



Queen Margaret University

EDINBURGH

Queen Margaret University Guidance – Change to your Student Status and Implications for your Student Visa

The following information applies to those students studying at QMU on a UKVI-sponsored student visa. It is important that you understand the impacts of any change made to your student status and what action you need to take to comply with immigration requirements. Please refer to the table below for specific information on your situation.

If you are unsure which status applies to you and/or do not understand the immigration implications, please contact the International Team (email: international@qmu.ac.uk). You must ensure you understand and follow the immigration rules and regulations.

If your student status changes please refer to the appropriate section below to see the immigration implementations including the University responsibility, the impact on your student visa and your responsibility.;

Status changes (please refer to the status which applies to you below)	Immigration implications
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Voluntary interruption of studies (e.g. due to extenuating circumstances, best academic, financial or personal interest)	<p>University responsibility: To notify the Home Office of this change within 10 working days of the start date of the interruption and withdraw immigration sponsorship where the period of interruption will be greater than 60 days.</p> <p>Impact on Student visa: If your interruption is for 60 days or less, it should not impact your visa. If your interruption is for more than 60 days, the University must withdraw immigration sponsorship, and we expect your visa to be cancelled by the Home Office*. You must apply for a new overseas visa to return to your studies.</p> <p>Your responsibility: If your interruption is for more than 60 days, you should arrange to leave the UK within 60 days of the start date of the interruption. You should contact the International Team three months before your intended return date for advice on securing a new visa for your return. You must also keep your contact details updated with the University in case we, or the Home Office, need to contact you. Update your details by visiting your QMU Portal.</p> <p>Additional information: Please be aware of Home Office time limits on studying in the UK on a Student visa and University Visa and Immigration information. If you overstay and do not leave the United Kingdom within 60 days, QMU will not be able to sponsor you in the future.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suspended – overdue fees 	<p>University responsibility: To notify the Home Office of this change within 10 working days of the suspension taking effect.</p> <p>Impact on Student visa: We expect your visa to be cancelled by the Home Office*, and you will need to apply for a new visa from overseas in order to return to your studies.</p> <p>Your responsibility: You should arrange to leave the UK within 60 days of the change taking effect. You must also keep your contact details updated with the University in case we, or the Home Office, need to contact you. Update your details by visiting your QMU Portal.</p> <p>Additional information: Please be aware of Home Office time limits on studying in the UK on a Student visa and University Visa and Immigration information. If you overstay and do not leave the United Kingdom within 60 days, QMU will not be able to sponsor you in the future.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Withdrawal – overdue fees 	<p>University responsibility: To notify the Home Office of this change within 10 working days of it taking effect</p> <p>Impact on Student visa: We expect your visa to be cancelled by the Home Office*</p> <p>Your responsibility: You should arrange to leave the UK within 60 days of the withdrawal date. You must also keep your contact details updated with the University in case we, or the Home Office, need to contact you. Update your details by visiting your QMU Portal.</p> <p>Additional information: The University cannot act as an immigration sponsor in the future for a student who is withdrawn or assumed to have withdrawn from the course due to overdue fees. If you wish to submit an appeal against the decision to be withdrawn from your course, please email the international team for advice on what this means for your visa. Click on this link for information relating to the student guide to the appeals process</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extension of studies 	<p>University responsibility: The University is not required to notify the Home Office, if you can still complete your studies before your current visa's expiry date.</p> <p>Impact on Student visa: Your current visa continues to be valid, but you may need to extend it (subject to university registration periods and regulations) in order to complete your course. In limited circumstances, the new application may need to be made overseas.</p> <p>Your responsibility: To ensure that you seek advice from the international team to extend your visa (if appropriate) and request a new CAS from us in sufficient time to obtain your new visa.</p> <p>Additional information: Please be aware of Home Office time limits on studying in the UK on a Student visa and University Visa and Immigration information</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Course transfer 	<p>University responsibility: To notify the Home Office of this change within 10 working days of the course transfer taking effect.</p>

	<p>Impact on Student visa: This depends on the type of transfer as outlined below:</p> <p>Higher level studies and same level studies - If the new course is at a higher level or the same level as the previous course and cannot be completed within the duration of the existing visa, you will need to apply for a new visa. This may need to be done from overseas. You should contact the international team for further advice.</p> <p>Your responsibility:</p> <p>Higher and same level studies - To ensure that you extend your visa at the time of transfer if your new course is longer or the same length but cannot be completed on your current visa. If your new course is shorter, you should arrange to leave the UK within four months of the new course completion date. Please see below for 'course completion (if earlier than expected)'. You are also required to keep your contact details up to date with the University in case we, or the Home Office, need to contact you. Update your details by visiting your QMU Portal.</p> <p>Additional information: Please be aware of Home Office time limits on studying in the UK on a Student visa and also University Visa and Immigration information</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Course completion (if earlier than expected) 	<p>University responsibility: To notify the Home Office of this change within 10 working days of completing the course.</p> <p>Impact on Student visa: We expect your visa to be curtailed by the Home Office to a date four months after your new completion date*</p> <p>Your responsibility: To arrange to leave the UK within four months of the new course completion date. If you choose to leave the UK during this four-month period, you will not be permitted to return to the UK on your Student visa. You must also keep your contact details updated with the University in case we, or the Home Office, need to contact you. Update your details by visiting your QMU Portal.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Voluntary Withdrawal ▪ Involuntary Withdrawal 	<p>University responsibility: To notify the Home Office of this change within 10 working days of it taking effect</p> <p>Impact on Student visa: We expect your visa to be cancelled by the Home Office*</p> <p>Your responsibility: You should arrange to leave the UK within 60 days of the withdrawal date. You must also keep your contact details updated with the University in case we, or the Home Office, need to contact you. Update your details by visiting your QMU Portal.</p>

	<p>Additional information: The University cannot act as an immigration sponsor in the future for a student who is withdrawn or assumed to have withdrawn from the course due to a lack of attendance and/or engagement. If you wish to submit an appeal against the decision to be withdrawn from your course, please email the international team for advice on what this means for your visa. Click on this link for information relating to the student guide to the appeals process.</p> <p>If you are moving to study at another UK institution you should contact your new institution for immigration advice on making a fresh visa application.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resit without attendance ▪ First sit without attendance (e.g. due to extenuating circumstances) 	<p>University responsibility: To notify the Home Office of this change within 10 working days of it taking effect.</p> <p>Impact on Student visa: If there is a gap of less than 60 days between receiving your exam results and the resit period, it should not impact your visa. However, if there is a more than 60 days gap between receiving your exam results and the resit period, we expect your visa to be cancelled by the Home Office*. In these circumstances, a new visa will be required to return to the UK should you succeed in your resits and be eligible to return to your studies. A standard visitor visa may be recommended in some cases.</p> <p>Your responsibility: If the gap between receiving your results and the resit period is more than 60 days, you should arrange to leave the UK within 60 days. For advice on obtaining a new visa to return to the UK for the resit period, please email the international team.</p> <p>You must also keep your contact details updated with the University in case we, or the Home Office, need to contact you. Update your details by visiting your QMU Portal.</p> <p>Additional information: Please be aware of Home Office time limits on studying in the UK on a Student visa and University Visa and Immigration information. Failure to follow immigration regulations may mean that the University cannot act as an immigration sponsor on your behalf in the future. Undergraduate students receiving examination results in June and resitting in August do not need to leave the UK during the summer vacation if their student visa is still valid. If you have questions about your specific situation, please email international@qmu.ac.uk.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resit with attendance ▪ First sit with attendance (e.g. due to extenuating circumstances) ▪ Repeat a year ▪ Repeat a semester 	<p>University responsibility: To notify the Home Office of this change within 10 working days of it taking effect but ONLY where a gap of more than 60 days exists (between a student receiving results and the resit period).</p> <p>Impact on Student visa: If there is no gap (apart from university vacations) between your previous studies and your resit period, your current visa remains valid, but you may need to extend your visa to complete your course. If the gap between receiving your results and the resit/repeat period is more than 60 days, we expect your visa to be cancelled by the Home Office*. In these circumstances, a new visa will be required to return to the UK to take your resits/return to your studies. A standard Visitor visa may be recommended in some cases.</p>

	<p>Your responsibility: If there is no gap between receiving your results and the resit/repeat period, but your studies can no longer be completed within the dates on your original visa, you should apply to extend your visa. For advice on obtaining a new visa for future study periods in the UK, please email international@qmu.ac.uk. If there is a gap of more than 60 days, we advise that you arrange to leave the UK within 60 days of the change taking effect.</p> <p>You must also keep your contact details updated with the University in case we, or the Home Office, need to contact you. Update your details by visiting your QMU Portal.</p> <p>Additional information: Please be aware of Home Office time limits on studying in the UK on a Student visa and University Visa and Immigration information</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Studying away from the University ▪ QMU SU sabbatical 	<p>University responsibility: To notify the Home Office of this change within 10 working days of it taking effect</p> <p>Impact on Student visa: If the work placement or study abroad period was already included in your visa from the outset there should be no impact on your visa if your placement is in the UK or at an approved exchange or study abroad partner overseas.</p> <p>If the work placement or study abroad period was not included in your visa from the outset and you have transferred to a course including a work placement or study abroad period, the duration of the course will extend beyond the end date of your visa, and you will need to apply for a new visa. You can apply in the UK or overseas, either before or after the work placement/study abroad period (but not during).</p> <p>If your work placement will be undertaken overseas please contact the international team.</p> <p>Your responsibility: To ensure that the University knows the location of your work/study and to keep us informed if the arrangements change. To extend your visa if you transfer to a course including an optional study or work placement and to seek advice on doing this by contacting the international team.</p> <p>Additional information: Please be aware of Home Office time limits on studying in the UK on a Student visa and University Visa and Immigration information</p>

*The Home Office should contact you by email to confirm when cancellation action is taken against your visa. However, students who remain in the UK after sponsorship is withdrawn should still take steps to regularise their leave or depart the UK within 60 days and should not wait to receive a cancellation letter before doing so.

Costs associated with any visa extension are the responsibility of the student.