International Students - working in the UK while studying

Tier 4 (General) students who are sponsored by a higher education institution (HEI) to study a full-time course can work during their studies (between 10 and 20 hours per week). Always follow the instructions on your visa or biometrics card.

UKCISA provides good advice and information for international students: www.ukcisa.org.uk

If you have any queries about your right to work in the UK, contact:

The ASC, 79 North Street, St Andrews.
Telephone: 01334 462020
Email: theasc@st-andrews.ac.uk

Money matters, tax, budgeting

For advice on money matters such as tax refunds or if you feel that you cannot work because your studies would be adversely affected, please contact:

Joyce Lapeyre (Money Adviser)
The ASC, 79 North Street, St Andrews.
Telephone: 01334 462020
Email: money.advice@st-andrews.ac.uk
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/standrewsmoneydoctors

Job Shop contact details:

University of St Andrews Careers Centre
6 St Mary’s Place
St Andrews
Fife KY16 9UY

T: 01334 462688
E: careers@st-andrews.ac.uk
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/careers

Handy hints for finding local, part-time work in St Andrews
What is the Job Shop?
The Job Shop advertises local part-time work for students while they are living and studying in St Andrews.

What types of jobs are available?
Students can work in a variety of businesses including supermarkets, shops, bars, restaurants, hotels and offices. Jobs are varied, e.g. tutoring, childcare, labouring, administration, and looking after someone’s pet while they go on holiday.

How do I become a member?
Job Shop vacancies are accessed via CareerConnect, our central careers hub. Full details on how to sign-up to and search for vacancies can be found on the Careers Centre website.

How many hours can I work while studying?
We recommend that students should work only up to 15 – 20 hours per week. Think about how much time you can spare – don’t risk falling behind in your studies because of your job. International students are not permitted to work any longer than 20 hours per week during term-time.

How much will I get paid?
It is difficult to say how much you will be paid as it depends on your skills, the type of work, and the type of employer. However, all employers must pay their employees the UK National Minimum Wage (NMW). Rates from April 2019 are: £8.21 (25 and over); £7.70 (21 to 24); £6.15 (18 to 20).

How do I apply for part-time jobs?
Local employers normally ask students to apply either by telephone or email or may ask for a simple CV – a suggested format is available on the Careers Centre website. The “how to apply” instructions are detailed in our Job Shop adverts.

National Insurance Number (NI No) – what is this and how do I get one?
If you intend to work while studying in the UK, an employer will require you to provide them with a National Insurance Number (NI No), so that they can pay your wages and make any applicable tax or national insurance deductions. UK residents are allocated a number automatically at the age of 16. However, European or International students will not have this number so will need to apply for one. You can start work before your NI number arrives if you can prove you can work in the UK. You should tell your employer that you’ve applied for one, and give it to them when you have it. You will be required to attend a NI No interview. This can be done two ways:

2. During semester, we occasionally arrange for a team of NI No Officers from Edinburgh to visit the Careers Centre to carry out interviews. Dates are advertised on CareerConnect, Facebook and our weekly email.

Where and when do I find a part-time job?
Start your search as early as possible (in the autumn semester). St Andrews is a small town, so local jobs get taken very quickly.

- CareerConnect: 
  - https://careerconnect.st-andrews.ac.uk/home.html
- Newspapers. The St Andrews Citizen is a local paper published each Friday. It’s available in Tesco, WH Smith and St Andrews Citizen Bookshop. Another source is The Courier which also publishes its recruitment pages on a Friday. Most vacancies will be full-time but it’s still worth looking as it will provide you with the details of other employers in the area.
- University of St Andrews website. The University occasionally advertises part-time positions on its website. Register your details for casual employment opportunities with the Casual Register. The period of employment can vary from a few days to a maximum of 13 weeks. If you are a new user you will be required to register with the site.
- Signs in windows of shops, restaurants, bars etc.
- Go personally to the establishment with your CV at a quiet time, (usually in the morning), and ask to speak to the manager. If the manager is unavailable, ask when would be a good time to come back.
- Shake hands with the manager and introduce yourself and present your CV. Mention if they have any questions to get in touch with you directly.
- Search Online student jobs boards,
  - eg www.gumtree.com/jobs and www.indeed.co.uk.
- Recruitment Agencies. The nearest recruitment agencies can be found in Dundee. Visit the Job Shop in the Careers Centre for details.
- Friends and contacts. Let people know that you are looking for part-time work. For example academic or admin staff in your department or staff in your Hall of Residence may have some ideas or even know of a vacancy.

All jobs displayed by the Careers Centre are displayed in good faith. Whilst we do our best to vet jobs before they are displayed, it is the responsibility of the job seeker to check the validity of the vacancy and the employer before taking up work. Students are encouraged to familiarise themselves with guidelines surrounding National Minimum Wage and volunteering - especially when gaining work experience.