



Home office immigration action against education institutions: factsheet

Sponsor suspensions June 2014

Universities and colleges that wish to recruit students from outside the European Economic Area under Tier 4 of the immigration Points Based System must hold a Tier 4 sponsor licence.

On 24 June 2014, the Home Office took action against three universities:

- Glyndwr University (Tier 4 licence suspended);
- University of West London – unable to sponsor new students (assigned zero Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies); and
- University of Bedfordshire - unable to sponsor new students (assigned zero Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies).

In addition, the Home Office has suspended the Tier 4 sponsor licences of 57 private colleges (see below).

The immigration concerns

As sponsors that benefit from immigration, universities and colleges must take responsibility for the students they recruit from outside the European Economic Area. They must satisfy themselves that their students:

- are genuine, and
- will meet the UK's immigration requirements

The Home Office has serious concerns about these institutions, and has taken this action while it investigates whether they pose a threat to immigration control.

Action taken against universities and colleges

Glyndwr University has had its licence to sponsor international students suspended. It has been removed from the register of licensed Tier 4 providers while the Home Office conducts further investigations into its ability to fulfil its sponsorship duties. The same action has been taken against 57 private colleges.

University of West London and University of Bedfordshire have been prevented from recruiting any further international students or from sponsoring existing students to extend their leave. The number of 'Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies' (CAS) it can assign to new students has been set at zero while the Home Office investigates further.

Circumstances under which licences would be revoked

The Home Office is investigating whether the above institutions:

- pose a threat to immigration control
- are not fulfilling their sponsorship responsibilities.

The Home Office will discuss its findings with the institutions involved. If the institutions can address the issues identified, the sanctions against them may be lifted.

If they fail to engage with the Home Office or fail to address the concerns raised, further action may be taken.

For those institutions assigned zero CAS, their licence may be suspended. If an institution whose licence has been suspended fails to address the issues raised, their licence may be revoked.

Licence suspension and zero Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

Suspension removes the institution from the public register of sponsors while further investigations are carried out. They will be notified that their licence will be revoked if they fail to address concerns raised by the Home Office, and cannot recruit students during this period.

Assigning zero CAS is a lower level of sanction and the institution remains on the register while investigations continue. They will be unable to recruit new students during this period.

How this affects students

Students studying or applying to study at institutions assigned zero Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS):

- **Students who are already studying with their sponsor:**
These students are not immediately affected. Their visa/leave to remain is still valid. They can continue to study and travel to and from the UK as normal, subject to meeting the other immigration requirements.
- **Students who have an outstanding overseas visa application, or application to extend their leave to remain in the UK:**
These students are not immediately affected. Outstanding visa applications relying on a CAS issued before the action was taken will be processed as usual. Existing visas/leave to remain are still valid.

Students studying or applying to study at institutions whose licence is suspended:

- **Students who are already studying with their sponsor:**
These students can continue studying while their sponsor's licence is suspended.
- **Students who have a visa to come to the UK but have not yet travelled:**
These students are strongly advised not to attempt to travel to the UK until the suspension has been resolved. Students should check the register of sponsors for any change in their sponsor's circumstances.
- **Students have an outstanding visa application to come to the UK, or who have been issued with a CAS and intend to apply for a visa:**
Visa applications relying on a CAS that was issued before the sponsor's licence was suspended will be placed on hold. New applications will be accepted but placed on hold.

- **Students with an outstanding application to extend leave to remain the UK, and those who need to make such an application:**
Students can still extend their permission to stay if it is due to expire when the Tier 4 sponsor's licence is suspended, as long as they were issued with a CAS before the licence was suspended. These applications will be placed on hold until the suspension is resolved.
- **Students who are on holiday overseas when their sponsoring institution's licence is suspended:**
Students with a current valid visa will be able to return to the UK and continue studying (subject to satisfactorily meeting all other immigration requirements).
- **Students whose sponsor has had its licence suspended and have not yet applied:**
Students in the UK or overseas who are planning to apply to one of the institutions named above but have not yet done so, should check the register of sponsors regularly for any change in the institution's sponsor status or consider an alternative establishment. Prospective students can find an alternative sponsor by applying to another institution.
- **Support and information for students who can no longer take up a place at an affected establishment**
We will be inviting the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, Universities UK, the UK Council for International Student Affairs, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, the Scottish Funding Council, and the National Union for Students to join a working group to help support genuine students who may be impacted.

If the Home Office action results in an institutions' licence being suspended, what will happen to its students?

If the outcome of the Home Office investigation into the institution's actions is that a licence is revoked, the Home Office will publish further information and write to the students affected.

Who can students contact for advice?

Students who are concerned about how this affects them can contact the Home Office on 0114 207 1688 between 09:00 and 17:00, Monday to Friday and 09:00 to 13:00 on Saturday. Further updates will be published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-applying-for-uk-visa-approved-english-language-tests>.

Which private colleges have had their licence suspended?

1. Alpha College
2. Alpha Meridian College
3. APS Computer Solutions TA Pitman Training Centre
4. Birmingham Institute of Education Training and Technology
5. Blake Hall College
6. Bloomsbury International UK
7. Bradford College of Management
8. Bradford Metropolitan College
9. Bristol College of Accountancy
10. Britain College
11. Central College London
12. Central College of Studies

13. Central Cranbrook College
14. Citizen 2000 Education Institute
15. City of London Academy
16. College of Advanced Studies
17. College of East London
18. College of Excellence
19. Cranford College
20. Essex College
21. Eynsford College
22. FBT (Finance Business Training)
23. Forbes Graduate School
24. Hammersmith Management College
25. Helios International College
26. IIM Bedford
27. Interlink College of Technology & Business Studies
28. Katherine & Kings College of London
29. Kinnaird College
30. LIT LON Ltd
31. London Academy of Management and Business
32. London College of Business Management and Computing Studies
33. London College of Finance and Accounting
34. London Corporate College
35. London Educators Ltd
36. London Premier College
37. London Regal College
38. London School of Advanced Studies
39. London School of Marketing t/a LS Business School
40. London School of Technology
41. London St Andrews College
42. LSBF (London School of Business and Finance)
43. Manchester College of Management Sciences
44. Manchester International College (International Learning Centre)
45. Manchester Trinity
46. Midlands Academy of Business and Technology
47. North West College Reading
48. Queensbury College
49. Shakespeare College
50. South London College
51. Stanfords College UK Ltd
52. Studio Cambridge
53. Superior College London
54. UK Business Academy
55. UK Vocational Training College t/a UK CAT
56. West George College
57. West London Business College

This is the latest list as announced on 24 June. This is subject to change. For the most up to date information on the status of these sponsors, please check the sponsor register at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-students>