

# Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur (GE) visa

## What is Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur?

- Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur (GE) is a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) initiative under which the University of Bristol can endorse a limited number of entrepreneurs
- It is designed to encourage students who have **genuine and credible** viable business ideas and entrepreneurial skills to remain in the UK and establish their businesses in the UK
- It is a one-year visa, with the possibility of extending for a further year subject to progress
- The team at the Careers Service ([www.bristol.ac.uk/careers/student-enterprise](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/careers/student-enterprise)) is working together with the International Student Visa and Compliance team to assess potential candidates and endorse those who are successful
- You are permitted to work but this should not affect your ability to carry out the business development tasks as outlined in the endorsement letter and defined in the first point above
- You cannot have a business engaged in property development or property management, work as doctor/dentist in training or professional sports person
- You can study but a condition of the visa is, if the course requires ATAS, you hold an ATAS certificate

## How can you start the process?

- If you are interested in applying for the Tier 1 GE visa, you should first arrange a consultation with the team in the Careers Service to discuss your business idea. Email [careers-basecamp@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:careers-basecamp@bristol.ac.uk)
- Following communications and consultations with the Careers Service, you will need to submit a full business plan to the team (via email to [careers-basecamp@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:careers-basecamp@bristol.ac.uk)) for the first round of judging
- If your business plan is successful at this stage, you will be given the opportunity to come and pitch to our panel one month later. You will be notified of this by email

## When can you be endorsed?

- There are two opportunities to be endorsed every year (following presentation of your business plan to panel): in June and December
- You can present to the panel **before** you have been awarded your qualification, although you cannot be endorsed and apply for the GE visa until **after** you have been awarded your qualification
- The International Student Visa Advice team will ensure you have been awarded your degree at the relevant exam board in July or December and issue the appropriate documents to support you in applying for the visa
- The earliest you can apply is 4 months prior to graduation
- The latest you can apply is 6 months after graduation if you have left the UK (you can present to the panel by Skype) and up to 1 year after graduation if you are still in the UK

## Key dates 2018:

- **Friday 4 May** – deadline for submission of business plans with the panel on **Monday 4 June**
- **Friday 26 October** – deadline for submission of business plans with the panel on **Monday 3 December**

## What are the University requirements?

- You must have signed a Student Declaration form declaring that you will act in accordance with the Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visa rules and policy
- You must have signed a Student Consent form confirming your details and confirming your consent to the disclosure of information to UKVI and consenting to the University of Bristol monitoring your progress in your business
- You must maintain regular contact with the Careers Service regarding the progress of your business. You must complete and return a quarterly monitoring form. These forms will be sent by email (once you have secured your visa) in February, May, August and November. These will be sent to the Careers Service for confirmation of regular contact with them

## What are the visa requirements?

- You must be a non-EEA national
- You must have been awarded a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree or PhD from University of Bristol
- You must have a signed endorsement letter with unique reference number issued by the International Student Visa Advice and Compliance team
- You must show evidence that you have held at least £945 in your bank account every day for a consecutive 90-day period (or £1890 if you apply from overseas)
- If applicable, you must have a police registration certificate. This must be up to date with your current address and visa
- If you have received sponsorship from your government or an international scholarship agency in the 12 months before you apply for GE, you will require a letter of consent from them to confirm they agree to you making the GE application and to you remaining in the UK
- You must pay the visa application fee = £493 if you are applying inside the UK or £363 if you are applying outside the UK
- You must pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) = £200
- You will also need to submit your passport, current visa and 2 new passport sized photographs

## Applying for the visa

### In the UK

- You can switch from a Tier 4 visa to the Tier 1 GE visa in the UK
- Download, print and complete a paper application form:  
[www.gov.uk/tier-1-graduate-entrepreneur-visa/switch-to-this-visa](http://www.gov.uk/tier-1-graduate-entrepreneur-visa/switch-to-this-visa)
- Pay the IHS fee online. You will be given an IHS reference number to include in your application
- Pay the visa application fee. We strongly recommend that you obtain a postal order from the Post Office to pay the fee. This is to avoid visa application rejections if your payment by bank card is not accepted. Go to the Post Office and follow the instructions on the visa application form regarding this payment
- You can submit your application form and supporting documents to the International Student Visa Advice and Compliance team who will be able to send your application to UKVI for you. You **must** have a postal order to pay the visa application fee if you want the University to send your application for you

### Outside the UK

- Apply online. Pay the visa application fee and IHS fee online as part of the application:  
[www.gov.uk/tier-1-graduate-entrepreneur-visa/apply](http://www.gov.uk/tier-1-graduate-entrepreneur-visa/apply)

For full details and to check up to date information, please see the following websites:

- Our website: [www.bristol.ac.uk/directory/visas/tier-4/apply/inside-uk/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/directory/visas/tier-4/apply/inside-uk/)
- UKVI Tier 1 GE information: [www.gov.uk/tier-1-graduate-entrepreneur-visa/overview](http://www.gov.uk/tier-1-graduate-entrepreneur-visa/overview)
- UKVI Tier 1 GE Policy Guidance:  
[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/605983/T1\\_GE\\_Guidance\\_04\\_2017.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/605983/T1_GE_Guidance_04_2017.pdf)

For queries about the requirements or applying, email: [student-visa-advice@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:student-visa-advice@bristol.ac.uk)