

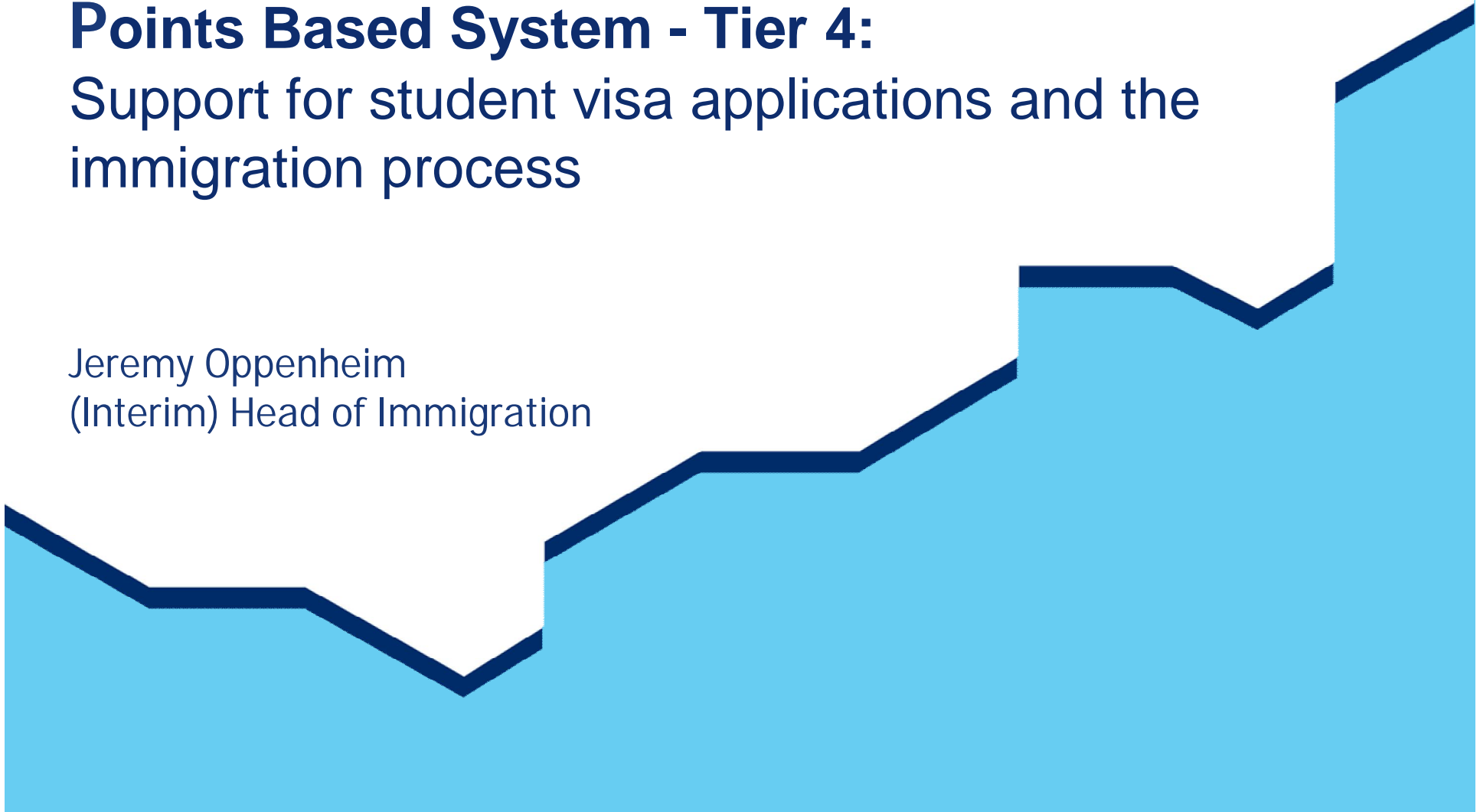


SECURING  
OUR BORDER  
CONTROLLING  
MIGRATION

## Points Based System - Tier 4:

Support for student visa applications and the immigration process

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## Review of the student route: Context and aims

Necessary to review in light of commitment to **reduce net migration**.

Unlike work routes we are **not limiting** student visas numbers.

**Evidence of abuse** of previous student visa regime.

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

Changes will be implemented on a **phased basis** up until **December 2012**.

## Changes: Four key areas

**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.**

## Changes: To date

### Phase 1: April 2011

Tightened the English language requirements for students.

All providers who were not HTS and/or not inspected by one of the existing public review bodies became subject to an interim limit on the number of students they could sponsor.

### Phase 2: July 2011

Tightened the entitlements for students to work and bring dependents.

Students required to demonstrate progression to undertake further study.

Tightened the maintenance requirement.

Introduced a streamlined process for low risk students.

## Phase 3: Changes from April 2012

All sponsors must have **Highly Trusted Sponsor** status.

**Interim limit extended** for those sponsors who applied for but have not yet acquired HTS and achieved educational oversight.

Rules on **work placements** tightened 66:33.

The **time** students studying at degree level can spend in Tier 4 will be **limited to 5 yrs.**

## Other April Changes: Access to work routes

The **Tier 1 (Post Study Work)** route will **close**.

Graduates with a UK degree can will be permitted to **switch into Tier 2**.

Launch **new route** for **Graduate Entrepreneurs**.

Further details announced shortly.



## What you can do to assist students

Ensure the **Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies** is accurate.

**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.

**Encourage students to apply in good time.**