

Case study

Name: Juli

Nationality: Costa Rican

Course: I came to Edinburgh to do my Master in Fine Arts in Glass and I have a BA in Graphic Design from Veritas University in San José, Costa Rica.

Transition route: Tier 4 to Tier 1



Describe your current job role

Currently, I have taken a volunteer position as an Artist in Residence at the Jewellery Department at Edinburgh College of Art. Also, I do freelance graphic design and am currently pursuing my artistic brand as a designer and maker by designing, selling and exhibiting my glass collection.

Do you have any hints and tips about applying for a visa/making the transition?

First of all, I had to get a sponsorship from the University of Edinburgh (UoE) by writing a business plan according to my idea, and the Launch Division at UoE helped me apply for the endorsement. Once secured, with the help of the International Office, I got together the documents required and submitted the application. I had to send my passport alongside the rest of the documents and my visa was approved after two months of submitting.

I recommend getting in contact with Career Services, Launch from UoE and the International Office since they are very helpful. When it comes to visa applications, the guidelines change every year and it was very reassuring to have their help throughout the whole process which can be very stressful.

How easy/difficult was the visa/transition process?

The visa process is not for the faint hearted. You have to be very determined to succeed in securing the application and it is also very expensive to pay for the fee to apply. But the university offers lots of support and guidance, and I would not have been able to get here without their help.