

## Calculating 5-year cap on degree-level courses

Add up relevant  
student leave

- Tier 4 (General) leave PLUS
- Pre-Tier 4 student leave PLUS
- Tier 4 (General) leave requested now

Deduct

- (1) Periods of T4 (General) leave before start and after end of course as (or as should be) under Rules
- (2) Time spent studying courses below degree level
- (3) Time spent as a sabbatical officer, postgraduate doctor or dentist
- Do **not** deduct bullet points 2- 3 if student has **already completed** 'Post-Graduate research qualification' in UK (see Home Office Tier 4 Migrant Policy Guidance to check if course is 'Post-Graduate research qualification')

Total: can you  
sponsor this  
student?

- **5 years or fewer:** student can be sponsored for new application
- **5 - 6 years:** student can be sponsored for new application **if** previous leave was used successfully to complete degree-level course of 4 years or longer **and** now applying to take course at Master's level sponsored by HEI **or** applying to study excepted course **or** applying to study 'Post-Graduate research qualification' sponsored by HEI
- **6 - 8 years:** student can be sponsored for new application **if** applying to study excepted course **or** applying to study 'Post-Graduate research qualification' sponsored by HEI
- **More than 8 years:** student can be sponsored for new application only if has not already completed 'Post-Graduate research qualification' in UK **and** applying to study excepted course **or** applying to study 'Post-Graduate research qualification' sponsored by HEI

## Calculating 3-year cap on courses below degree level

