Home Office
UK Border Agency

SECURING
OUR BORDER
CONTROLLING
MIGRATION

Student immigration route:
Remaining open for business, closing off abuse

Jeremy Oppenheim
Head of Immigration

Context

Home Secretary announced changes; Statement of Intent issued in March 2011.

Changes being implemented on a phased basis up until December 2012.

Reforms designed to tackle abuse and contribute to net migration reduction.

There is no limit on student visa numbers.

Need to strike the right balance.

Home Office
UK Border Agency

Changes: four key levers

1. Stricter accreditation and sponsor criteria.

2. More robust entry requirements.

3. Limiting entitlements to work and sponsor dependants.

4. Breaking the link between temporary and permanent stay.

Impacts

Early indications are that the reforms are having the impact we required.

Smaller, more compliant, register consisting of higher quality institutions.

All sponsors must maintain a high level of compliance to retain their licence.

Higher proportion of CAS being issued by Universities and Tertiary colleges.

Continue to monitor route closely.

Students or migrants

Some in University and HE sector argue students should not be counted as migrants.

Net migration statistics determined by Office for National Statistics.

Definition of a long term migrant – someone coming/going for over a year.

Long term students have impacts on communities and public services.

Can the UK maintain its position?

Highly competitive international market; the offer must remain attractive.

Immigration system and policies supportive of quality UK education

No limit on international student numbers.

Continue to welcome genuine students to our world leading institutions.

Brightest and the best

New route for Graduate Entrepreneurs

Last year we introduced our Exceptional Talent route

New Rules to encourage Investors and Entrepreneurs.

Provision remains for students to undertake work following study – on completion of a recognised UK degree, postgraduate certificate in education, or professional graduate diploma of education.

On the horizon

Review of student visit visa and extended English language route.

Reviewing the use of interviewing under Tier 4.

Possibility of the Migration Advisory Committee looking at the economic value of students.

Introducing online applications for Tier 4 in country applicants.

This summer

Encourage students to apply in good time.

Direct to UK Border Agency Website http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/ for policy guidance, information on how to apply and visa application processing times.

Any questions?