

## NEW SCHEME FOR INTERNATIONAL GRADUATES

From 1 May 2007 non-EEA nationals graduating from a UK higher or further education establishment with a Bachelor's degree, a Master's, PhD or a postgraduate certificate or diploma are now able to apply under the new International Graduates Scheme (IGS) for work experience in the UK following completion of their studies. A maximum of 12 months' leave to remain in the UK will be granted under IGS. The IGS will replace the Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme.

In order to qualify for leave under IGS an applicant will have to demonstrate that they:

- completed their course in the last 12 months;
- intend to work during the period of leave granted;
- can maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants without recourse to public funds; and
- intend to leave the UK at the end of their stay unless granted leave to remain under another immigration category.

Those completing their course on or after 1 May 2007 can apply regardless of the subject they have studied. However, those that graduated before that date must generally apply under the Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme.

IGS participants will be able to undertake any type of employment or self-employment. However, if a participant wishes to remain in the UK after the expiry of their IGS leave they must switch into one of the various employment or self-employment categories, such as work permit holder or HSMP. This application to switch status can be made in the UK, provided the applicant meets the criteria for the scheme they wish to switch to.

If you have any queries on this, please call Richard Woolmer 0207 614 3577 or email [richard.woolmer@parkerandcosolicitors.com](mailto:richard.woolmer@parkerandcosolicitors.com)

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

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