



INFORMATION NOTE

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITING STUDENTS UNDERTAKING INTERNSHIPS, TRAINEESHIPS OR WORK PLACEMENTS

For international Visiting Students coming to Queen's University Belfast to undertake internships, traineeships or work placements, the University requires those Visiting Students to obtain a Government Authorised Exchange visa (Temporary work), or "GAE". This requirement applies, whether the duration of the visit is for 6 months or less.

The above requirement applies to all Visiting Students who are undertaking an Erasmus Internship. Given the lack of clarity in the UK Visas and Immigration's (UKVI) Immigration Rules and UKVI guidance and the differing advice that is available online in relation to Erasmus, the University has sought advice from UKVI in relation to this matter. UKVI has responded as follows:

There have been different options under Erasmus. In some cases, Universities could sponsor Erasmus candidates on the GAE, and in others, it was Erasmus itself who sponsored the individuals, then placing them with universities or other organisations.

If they are coming to study, then it's entirely possible that the temporary visit study route is appropriate for them. However, if they're coming to work, or obtain work experience, then this would not be allowed under the visitor rules and so Temporary Worker would seem to be the more appropriate route.

Formerly known as the Tier 5 visa, the GAE allows Visiting Students to visit the UK for a short period of time, to complete work experience; training; an Overseas Government Language Programme; or to undertake research for more than 6 months. All Visiting Students who are coming to undertake an internship, traineeship, or a work placement should familiarise themselves with the GAE visa rules [here](#).

In order to ensure that all Visiting Students and the University remains compliant with the Home Office rules, all Visiting Student applications are looked at in individual detail, so that appropriate visa signposting can be provided. Where it is deemed that the Visiting Student will be undertaking an internship, traineeship or work placement, the University is required by law to ensure that those individuals obtain the correct visa, before welcoming them to the University.

Please note that reliance on information from local Embassies and Erasmus contacts will not provide the most accurate visa guidance, due to individual circumstances. UKVI is the most appropriate source of information, and their advice is detailed above. The University will keep the situation under review for any changes to the requirements. The University will continue to assess every student on an individual basis to ensure that they are properly signposted to obtain the appropriate visa.