



International Student Advice
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Right to Work: academic year 2026/27

To whom it may concern,

This letter explains the work conditions on a Student visa for those studying a Postgraduate Research programme at the University of Exeter.

The letter is intended to be used in conjunction with a Status Certificate Letter which confirms registration as a student at the University of Exeter and programme details.

Limited to 20 hours per week

A week is considered in this context to run from Monday to Sunday.

MPhil/PhD students are limited to 20 hours per week throughout their studies (see 'period of study' dates in the status certificate letter). Standard term dates do not apply to them so are not included here. The only exceptions to this rule are detailed below.

Not limited to 20 hours per week

MPhil/PhD students are able to work full-time in the time between submitting their initial thesis and viva date.

MPhil/PhD students are also able to work full-time after they complete their final corrections.

Students will need an accompanying letter from the Doctoral College confirming these dates (if applicable).

Other restrictions

Students must not fill a 'permanent full-time' vacancy while on a Student visa.

Students must not be self-employed while on a Student visa.

Further information for employers

- [Student Sponsor Guidance- Document 2: Sponsorship Duties- Version 01/2026](#) - refer to 6.3
- [Right to work checks: an employer's guide](#)
- [UKCISA](#)
- [Checking a job applicant's right to work](#)

Current University advice on Student visa work conditions can be found on:
www.exeter.ac.uk/students/international/visaconditions/workingintheuk/

I hope this is clear but please do contact us should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Price
International Student Community & Support
University of Exeter



(This letter cannot be amended on an individual basis.)