

Letter regarding legal status of students with delayed BRP- for banks, landlords and NHS staff

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to confirm the UKVI process regarding a student's Biometric Residence Permit (visa card). Once a student has made a visa application, they have paid the related Immigration Health Surcharge covering their visa length (this is an automatic part of the visa application process) and the visa has been granted, they are legally able to reside in the UK for the whole length of visa grant.

Where a visa is granted for more than 6 months, **an initial 3 month sticker (travel vignette) is placed in the student's passport.** This allows them to travel to the UK and collect their visa card. Sometimes the visa card takes some time to be issued but the student **still has valid leave for the whole time granted- even if their BRP has not arrived.** This is usually the length of their course plus 4 months.

Under the terms of that immigration route the student is legally able to access the National Health Service or to rent a property. They can also take up part time employment (full time during official University vacations relating to their course) and employers can verify this by calling the Home Office Employer Enquiry Helpline on 0300 790 6268. They should, hopefully, also be able to open a bank account with the understanding that a vignette (visa sticker) is not indicative of the whole grant of leave.

There are publicised, ongoing delays in the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), including the production of Biometric Residence Permits (BRP/Visa cards), which is resulted in a number of our students not yet being issued their cards. This is beyond the students control and we hope that you are able to support us in ensuring they are not disadvantaged.

In additional to this letter, they have the following official documentary evidence of relating to identity and visa status:

- **Passport**
- **Visa vignette** (Please note: this sticker simply covers the student's **entry into the UK to collect the BRP.** In some cases it will have already expired. The expiry date on the vignette relates only to **the date the student needs to enter the UK** by and NOT the true visa end date)
- **Visa grant letter**- this letter confirms the true end date of the Student/Tier 4 visa
- **University Student Statement**- this letter confirms the student is enrolled and the dates of their course
- **Visa Document Checklist or UKVI IHS confirmation email**- which includes the Immigration Health Surcharge Number on the front page.

The student may also have their family with them under the PBS Dependant route- which affords the same benefits as above (as well as schooling access for any relevant school aged children) and they are able to provide similar documentation.

I very much hope that this official documentation, along with this letter of explanation will enable you to support this student and their family.

Kind regards,

Emma Gwynnett-Davies (Manager)
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