Academic Progression and eligibility to make a Tier 4 visa application in the UK:

Changes to the Tier 4 Policy Guidance and Immigration Rules in April 2016 introduced specific eligibility requirements to meet to apply for a Tier 4 visa within the UK. If you do not meet the academic progression requirements, you must prepare to apply for a visa outside the UK instead.

See the Tier 4 Policy Guidance for:

- What “academic progression” is and how to demonstrate you meet this requirement. These sections explain whether you are eligible to make a Tier 4 visa application in the UK (paragraphs 56-78)
- Information on the documentary evidence you need to submit with your visa application in the UK to prove you meet the academic progression requirements, depending on your circumstances (paragraphs 65-78)
- Which students are exempt from demonstrating academic progression and evidence they require (paragraphs 57-59)

Example 1: Students applying to start a new course of study at University of Glasgow.

This information is for students who have successfully completed (i.e. achieved the qualification for) their most recent course of study (this will be the course they were granted their Tier 4 visa for). Remember, the new course must be of a higher level than your previous course (for example, you successfully completed a BSc NQF 6 and the new course will be an MSc NQF 7).

Exceptionally however, it may be possible for you to study at the same NQF level as your previous course, if your University of Glasgow CAS bears a statement justifying it’s decision.

Evidence of successfully completing previous course & meeting academic progression:

- Certificate or transcript of previous course studied, or
- Formal written evidence from your current Tier 4 Sponsor of being “highly likely” to achieve the award of the last course studied

Example 2: Students applying to change their course of study at University of Glasgow.

This information is for students who
- Are currently studying at the University of Glasgow, and
- have not yet completed their course, and
- wish to change or transfer onto a different course at University of Glasgow

For example: a student who is studying a BA Journalism (NQF 6) which they have not yet completed, who wishes to transfer to a different degree of the same or higher level (e.g. BA Creative Writing, NQF 6).

You can only transfer to another course at the University of Glasgow if the new course can be completed within the time left on your current Tier 4 visa. You must check with Admissions if it is possible to transfer and whether you meet the entry requirements for the new course. The new programme cannot be of a lower NQF level than your current course. If the new course requires an ATAS certificate, you must secure this before you can start the new programme.
Example 3: Students studying an integrated or intercalated course at University of Glasgow.

If you are a student studying an integrated course:

You must be progressing from the lower level portion to the higher level portion of a fully integrated course (for example, from BEng to MEng as part of an integrated Masters)

Evidence of academic progression:
- Statement on your CAS, and
- Certificate or transcript of previous course studied, or
- Formal written evidence from your current Tier 4 Sponsor of being “highly likely” to achieve the award of the last course studied

If you are a student studying an intercalated course:

You must be applying to extend your Tier 4 visa to undertake an intercalating year as part of your medical, dental or veterinary science degree, or, if you are returning to your original course following the successful completion of an intercalated year. Your intercalated degree can be at undergraduate or postgraduate level, including PhD (for example, intercalated MBChB course).

Evidence of academic progression:
- Statement on University of Glasgow CAS, and
- Certificate or transcript of previous course studied, or
- Formal written evidence (i.e. letter) from current Tier 4 sponsor

Example 4: Students exempt from demonstrating academic progression.

The Tier 4 Policy Guidance states the following students are exempt from demonstrating academic progression:

a. you are a Tier 4 (Child) Student;
b. you are making a Tier 4 (General) application from overseas;
c. you are making a first application to complete an existing course commenced at a Tier 4 sponsor that had its licence revoked;
d. you are applying to retake an examination or repeat a course module or you have previously re-sat examinations or repeated modules and require leave to remain to complete the course in respect of which those examinations were re-sat or modules repeated;
e. you are applying to complete the PhD or other doctoral qualification for which you were last given Tier 4 or Student leave (including where you are completing the qualification at a new sponsor);
f. you are applying to undertake a role as a student union sabbatical officer, or to complete the qualification for which you were last given Tier 4 or Student leave after a period as a student union sabbatical officer;
g. you are applying under the doctorate extension scheme; or
h. you are applying as a postgraduate doctor or dentist on a recognised Foundation Programme.

Evidence of exemption from demonstrating academic progression:
- Statement on University of Glasgow CAS

Any questions?
E-mail: internationalstudentsupport@glasgow.ac.uk or see an Adviser at an appointment or drop-in session.

May 2017. All information is subject to UKVI changes –check the most recent Tier 4 Policy Guidance.