

POINTS BASED SYSTEM – RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Changes to Tier 2

The Government has accepted the recommendations made in August by the Migration Advisory Committee, which in summary are:

- Resident Labour Market Test – The Jobcentre Plus advertising requirement will increase to 4 weeks.
- Intra Company Transfer – The period of overseas service for workers who want to transfer to the UK office will increase from six months to one year, with no route to indefinite leave to remain.
- Salary - The minimum salary that will allow an individual to qualify as a skilled worker and be eligible to work in the UK will rise, from £17,000 to £20,000.

The earliest implementation date is 27 October 2009 but it is anticipated that the changes will take effect in February 2010.

Renewal Process for Certificates of Sponsorship

The UKBA has published information (www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/) on how sponsors can renew their annual allocations of certificates of sponsorship and confirmations of acceptance for studies. At the end of the first year of their licence, and every year as a sponsor, employers must request a new allocation.

Earned Citizenship

The introduction of earned citizenship has been postponed by six months to July 2011. The UKBA has also announced the transitional arrangements for migrants who will be on the journey to British citizenship when the new rules are introduced.

UKBA Online booking System for Appointments

Individual applicants can now book online to attend a same day appointment or to enrol their biometrics.

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