

University of Leicester

Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) Visa Scheme

Guidance for Applicants

If your application to the Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur Visa Scheme is successful, you will be granted an extended stay to develop your business idea in the UK. The University of Leicester will have endorsed your application, and as such you will be accepted onto our programme of support for student and graduate entrepreneurs. **It is a condition of your continued support and as such your visa, that you engage fully with this programme.**

What happens next?

Visa Application - If the University chooses to endorse your visa application you will be responsible for making your application to UK Visas and Immigration Service and ensuring that this is correct. For advice on your application you can contact the University's Student Visa Compliance Service (visas@le.ac.uk) or the UK Council for International Student Affairs – (<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>). The final decision on your visa application is made by the UK Visas & Immigration Service (UKVI).

Confirmation of Acceptance - If your application is successful you will receive a letter of acceptance from UKVI. **You will need to contact us to confirm your acceptance and send us a copy of your Biometric Residence Permit for our records.** You should then arrange an appointment with a business coach assigned to you from within the team by emailing studententerprise@le.ac.uk

Ongoing contact with University of Leicester

Business Coaching - You will have access to a range of services that will support your different stages of development. However, it is requirement of your Visa that you have **regular monthly business coaching appointments** with your coach or the Student Enterprise Team, to ensure that the support you receive is consistent and appropriate to your business needs.

Items discussed within coaching appointments are confidential and we will not share your intellectual property with members of the public or other students unless given your permission to do so.

Please note however, the University of Leicester will inform the Home Office if participants are no longer actively involved in the Scheme, which could result in your visa being revoked. Your coach may also make referrals to other sources of support with your permission.

Events & Activities - Throughout the year we will host regular networking sessions, training events and opportunities designed to help you get your business off the ground. **It is a formal requirement of the Scheme that you fully engage with this programme of support, demonstrating your growth and development.**

Progress Monitoring and Data

Over the course of your Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) Visa Scheme participation we will monitor your progress in establishing a business, and may request information from you in connection with this requirement. We will use this information to comply with the obligations of the University to the Home Office as an endorsing institution. We will also use this information for the purpose of submission to the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey (HEBCIS), a survey conducted by the Higher Education Statistic Agency (HESA). From time to time we may also use the data for the purpose of other reports in relation to Student and Graduate Enterprise at the University of Leicester. The data we collect from you will be kept secure, and anonymised in cases where it is used for reporting purposes.

You will need to read and sign the agreement below before the University of Leicester

University of Leicester

Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur Visa Scheme Participants Agreement to Conditions of Engagement and Business Development

If your application to the Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur Visa Scheme is successful, the University of Leicester will have endorsed your application, and as such you will be accepted onto our programme of support for student and graduate entrepreneurs. By applying to the scheme, you agree to the following terms and conditions:

- To meet with a business coach for a one to one appointment once a month, either by phone, in person or via Skype/FaceTime
- To keep your business coach and the team updated regularly on the progress of your business or any changes to circumstances
- To fully engage with all networking sessions, training events and opportunities, as recommended by your business coach and the Student Enterprise team, as agreed in your 12 month action plan

Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur Visa Scheme participants are fully responsible for their own decision making and conduct, as well as those of the business. The University of Leicester cannot be held liable for any business decisions howsoever made by you or your business's employees.

By supporting participants on this scheme, the University of Leicester **does not endorse any business**, nor should businesses state or imply the University's endorsement in any way, other than declaring participation in the Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur Visa Scheme as a statement of fact.

By signing this agreement you agree to adhere to the terms and conditions outlined above and fully engage with the programme, and understand that the University of Leicester reserves the right to withdraw endorsement in line with UKVI conditions and for reasons which do not fall in line with the scheme. You give consent for the University of Leicester to:

- (i) monitor your progress in establishing a business, and to request information from you in connection with this requirement; and
- (ii) use this information (or the absence of it) to comply with the obligations of the University to the Home Office as an endorsing institution.
- (iii) use this information for the purpose of reporting on Student and Graduate Enterprise activity at the University of Leicester (including submission to submission to the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey).

Please note that the University will inform the Home Office if participants are no longer actively involved in the scheme which could result in your visa being revoked, in line with UKVI visa regulation

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Signed

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Print name

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Date