

Immigration Update

October 2020

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Veristat specialises in providing immigration advice, support and other compliance services to employers and education providers. We also support individuals applying for leave to enter/remain in the UK.

In response to demand from clients, we are now offering bespoke, live online training. Please click here for further information.

Introduction

We appreciate this continues to be a very difficult time for employers and education providers in light of the coronavirus outbreak. Please feel free to contact us if you need any advice or support, now or in future.

If you have any questions or concerns about your sponsored workers or students in light of the current situation, please do not hesitate to get in touch. During the past few months a number of organisations have been contacting us looking to apply for sponsorship licences in advance of the implementation of the new Immigration system in 2021, if you are an organisation that doesn't have a licence but believe you will need one in the future, we would be happy to help you.

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New Immigration System

New immigration routes are starting to open up for applications to work, live and study in the UK after 1 January 2021.

The Tier 4 route has now closed and the new Student route has been introduced. Further information can be viewed in the *Studying in the UK* section of this update or by clicking [here](#).

We are delivering comprehensive training to education sponsors on the new Student route, so please email us at enquiries@veristat.co.uk if you would like further information and a quote for providing training to your institution. This training can either be delivered on-site, or in light of Covid-19, we can also deliver via Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

The UK government has published a policy statement providing further details about their plans for the new UK points-based immigration system. This policy statement can be viewed [here](#). Additional information about some of the key points provided in this recent policy statement can be found in the working in the UK, studying in the UK, and other immigration news sections of this update.

The overarching documents in relation to the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill can be viewed [here](#). To provide more information about each of the provisions in the bill, the Home Office has also published a series of Factsheets, which can be viewed [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-immigration-system-what-you-need-to-know>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-further-details-statement>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-bill-2020-overarching-documents>

Working in the UK

Apply for a sponsor licence to sponsor foreign workers

The Home Office (UKVI) have updated their guidance for employers who wish to apply for a sponsor licence to enable them to sponsor foreign workers. Further information/guidance can be viewed [here](#).

From 1 January 2021, a new 'points-based' immigration system will replace the current rules for workers from outside the UK. Employers will need to have a sponsor licence to employ skilled workers from outside the UK, including EU, EEA and Swiss citizens. The fees, salary thresholds and skills requirements are also changing.

You can view this information [here](#).

We provide support to both employers and education providers in applying for a licence. If you are not already a sponsor, but wish to become one (especially in light of the introduction of the new immigration system in January 2021), please get in touch now for further details and quotation for supporting you with applying for a licence.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-sponsor-licence>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recruiting-people-from-outside-the-uk-from-1-january-2021>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for Tier 2 & 5 sponsors

The latest guidance for Tier 2 & 5 sponsors in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19) can be viewed [here](#).

The key points are as follows:

- The Home Office (UKVI) will not take enforcement action against sponsors who continue to sponsor employees despite absences due to coronavirus.
- Sponsors do not need to report employee absences related to coronavirus. This can include absences due to illness, their need to isolate or inability to travel due to travel restrictions.
- Sponsors do not need to withdraw sponsorship if because of coronavirus an employee is absent from work without pay for more than 4 weeks.
- The Home Office (UKVI) may accept a CoS if they become invalid because the employee was unable to travel as a result of coronavirus. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- You do not need to notify the Home Office (UKVI) if you're sponsoring employees who are working from home due to coronavirus. However, other changes to working arrangements must still be reported as usual.
- You may allow employees to start work before their visa application has been decided if:
 - you have assigned them a CoS;
 - the employee submitted their application before their current visa expired; and
 - the role they are employed in is the same as the one on their CoS
- Your reporting responsibilities for an employee start from the date you have assigned them a CoS, not from the date that their application is granted. You will not be able to report information to the Home Office (UKVI) using the sponsor management system. However, you must ensure that you record and maintain all the relevant information set out in the sponsor guidance on your own systems.
- You can temporarily reduce the pay of your sponsored employees to 80% of their salary or £2,500 per month, whichever is the lower. Any redundancies must be part of a company-wide policy to avoid redundancies and in which all workers are treated the same. These reductions must be temporary, and the employee's pay must return to at least previous levels once these arrangements have ended.

- You can submit scanned documents to UKVI as required evidence due to the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic. The Home Office (UKVI) however, may write to you to request original or certified documents.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-tier-2-4-and-5-sponsors>

Tier 2 and 5 priority change of circumstance service

The Tier 2 and 5 sponsor priority change of circumstance service re-opened on 5th October 2020 following its suspension due to Covid-19. Please note demand for this service is very high. Further information about the process of requesting this service can be viewed [here](#).

It is operating at a limited capacity with 10 requests considered for priority each day. Its capacity will be continually reviewed in light of Covid-19 and any further amendments to the limit will be communicated via the SMS message board.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-change-of-circumstances-for-sponsors>

Sponsor a Tier 2 or 5 worker: updated guidance for employers

The Home Office (UKVI) have published updated guidance to employers who sponsor migrants under Tier 2 or 5 of the points-based system.

The key changes are as follows:

- References to Tier 4 have been amended following the introduction of the new Student and Child Student routes from 5 October 2020
- Clarification how sponsors must indicate that a worker is eligible for a 'Health and Care' visa
- Clarification that approved scheme operators under the Seasonal Worker Pilot must not supply workers to an employment agency

Other minor housekeeping amendments have also been made to the guidance.

The updated guidance can be viewed [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsor-a-tier-2-or-5-worker-guidance-for-employers>

SMS payment issues

There is a continuing issue which is affecting customers when making a payment on the Sponsorship Management System (SMS). When attempting to pay for a product or service, some customers are taken back to an earlier screen in the SMS without payment being taken, and without the product/service being purchased. For example, if this issue occurs during CoS assigning, the customer will be returned to an earlier screen on the SMS and the CoS will not be assigned.

Any users experiencing this issue are advised to ensure that all details are correct whenever they enter information – such as their payment card details, when completing a payment.

The Home Office (UKVI) are currently working to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency.

Non-EEA and Swiss nationals working in the EU

The Home Office (UKVI) has published entry application guidance on non-EEA and Swiss nationals working in the EU for an EU company. The guidance can be viewed [here](#).

Provided certain criteria are met, non-EEA nationals working for an EU employer in the EU should be allowed to provide services in another Member State without the need to obtain a work permit. This would mean that an established non-EEA employee of an EU company in the EU can come to the UK to provide a service on behalf of the company without a work permit. Entry clearance is mandatory for both visa and non-visa nationals.

The requirements to be met by the employee are that they:

- Are lawfully resident in the EU Member State in which the employer is established;
- Are lawfully and habitually employed by an employer who is temporarily providing a service in the UK;
- Do not intend to take any other employment; and
- Intend to leave the UK at the end of the period during which his employer is providing the service.

Visas should be issued for the length of the contract with the EU employer. Applications for family members should be handled in the same way as EEA Family permit applications. However, they will not receive EEA Family Permits but endorsed dependant visas.

Non-EEA/Swiss national workers (posted workers) of Swiss companies may also come to the UK to provide services on behalf of those companies but Swiss posted workers are only permitted to work in the UK for a total of 90 days in one calendar year. Visas should be limited to the period of the applicant's intended stay in the UK, up to a maximum of 90 days.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/non-eea-and-swiss-nationals-working-in-the-eu-eun04>

Sponsorship Compliance Audits (Tier 2/5)

Following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, all sponsorship compliance auditing was postponed in line with UK Government advice.

The UK Government has started to lift certain restrictions and the Home Office (UKVI) will shortly be resuming compliance visiting activity. To ensure that they operate within a safe environment, ensuring the safety of their customers and their officer, they have made some changes to their processes when conducting a compliance visit. This will involve complying with Public Health England (PHE) advice including wearing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as appropriate and the observation of social distancing measures.

Should the Home Office (UKVI) conduct a compliance visit, Home Office (UKVI) officers have been instructed to also comply with any measures the sponsor/employer has in place.

Advice on up-to-date PHE recommendations can be found [here](#).

Start-up and Innovator visa endorsing bodies: updated guidance

The Home Office (UKVI) have updated their guidance for Innovator and Start-up visa endorsing bodies. The updated guidance can be viewed [here](#).

The guidance has been updated with temporary concessions/information due to coronavirus (Covid-19) for individuals not yet endorsed, those who have been endorsed but have not yet applied for their visa, those who have applied but are unable to travel and individuals who are due to have a checkpoint with their endorsing body.

The guidance for immigration staff on how decisions are made about applications for new entrepreneurs (*Appendix W* workers) seeking to establish a business in the UK for the first time has also been updated and can be viewed [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/start-up-and-innovator-endorsing-bodies-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/start-up-appendix-w-workers>

Studying in the UK

Closure of Tier 4/New Student route introduced

The Tier 4 route closed on 5th October 2020 and the new Student route has now been introduced.

The Home Office (UKVI) have published the *Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules*, which was presented to Parliament on 10th September 2020. The *Statement of Changes* can be viewed [here](#).

The Home Office (UKVI) have also published new guidance for education providers. As previously, there are four separate sponsor guidance documents:

- Document 1: Applying for a Student sponsor licence
- Document 2: Sponsorship duties
- Document 3: Student sponsor compliance
- Document 4: Higher education regulatory reform

You can view and download these four documents [here](#).

The guidance to education sponsors on creating of CAS has also been updated and can be viewed [here](#).

We have prepared a comprehensive training package for existing education providers who sponsor international students, as well as education providers looking to become a sponsor. This can be delivered either on your site, or remotely via Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Please do get in touch by telephone on 01344 624016 or by email at enquiries@veristat.co.uk for further details or a quote if you would like to book training on the new Sponsored Student route. Our diary is filling up very quickly, so please get in touch as soon as possible.

All references to Tier 4 will be removed from the Immigration Rules and replaced with the new Student and Child routes (collectively referred to as the Student routes) as part of the new Points-Based System.

The routes have been simplified in line with the recommendations of the Law Commission and the Immigration Rules will eventually be consolidated in the new style.

The guidance also provides references to the temporary concessions in place due to Coronavirus (Covid-19) for the 2020/21 academic year.

The main differences between the Tier 4 routes and the Student routes are as follows:

- EEA nationals have been incorporated into the new immigration system. EEA nationals will be required to meet the same requirements to study within the UK as non-EEA nationals and will need to apply under the Student rules.

- EEA nationals are subject to transitional arrangements until the transition period ends on 31 December 2020. An EEA or Swiss national who makes an application in the UK under the new Student or Child Student rules before 1 January 2021 will have their application rejected since they continue to have Freedom of Movement under EU law and are entitled to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.
- EEA nationals who apply under the Student or Child Student rules from outside the UK will only be granted leave that commences on or after 1 January 2021, provided they meet the requirements of the route.
- There are increased switching permissions as follows:
 - Students will be able to apply for further leave in country, a Tier 4 (General) student must have last been sponsored by a higher education provider with a track record of compliance, overseas higher education institution, embedded college offering pathway courses or an independent school.
 - Students are able to apply for further permission to stay in the UK to study, unless they have leave as a visitor, or a short-term student, or granted outside the immigration rules. They must also meet the academic progression requirement and the new course of study should commence within 28 days of the expiry of their current leave.
 - Additionally, a migrant cannot apply if they last held leave as a Parent of a Child Student; a seasonal Worker; or a Domestic Worker in a Private Household.
- The eight-year time limit on studying courses at postgraduate level has been removed. There is no longer a limit on the time that an individual can spend studying postgraduate courses.
- Applicants who apply for permission to stay in the UK will not be required to provide evidence of maintenance funds when they have spent longer than one year in the UK on their current visa.
- Students at higher education providers with a track record of compliance will not routinely be required to provide evidence of academic qualifications.
- Students applying for leave as a Student Union Sabbatical Officer or to study on a recognised Foundation Programme will not be required to provide evidence of maintenance funds, as it is accepted that these individuals will be earning an income during the validity of their visas.
- All sponsors will need to ensure that sponsored students are academically engaging throughout the period of leave for which the students are being sponsored.
- New rules on English Language and Finance are being introduced with the intention of creating Rules on themes that apply across several routes. The new rules:
 - Ensure applicants only need to prove the required level of English language to the Home Office once;
 - Update the majority speaking English Language country list to include Malta and Ireland;
 - Allow applicants who have gained GCSE/A Level or Scottish Highers in English while at school in the UK to rely on this to prove their English language ability, replacing the

ability of Child Students to rely on 6 months in the UK to prove their English language ability;

- No longer require applicants who have met the maintenance requirement on their current route to meet it again if they have been supporting themselves in the UK for more than a year;
- Allow applicants to rely on electronic bank statements;
- Allow applicants to show they meet maintenance requirements by relying on a wider range of accounts.
- A refreshed list of countries whose nationals may submit reduced documentary evidence (*Appendix H*) will include all the countries which form part of the EEA and Switzerland.

The Home Office (UKVI) have also published guidance about the financial evidence required by those applying for a Student and Child Student visa, which can be viewed [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-of-changes-to-the-immigration-rules-hc-707-10-september-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-sponsor-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-student-and-child-student-route-applicants>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for Student sponsors

The latest guidance for Tier 4 sponsors in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19) can be viewed [here](#).

The key points are as follows:

- The Home Office (UKVI) will not take enforcement action against sponsors who continue to sponsor students despite absences due to coronavirus.
- Student sponsors do not need to report student absences related to coronavirus. This can include absences due to illness, their need to isolate or inability to travel due to travel restrictions.
- You can continue sponsoring existing Students (including Tier 4) who are continuing their studies through distance learning, or starting a new course whether they're in the UK or another country.
- You can also start sponsoring new students who will start studying through distance or blended learning in the 2020/21 academic year, providing you intend to transition to face-to-face learning as soon as it is possible to do so.
- If a student permanently withdraws from their studies or defers their studies for reasons unrelated to coronavirus, you must report as usual.
- Sponsors do not need to tell the Home Office when students have moved to distance learning.

- If a student stops engaging with their distance learning for more than 30 days, whether overseas or in the UK, sponsors must withdraw sponsorship.
- Before travelling to the UK, students starting a course by distance learning must have a CAS and a Tier 4 visa.
- The Home Office (UKVI) may accept a CAS that has become invalid because the student was unable to travel as a result of coronavirus. They will consider this on a case-by-case basis.
- Sponsors may allow students to start their studies before their visa application has been decided if:
 - They are a Student sponsor
 - They have assigned the student a CAS
 - The student submitted their application before their current visa expired and has shown you evidence of this
 - The course they start is the same as the one listed on their CAS
 - The student has a valid *Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)* certificate, if required
- Sponsors can submit scanned documents as evidence due to the exceptional circumstances of coronavirus. However, the Home Office (UKVI) may write to the sponsor to request original or certified documents.

The latest guidance for Tier 4 sponsors, migrants and short-term students on temporary concessions, in response to the outbreak of coronavirus can also be viewed [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-tier-2-4-and-5-sponsors>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-tier-4-sponsors-migrants-and-short-term-students>

IDV App for Tier 4/Student Route applicants

Students registering with the UK Visa Citizenship Application Service (UKVCAS) as part of their student visa application will not be able to directly book a UKVCAS appointment at this time.

Instead, they should wait to receive an email from UKVCAS confirming next steps. This is because UKVI are assessing which students are eligible for biometric reuse and able to use the IDV app. This checking process should take about a week from registration with UKVCAS/UKVI.

<https://www.ukvcas.co.uk/flash-message-detail?flashmessageId=74833>

Apply for a sponsor licence to sponsor international students

The Home Office (UKVI) have updated their guidance for education providers who wish to apply for a sponsor licence to enable them to sponsor foreign students. You can view this information [here](#).

The new system will not apply to EEA or Swiss citizens who are already studying in the UK. EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK by 31 December 2020, and their family members, can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, and they have until 30 June 2021 to apply.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-sponsor-licence>

Assigning Confirmations of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

An issue has recently arisen that is preventing some sponsors from assigning a Certificate of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). The issue can arise when text is copied from an external source (e.g. a word document or email) and pasted directly into text fields on the CAS form. This action may lead to bullet points or hidden characters being entered into the SMS fields. If these characters are present in mandatory fields the system may not allow the CAS to be assigned.

The Home Office (UKVI) has advised users to ensure that these characters are not present in any fields when creating a CAS. When copying text from an external source it is advisable to paste it into a plain text editor first, in order to check and amend the text, before pasting it into the SMS. If users are unable to assign a CAS due to this issue, they are advised to contact the Business Helpdesk or their premium account manager for assistance. The IT supplier is currently working to fix this issue.

SMS payment issues

There is currently an issue which can affect customers when making a payment on the Sponsorship Management System (SMS). When attempting to pay for a product or service, some customers are taken back to an earlier screen in the SMS without payment being taken, and without the product/service being purchased. For example, if this issue occurs during CAS assignment, the customer will be returned to an earlier screen on the SMS and the CAS will not be assigned.

Any users experiencing this issue are advised to ensure that all details are correct whenever they enter information – such as their payment card details, when completing a payment. The Home Office (UKVI) are currently working to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency.

Other Immigration News

Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Advice for UK visa applicants and temporary UK residents

The latest advice from the Home Office (UKVI) to UK visa applicants and temporary UK residents in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19) can be viewed [here](#).

The key points are as follows:

- Migrants who intend to leave the UK but have not yet been able to do so and they have a visa or leave that expires between 1 September and 31 October 2020, may request additional time to stay, also known as 'exceptional assurance', by contacting the Home Office's coronavirus immigration team (CIT).
- Migrants who were granted 'exceptional assurance' will have short-term protection against any adverse action of consequences after their leave has expired. If conditions allowed them to work, study or rent accommodation, they will be able to continue to do so during the period of their exceptional assurance. Exceptional assurance does not grant migrants leave. If migrants do require longer and/or are unable to leave the UK by the assurance date given, they must reapply nearer this date by resubmitting the online form with supporting information.
- Migrants who decide to stay in the UK should apply for the necessary leave to remain in the UK. They'll also be able to apply for a visa from within the UK where they would normally need to apply for a visa from their home country. If migrants are switching into work or study routes, they may be able to commence their work or studies whilst their application is under consideration.
- If a migrant's leave expires after 31st August 2020, they can submit an application form from within the UK where they would usually need to apply for a visa from their home country. They'll need to show their application is urgent, for example if they need to start a new job or course of study, they must provide full details of this in a covering letter with their supporting documents.
- There is no longer a limit on the number of hours a migrant can work or volunteer each week if they're a: tier 4 student, tier 2 worker and their NHS job is a second job, visiting academic researcher, or holder of a short-term visa and are permitted to volunteer.
- For those applying to enter the UK or remain in the UK on the basis of family or private life, there will be no future adverse immigration consequences if there has been a short break of continuous residence if a migrant's leave expired between 1 March 2020 and 31 August 2020.
- Migrants in the UK with 6 months' leave as a fiancé, fiancée, or proposed civil partner and their wedding or civil ceremony has been delayed due to coronavirus, they may request additional time to stay, known as 'exceptional assurance', by completing the online form and providing evidence of when their wedding will take place. Otherwise, they can apply to extend their stay for a further 6 months to allow the ceremony to take place.

- If a migrant applying to remain on the basis of family or private life is unable to travel back to the UK due to coronavirus travel restrictions and their leave has expired, a short break in continuous residence will be overlooked. However, they are expected to make their next application as soon as possible.
- If a migrant is applying to enter the UK or remain in the UK on the basis of family or private life and they have experienced a loss of income due to coronavirus up to 31 August 2020, the Home Office (UKVI) will consider employment income for the period immediately before the loss of income due to coronavirus, provided the requirement was met for at least 6 months up to March 2020. If their salary has reduced because they were furloughed, they will take account of their income as though they were earning 100% of their salary.
- In some cases, the Home Office (UKVI) will be able to decide a migrant's application without seeing certain specified documents, if they cannot get them due to coronavirus. Otherwise, they may be asked to submit the specified documents after the date of application.

The latest guidance can be viewed [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>

UKVCAS (Sopra Steria) latest update

The UK Visa Citizenship Application Service (UKVCAS) announced on the 2nd October 2020 that their normal service has now resumed. This means that new UKVCAS customers (except students) can book an appointment at a UKVCAS Service Point as soon as they register and no longer need to wait to receive an invitation email. The booking calendar is now offering 4 weeks of appointments, with a new date released every day.

<https://www.ukvcas.co.uk/flash-message-detail?flashmessageId=74833>

Visiting the UK from 1 January 2021

The Home Office (UKVI) have published information about visiting the UK from 1 January 2021. It includes information about the requirements for entering the UK.

The latest information can be viewed [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visiting-the-uk-from-1-january-2021>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Biometric enrolment, reuse and evidencing status

The Home Office (UKVI) have published guidance on their approach to handling application case types made on or before 1 August 2020 in light of coronavirus (COVID-19) in relation to biometric enrolment, reuse and evidencing status.

The guidance also includes considering issuing temporary status letters instead due to their reduced capacity for enrolling or where an applicant is unable to enrol their biometrics in the UK.

The guidance can be viewed [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-biometric-enrolment-reuse-and-evidencing-status>

Family migration: maintenance and accommodation

The Home Office (UKVI) have updated their guidance to caseworkers on how to decide family migration applications that are not required to; or cannot meet the minimum income threshold and instead meet a requirement for adequate maintenance and accommodation. This has been updated to include the financial requirement concessions in relation to coronavirus (Covid-19).

The key temporary concessions are as follows:

- Income received via the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme or the Coronavirus Self-Employment Income Support Scheme can count as employment or self-employment income.
- Where there is a temporary loss of income due to Covid-19 during the period 1 March 2020 to 1 January 2021, there will be the following additional concessions:
 - A temporary loss of employment income between these dates will be disregarded provided the adequate maintenance requirement was met for at least six months immediately prior to the date the income was lost.
 - For this period, an applicant or sponsor furloughed under the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will be deemed as earning 100% of their salary.
 - A temporary loss of annual income due to Covid-19 between these dates will generally be disregarded for self-employment income, along with the impact on employment income from the same period for future applications.
 - Evidential flexibility may be applied where an applicant or sponsor experiences difficulty accessing specified evidence due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The updated guidance can be viewed [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chapter-8-appendix-fm-family-members>

Naturalisation as a British citizen by discretion – updated nationality policy guidance

The Home Office (UKVI) have updated their guidance on applications for naturalisation as a British citizen. Changes have been made to the sections on presence in the UK at the start of the qualifying period and excess absences. The updated guidance can be viewed [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/naturalisation-as-a-british-citizen-by-discretion-nationality-policy-guidance>

Prove your English language abilities with a secure English language test (SELT)

The Home Office (UKVI) have published updated guidance to applicants applying for visas, indefinite leave to remain or citizenship, who need to prove their knowledge of English by passing a secure English Language test (SELT).

The updated guidance can be viewed [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prove-your-english-language-abilities-with-a-secure-english-language-test-selt>

Veristat Services

Sponsor licence applications

With the announcement of the new Immigration system to be implemented from 1 January 2021, employers wishing to sponsor non-EEA and EEA/EU nationals from this date may wish to apply now for a licence.

We provide a comprehensive advice and support package to employers and education providers applying for a licence. This can include preparation for a Home Office (UKVI) visit and training on Tier 2/5 or the Student Route and the SMS system, as well as assistance with applying for Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) or Confirmation for Acceptance for Studies (CAS).

Please email us at enquiries@veristat.co.uk or by telephone on 01344 624016 for further details and a quote for helping you apply for a licence.

Please email us at enquiries@veristat.co.uk or contact us by telephone on 01344 624016 for further details and a quote for helping you apply for a licence.

Training on new Student route

All training can be provided in person or remotely via Microsoft teams

We offer comprehensive training on the new sponsored Student route, which was introduced on 5th October 2020. For further details and a quote, please email us at enquiries@veristat.co.uk.

We are also offering training on the proposed new Skilled Worker route which we believe will be introduced in late November/early December. If you would like to book training on the new Skilled Worker route, please get in touch for further details and a quote.

Training for employers and education providers

We provide bespoke training on all aspects of immigration matters, including licence applications, the Student route, the Skilled Worker route, Right to Work and identification of fraudulent documents. We also are delivering bespoke training on the new points-based Immigration system, which is being introduced from 1 January 2021, this provides an overview of the whole system.

These training sessions are conducted on the client's premises for up to 12 attendees per session or online via Microsoft Teams/Zoom, etc.

If you think your organisation would benefit from training in any of these areas, please contact us for a quote by emailing us at enquiries@veristat.co.uk. If you would like to discuss the contents of our training packages or require a bespoke training package to be delivered, please contact us by telephone on 01344 624016 or email us as above.

Audits and Inspections

Veristat is hugely experienced at providing compliance audits across all immigration tiers. We have worked with hundreds of employers, ranging from small family businesses to multi-nationals, high street retailers and professional sports/football clubs. In the education sector, we have worked with over 30 universities and a significant number of colleges and schools.

Our audit/inspection service is fully flexible and can be tailored to individual requirements. It is based on sound practical experience of UKVI's policies, culture and approach.

- For employers, we offer on-site Tier 2 compliance inspections (with staff aware or unaware to simulate a surprise UKVI visit). We also offer right to work compliance visits.
- For education providers, our service ranges from a "lite" health-check to a comprehensive review of student route activities, assessing compliance with UKVI requirements and sharing best practice. We also offer targeted inspections covering specific issues, such as BCA, Tier 2 compliance, policies, student unions, relationships with partner institutions, etc.

On completion, we provide a comprehensive, evidence-based report, together with an assessment of how compliant the business or institution is with UKVI's requirements. We will support the introduction of change if required and offer a 'spot check' follow up service at a later date if required to reassure management that recommendations have been implemented.

If you're interested in booking an audit/inspection, please call us on 01344 624016 or email us at enquiries@veristat.co.uk.

Please note we are also now offering remote audits and inspections- please contact us for more details.

File Inspection Days

If you're unsure whether you require a full compliance audit or specific training but would like an independent check of your files to ensure they are fully compliant with Home Office requirements, we can provide a UKVI file compliance inspection of either your staff or student files.

Depending on the number of employees/students you have, we would either check all files or an agreed sample. After the inspection has taken place, we would provide a written report outlining any risks, feedback and recommendations.

For further information or a quote for our file inspection days, please call us on 01344 624016 or email us at enquiries@veristat.co.uk.

Advice/Support packages

These packages can either be on a fixed rate monthly retainer basis, which can include a number of services, such as: acting as your Level 1 user, issuing of CoS/CAS, immigration audit, etc. Alternatively, you can purchase an annual package of either 5, 10, 15- or 20-hours advice/support per year at reduced rates.

If you are interested in discussing our retainer or hourly advice/support packages further, then please contact us on 01344 624016 or email us at enquiries@veristat.co.uk.

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