ELECTIVE SESSIONS
A: WORKING WITH THE HOME OFFICE

Presenters

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Operations, UK Visas and
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Working with the Home Office
– Tier 4 Overview and Update

Independent Higher Education Conference
29 November 2016

Ollie Carlisle, UK Visas & Immigration
Anna Lacey, Immigration and Border Policy Directorate
UKVI operational structure (abridged...)

Mark Thompson
Director General

Mike Wells
Chief Operating Officer

George Shirley
Director, Temporary Migration

Ollie Carlisle
Head of Tier 4

Ollie Rae
T4 Casework and Premium Sponsorship

Tracy Bonifacio
Initial Assessment Unit and Charging

Bharat Pamnani
Tier 4 Sponsorship and Curtailments

International

Appeals and Litigation

Family and Human Rights

Asylum

Permanent Migration

Tier 1 / 2 / 5

Permanent Migration Appeals and Litigation

International
UK Visas & Immigration – Tier 4
Service standards & processing times

99.4% of straightforward cases decided within 8 week service standard

Straightforward Priority cases decided within 10 days

100%

32 calendar days average time for standard decisions

Average time for Priority decisions 6.3 working days
UK Visas & Immigration
Priority service

18 March 2016 extended to in-country applicants at all sponsors

10 day service standard

6.3 days average turnaround time from application to decision

“That was very quick. I am very pleased with the service you provided”

“I have no words to express my gratitude for all your efforts.”
96% of ARs completed within 28 days

Average turnaround time 12.5 days

Main reason for overturn – incorrect expiry
Nearly 3 million applications received in 2015

7 days average processing time

99% receive a decision within the target of 15 days or less

88% of overseas visa applications are successful

More than 273,000 study related visas (T4 & Student Visitor) issued globally

Nearly 500,000 visas issued in China in 2015

More than 273,000 study related visas (T4 & Student Visitor) issued globally
• The refusal rate threshold for a BCA dropped from 20% to 10% in November 2014.
• Of the 1,563 applications received in 2015/16 that have been decided, 502 (32.12%) needed to have discretion applied to pass the BCA on the basis of failing their refusal rate.
  • 221 failed to meet the 10% threshold for their refusal rate and had either used less than 50 CAS or were an independent school;
  • A further 281 had no data to assess.
• Of the 221 that failed, 77 would have met under the old 20% criteria.
# Refusal Rate by Sector*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>0-1%</th>
<th>1-2%</th>
<th>2-5%</th>
<th>5-10%</th>
<th>10-20%</th>
<th>20+%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publicly Funded College</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>38</td>
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<td>Private Provider</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Independent School</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEI</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embedded College</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Applications received between April 2015 and March 2016, that have been approved or refused, excluding those with no data
180 Tier 4 Sponsors pay £8,000 per year for the service which provides:

- A named licence manager and regional account manager
- Student status checks and policy enquiries
- Application updates
- Priority treatment for post licence requests
- Monthly Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies MI reports
- Invitation to events and courtesy visits

In the last year the team has:

- Responded to 38,548 queries
- Increased engagement by making 120 sponsor visits
- Delivered six sponsor events
- Delivered a Curtailment Workshop
- Produced a quarterly Newsletter
- Implemented a process of key date reminders
Make up of the 37,000 queries
(April 2015 – March 2016)

- BRP query: 3,737 (10.5%)
- Immigration Health Surcharge: 1,403 (4%)
- Student immigration history check: 4,088 (11.5%)
- Student query (in / out of country): 5,798 (16.5%)
- Application update: 4,838 (13.5%)
- Policy query (Tier 4 student / sponsorship): 3,559 (10%)
- Other: 11,916 (34%)
UK Visas & Immigration operational changes…

- Access UK
- Scanning
- Proving Things to Government
- Notify
- Student Departure Rate
- On-shoring
November 2016 Rules changes

• Academic progression
  – Student union sabbatical officers, students on the Doctorate Extension Scheme, or postgraduate doctors or dentists on a recognised Foundation Programme
  – Integrated masters or PhD courses
  – Re-sits

• Proof of qualification from a ‘majority English-speaking’ country
  – Must provide original documentation produced by UK NARIC which confirms the assessment that the qualification meets the required standard

• Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate requirements
  – Dependants of a Points Based Migrant who wish to undertake a postgraduate qualification in certain sensitive subjects will need to apply for an ATAS certificate before they can study in the UK
Future policy thinking…

• On 4 October, the Home Secretary announced the Government will consult in the autumn on measures to improve the non-EU work and study immigration routes to make sure that the UK is attracting the best and brightest.

• This will include looking, for the first time, at whether our student immigration rules should be tailored to the quality of the institution.

• We will seek the views of universities, colleges and businesses on the best way to deliver our commitments on immigration.
EU Referendum

• For British Citizens living in European countries and European citizens living in the UK there will be no immediate changes to their circumstances.

• For visitors, students, businesses and entrepreneurs seeking to invest and travel to the United Kingdom, there will be no immediate change to our visa policies. Future updates on this matter can be found on GOV.UK website.

• The Prime Minister has been clear that she wants to protect the status of EU nationals here. The only circumstances in which that would not be possible are if British citizens’ rights in other EU Member States were not protected in return.

• While there will be no immediate changes to anyone’s immigration status, some reforms to our immigration system are likely. In the coming weeks and months, we will be considering potential reforms to our immigration system and how best to take these forward.
Q&A