

## Summary

A number of changes have been made to the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme.

Applications will now be assessed on new criteria. These are academic qualifications, previous earnings, age and bonus points for previous work/study in the UK.

## DISCLAIMER

All information in this update is intended for general guidance only and is not intended to be comprehensive, or to provide legal advice. If you have any questions on any issues either in this update or on other areas of employment law, please contact Parker & Co. We do not accept responsibility for the content of external internet sites linked to in this update.

We currently hold your contact details to send you Parker & Co Employment Updates or other marketing communications. If your details are incorrect, or you do not wish to receive these updates, please let us know by emailing:  
[info@parkerandcosolicitors.com](mailto:info@parkerandcosolicitors.com)

## Changes to the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme

The government has introduced new criteria for HSMP applications.

### Initial applications

Points are no longer awarded for work experience, significant achievements, skilled partner or GP Priority Provision categories.

The new criteria are: academic qualifications, previous earnings, age and bonus points for previous work/study in the UK. The provision allowing those with a Masters in Business Administration from certain institutions entry into the UK will remain. Applicants must now score 75 points.

There is now a mandatory English language requirement for all applicants. Applicants will be required to meet level 6 on the International English Language Testing System or equivalent. Those with a bachelors degree taught in English will be able to satisfy this requirement by providing their original degree certificate and a letter from the awarding institution on official letterhead confirming the applicant's name, the qualification obtained, the date of the award and that the course was taught in English.

### Extensions

The old test for extensions required applicants to show that they had taken all reasonable steps to become lawfully economically active. This has been replaced with the same attributes required for initial applications detailed above.

Transitional arrangements have been put in place for those with existing leave (granted prior to 8 November 2006) whose extension application is considered under the new rules but who do not satisfy them. Those applicants who are making a useful contribution to the UK economy will be offered a "grace period" in which they can switch into the Work Permit Scheme. If the applicant has been in a particular role for specified period the Resident Labour Market Test (advertising for the position) will be waived.

These changes will influence decisions the Government will make in implementing the new five-tiered Points Based System for all migration routes to work or study in the UK. We shall keep you informed of developments.

If you have any queries on this, please call Jackie Holden 0207 614 3577 or email [jackie.holden@parkerandcosolicitors.com](mailto:jackie.holden@parkerandcosolicitors.com)

[See our website for details of the immigration services we offer.](#)