progression to be linked to moving up a level according to the National Qualifications Framework	This will apply to FE students	This will not apply strictly to HE where the new course is related to the previous study or where the new and previous course in combination support the applicants' career aspirations
Time limit calculations to include additional periods of time granted before and after official course start and end dates	This will mean that non study time is counted in time limits and will restrict ability to resit in attendance/progress on to further courses	This will mean that non study time is counted in time limits and will restrict ability to resit in attendance/progress on to further courses
Time limits on studies reduced from 3 to 2 years from 12 November	Will apply to courses below degree level (at NQF level 3 – 5)	Will apply to courses below degree level (at NQF level 3 – 5). The will only apply to students undertaking Foundation and CELE courses at UoN
Restricting students from extending their Tier 4 (General) visa or switching to other points-based routes from 12 November	Will apply to all college students unless an 'embedded college offering pathway programmes' to prepare students for entry to a HE course College students will need to leave the UK following their course and apply for a new visa overseas if they wish to continue their studies in the UK	This will not apply to T4 students in HE extending their visa or moving on to further courses
Increased maintenance requirements and the removal of the established presence provision from 12 November	Tier 4 students from outside London will need to show access to £1015 pcm for up to 9 months (£9135) when applying for a T4 visa	Tier 4 students from outside London will need to show access to £1015 pcm for up to 9 months (£9135) when applying for a T4 visa
Restricting dependants right to work from 12 November		Only able to undertake skilled work on a T4 dependant visa

The key thing to note at this stage is that most of the changes will impact on FE rather than HE and, for the changes that impact on HE (highlighted in green), most will be introduced from 12 November 2015, so will not affect students starting with us in September/October.

If you have any questions or concerns about this email please do not hesitate to contact me (ext 14161/email: Deborah.webb@nottingham.ac.uk).

With kind regards

Deborah