

VISA PAK ISSUE 493 — 17 DECEMBER 2021

## WORK RIGHTS FOR STUDENTS PRE- AND POST-COURSE

This advice provides clarification around how student visa work rights apply before a student has commenced their course, and after their course is completed.

Previous advice on this topic include:

[Work rights for students – summer vacation and scheduled breaks](#) (22 April 2016)

[Work rights for holders of student visas valid until 31 March](#) (9 February 2018)

This Visa Pak supplements this information.

Fee paying Student visas may be granted with work rights in line with immigration instructions at [U13](#). Additional guidance around granting Student visas with work rights was published in Visapak 465 – [Student visas and Work Rights](#) (1 April 2021).

The below approach should be taken for holders of Fee Paying Student visas who have been granted work rights. This covers both the time before the student commences their course and after they have completed course requirements:

|                                      | <b>Work rights granted: 20 hours per week</b> | <b>Work rights granted: Summer/scheduled vacations</b> | <b>Work rights granted: Full time work rights (Masters by research or Doctoral degree students)</b> | <b>Work rights granted: Full time work rights for practical experience</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Before the course has started</b> | Student may work                              | Student may not work                                   | Student may work  | Student may not work   |
| <b>After the course has finished</b> | Student may work until their visa expiry date | Student may work until their visa expiry date          | Student may work  | Student may not work   |

The period before a course has commenced is not considered to be a vacation (summer or scheduled).

A course is considered to be completed when the visa holder has completed all course requirements (including assignments, exams, and any practical experience requirements). This may be sooner than the course end date as stated on the course calendar.

Where a student is able to work after their course is completed, they may do so regardless of whether they will be returning to study or not.