Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange (GAE).

The Tier 2 visa is the usual route to full-time employment in the UK for international students (http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/The-next-stage/Working-after-your-studies/Employment-Tier-2/) but with fewer than 6000 visas issued in 2014 (http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/jul/02/get-a-job-or-get-out-the-tough-reality-for-international-students) it is wise to consider other options, if staying in the UK is your aim. Many students want to stay for a year or so, to get some UK work experience, and then return to their home country. If you are one such student, the Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) could be right for you.

What is it?

In a nutshell, the visa is for people who want to undertake a limited period of work experience (or internship) in the UK. Normally this will be for up to 12 months, but can be renewed for a further year (depending on the individual scheme). The organisation for whom you are working must be an 'approved sponsor' (approved by the Home Office). Currently there are around seventy such sponsors – so this isn't a huge scheme, but some of the sponsors will take on lots of graduates. Unfortunately the scheme is quite new, so it's not possible to give exact numbers.

What are the limitations?

The work experience/internship that you complete through the scheme needs to follow certain criteria:

- It should be *supernumerary* which means it is not an existing job but one specially created for this scheme.
- It is not intended to lead to a permanent job so is unlikely to be useful for a Graduate Scheme.
- It should be for a minimum 25 hours a week.
- It must be compliant with <u>UK National Minimum Wage</u> legislation (i.e. pays minimum wage or is exempt as a registered charity). More information on NMW can be found here <u>https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates</u>
- It should help you build relevant skills and overseas experience.
- The employer must be a UK registered company, a UK registered charity or registered with a UK government department.

Your internship can be:

- a placement that you've organised yourself
- arranged by your university as part of your course requirements
- sourced via a placement agency such as <u>http://www.bunac.org/usa/intern-abroad/professional/britain/finding-an-internship/placement-companies</u>

What's the difference between a sponsor and an employer?

They may be the same organisation (the organisation you work for also look after the paperwork and sponsor you to stay in the UK). However, very often companies are too small to cope with the administration of visas, or are not licensed to do so. In this case, you may be able to get an external organisation (such as BUNAC) to do the paperwork for you, for a fee. You are sponsored by them, to work for another organisation. Sometimes the sponsor will also find a company for you (the British Council do this), other times you'd be expected to find your own internship, and then explain to the company that you would be sponsored by a separate organisation – so they don't need to worry about the paperwork. Bear in mind that it can't be a pre-existing internship in this case (it needs to be supernumerary – see above), so you'll need to persuade a company that they should take you on, even though they aren't recruiting for that role. You'll also need to persuade them to pay you at least National Minimum Wage to do so, unless they are exempt (such as Registered Charities). That may sound like a very tough undertaking, but students do succeed in this every year. Talk to your careers service about sourcing your own internship (it also shows great initiative, so looks good on your CV). If you need to source your own internship (as is the case with BUNAC), there are also several companies who can do this for you http://www.bunac.org/usa/intern-abroad/professional/britain/finding-an-internship/placement-companies Bear in mind that you'll need to pay for this service, as well as the fee to the sponsor.

How do I apply?

If you graduate with a degree which is directly relevant to the project you are applying for, you can apply from the UK. Otherwise you may need to return to your home country and apply from there. There is a fee (generally £225) to apply. You'll also need to have had at least £945 in a UK bank account for 90 days before applying. The company could potentially employ you on a Tier 2 visa, once the internship has finished (subject to a 'Resident Labour Market Test', to ensure no-one in the EU could do the job instead), but you would need to return to your home country and apply from there.

How do I find out who offers the visa?

Some of the exchanges are for current students, or those without previous experience, whilst others are for people who already have relevant experience, or work in a particular industry (for example, an exchange programme for people working for energy regulatory bodies). Whilst the latter are of relevance to people who are already working, we are primarily concerned with current students and recent graduates, so for that reason, the below guide concentrates on those for students and recent graduates.

The list of sponsors which the Home Office provide is quite complex, and doesn't include all of the information that you would need (contact details, websites, specific requirements etc.). Often the information is out of date, and schemes have already closed. To save you time, we have done some detective work for you and found out more about the schemes, including information on which ones will be more relevant to you, along with more accurate information on contacts, websites etc. Though less user-friendly, for a full list you can visit:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/409929/Approved_Go_vernment_Authorised_Exchanges_April_2015.pdf

For official information on the scheme visit: <u>www.gov.uk/tier-5-government-authorised-exchange</u> Please note that the details contained in this document were correct at the time of publication, to the best of our knowledge. Please report any inaccuracies or changes to <u>careers@kcl.ac.uk</u> Some of these schemes are no longer functioning – in which case we've included them here, just so you know not to waste your time with them (as the whole list is on the UKBA website).

Name of Scheme	Time	What they do	Experience, qualifications or other requirements	Nationality/re gion	Contact/further info
Mountbatten Programme	Up to 12 months	12 month programme to live, work and study in London (or New York) with an optional separate period spend in Bangkok. Students spend a year doing business of finance- related work experience in London, and also take a part-time MBA, Postgraduate Certificate in International Business Practice, or an MA in Entrepreneurial Leadership in Global Business. Fees are between \$12,000 & \$36,000 USD. This includes the placement, accommodation and course fees for the certificate, MA or MBA. Other living costs would need to be met by the applicant.	Recent graduates and young professionals.	None	www.mountbatten.org/lon-about-us Mountbatten attend careers events across London.
Access Tier 5	Up to 24 months	Work directly with Employers (or via their nominated Immigration Advisors) who require sponsorship services to bring over non-EEA nationals for their internship programmes under Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange.	Any, but Tier 5 work with employers, not candidates.	None	https://accesstier5.com/
NIM China Secondee Programme	Up to 12 Month	Secondment scheme for staff from the National Institute of Metrology (China) to work in the UK.	Employee of the National Institute of Metrology (China).		Contact details on official Tier 5 list are incorrect. Further information on NIM can be found at <u>www.nim.ac.cn/</u>
American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS)	n.a.	This is still on the official list, but having contacted the organisation unfortunately they no longer run this scheme.	Undergrad education majors & postgrad students.	US citizens	Closed.

Bar Council	Up to 12	Pupillages (both funded and	Law student or practicing	Any	www.barcouncil.org.uk/supporting-the-
	months	unfunded) and mini pupillages	lawyer. Students must		bar/international/immigration-support-
		within barristers' chambers and	have a pupillage or mini-		for-non-eea-lawyers/tier-5-gae-pupillage,-
		other legal training programmes.	pupillage organised in advance.		mini-pupillage-and-chambers-placements/
BOND Business Internships	Up to 12 months	Official Tier 5 government list states "BOND is a training and work experience placement scheme, designed to facilitate work attachments with UK companies for overseas graduates/professionals who have a degree." However, no further information can be found on this scheme.		Any	Contact details on official Tier 5 site are incorrect. We have contacted the British Council to find more information. General information on internships with the British Council can be found at <u>www.britishcouncil.org/europe/opportuniti</u> <u>es/jobs-internships</u>
BUNAC Blue Card Internships –'Intern in Britain'	Up to 12 months	Well-established scheme for students & recent graduates, offering work experience placements and internships with UK companies. You'll need to find the internship yourself (contact organisations you are interested in and explain that BUNAC will sponsor you). You'll pay a fee of at least £700.	Current student or recent graduate (within last 12 months). IELTS 6.0 or higher for non-native speakers.	Any	www.bunac.org/usa/interninbritain
Chevening Programme	Up to 24 months	Scheme for scholars and researchers attending the UK Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and the Clore Leadership programme.	See individual websites for specialisms of each organisation.	Any	www.chevening.org www.oxcis.ac.uk/%5C/fellowships.html www.unep-wcmc.org/ www.cloreleadership.org/fellowships.aspx
Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowships Plan	Up to 24 months	The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK (CSC) awards over 900 scholarships and fellowships for postgraduate study and professional development to Commonwealth citizens each year.	Varies, depending on subject.	Developing Commonwealth countries.	http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/about-us/ (note that contact details on official document are incorrect)

De La Rue Internship	Up to 12 months	Internship Programme for Post- Graduate students at the University of West Indies.	Student of the University of the West Indies.	Student of the University of the West Indies	www.delarue.com/news-room/latest- news/2015/2015-01-22.aspx
ScotEDGE (Encouraging Dynamic Global Entrepreneurs)	Up to 12 months	of West Indies. Business development and entrepreneurial programme. From Official Tier 5 site: "(<i>it involves</i>) undergraduates working in consultancy teamsfor companies" However, the scheme is currently for entrepreneurs who have their own businesses in Scotland. From their own website: "Scottish EDGE is a funding competition aimed at identifying Scotland's top young, early stage and high growth potential entrepreneurs."	A Director of a company incorporated at Companies House and headquartered in Scotland. Full eligibility details at <u>www.scotedge.com/faqs/</u>	West Indies	www.scotedge.com/ (note that the official government Tier 5 site has the wrong website, use this one instead).
European Voluntary Service (Youth in Action Programme)	2 weeks to 12 months	Pan-European initiative providing opportunities to undertake voluntary work placements in the social, cultural, environmental and sports sectors.	18-30 years old.		http://ec.europa.eu/youth/programme/mo bility/european-voluntary-service_en.htm
Foreign Language Assistants Programme	Up to 12 months	Opportunities to work as language assistants in the UK.		Any	www.britishcouncil.org/language- assistants/la-in-uk
IAESTE UK	Up to 12 months	Provides graduates with training experience relevant to their studies through work placements.	Science, engineering and applied arts graduates.	Any	www.iaeste.org/students/
International Horticulture Scheme	Up to 12 months	Horticultural and education skills development and exchange scheme designed to develop practical skills and to further academic studies. Working with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Royal Horticultural Society.	Training in horticulture.		<u>www.rhs.org.uk/education-</u> <u>learning/bursaries-grants/rhs-and-gca-</u> <u>interchange-fellowship</u>
International Internship Scheme	Up to 12 months	A scheme for young people and future business leaders from outside the EEA to experience working for UK companies.	Have contacted for further information.		No further information available.

International Student Internship Scheme	Up to 12 months	Work placements to Chinese- speaking students who have studied in the UK. Interns will spend time with UK businesses looking to expand their Chinese presence, improving trade links and knowledge transfer between the UK and China.	Any.	Chinese speaking	www.ukisis.org info@ukisis.org
International Optometrists Scheme	Up to 24 months	Scheme for Registration for optometry graduates. The Scheme ensures they have the knowledge and skills to enter the General Optical Council's (GOC) Register and practise optometry without supervision.	Optometry students, minimum 2.2.	Any	www.college- optometrists.org/en/qualifying-as-an- optometrist/pre-registration-scheme/tier- 5-sponsorship/
Jiangsu Centre for Chinese Studies in Essex	Up to 12 months	Promotes teaching & learning Mandarin, and appreciation of Chinese culture in Essex schools and to wider local community (including businesses). Underpins the links of friendship, education, culture and business between the County of Essex and the Province of Jiangsu.	Have contacted the Jiangsu Centre for further information.		www.hecuk.net/jiangsu_centre.aspx
Law Society Tier 5 scheme for migrant lawyers.	Up to 12 months	Covers placements, internships and secondments offered to lawyers and law students to share knowledge, experience and best practice.	Have contacted for further information.		tier5@lawsociety.org.uk www.lawsociety.org.uk
Medical Training Initiative	Up to 24 months	Allows post-grad medical students to undertake a fixed period of training or development in the UK, normally within the NHS.	Medicine graduates.	Any	www.aomrc.org.uk/mti/medical-training- initiative.html
Medical Training Initiative for Dentistry	Up to 24 months	International Training Fellows: The Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS) of the Royal College of Surgeons of England is able to sponsor qualified postgraduate dentists to come to the UK for clinical training in an approved hospital training post.	Dentistry Postgraduates.		Information at <u>www.aomrc.org.uk/doc_view/9732-mti-</u> <u>guide-december-2013</u> e-mail: nacpde@rcseng.ac.uk.

NPL Guest Worker	Up to 24	Allows scientists, industrial experts	Metrologists and	Any	www.npl.co.uk/
and Secondment	months	and students to undertake	metrology students (the		
Scheme		placements with the NPL.	study of measurement &		
			its practical application).		
Overseas Fellows	Up to 24	The Royal College of Surgeons of	Medical graduates.		www.rcsed.ac.uk/training-
Post	months	Edinburgh International Medical			<u>careers/postgraduate/training-in-the-uk-</u>
		Graduate Sponsorship Scheme (IMGSS) is open to suitably			imgss.aspx
		qualified international medical			
		graduates to come to the UK for a			
		limited period of training in a			
		surgical specialty.			
Royal Pharmaceutical	Up to 24	Pre-registration placements are	Studying pharmacy.		www.rpharms.com/pharmacy-professional-
Society International	months	training positions, enabling trainee			sponsorship-scheme-for-overseas-
preregistration		pharmacist to undergo training as			pharmacy-students/pharmacy-
scheme.		mandated by the General			professional-sponsorship-scheme-for-
	The large t	Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).	Destant less to Calence		overseas-pharmacy-students.asp
Sponsored Scientific Researcher Initiative	Up to 24 months	Postgrad scientists engage in formal research projects within an host	Postgraduate Science		<u>Tier5@uksbs.co.uk</u> www.uksbs.co.uk/services/ssri/Pages/defa
Researcher miniative	monus	institute/laboratory.	degree.		ult.aspx
TWIN Engineering	Up to 12	This scheme offers overseas	Engineering students of	Any	www.workandvolunteer.com/tier-5-
Work Placement	months	engineering students (both	all disciplines.	1111	engineering-internships?from=/internships
Scheme		undergraduates and graduates)	······		
		paid work experience opportunities			Students who are interested can contact
		with engineering companies in the			Sally Mordarski:
		UK.			smordarski@twinuk.com
AIESEC Internships	Up to 12	International student organisation.	Typically at least one year	Any	http://aiesec.org/internships/
1	months	Aims to develop leadership skills of	of experience in		(Though limited information on their
		recent graduates through work with	Management (marketing,		website)
		UK companies & organisations.	finance, sales), Technical		
			(IT, engineering) or		
			Development (charity).		
Chatham House	Up to 24	Opportunities for government and	Expertise in one of the	Any	www.chathamhouse.org/academy/fellowshi
Fellowship	months	nongovernment experts to undertake research at Chatham	fellowship subject areas		<u>ps</u>
		House. The website lists their	(broadly politics, public policy, international		
		subject-specific fellowships, and	affairs).		
		how to apply.	ununoj.		
		non to upply.			

City Fellowships	Up to 12	Aims to strengthen AngloAmerican	Already working in the	Any (but US-	Official government Tier 5 list suggests
Scheme	months	financial relations by bringing	financial sector in the	focused)	www.seo-london.com (though no
		young Black & Ethnic Minority	USA.		information about this scheme on the site).
		financiers from the US to the City of			
		London to work at Goldman Sachs			
		and Morgan Stanley.			
Commonwealth	Up to 12	Teachers exchange positions and	Qualified teacher.	Resident of	www.cyec.org.uk/exchanges/commonwealt
Exchange	months	homes with those from Australia,		Australia,	<u>h-teacher-exchange</u> (This site is mainly for
Programme		Canada or New Zealand for		Canada or New	UK teachers wanting to go overseas- further
		between one term and one year.		Zealand	information has been requested.)
EU/China Managers	Up to 12	Trains Chinese and EU business	Manager in a Chinese	Chinese	www.metp.net.cn
Exchange and	months	managers (especially in small and	business.	National	However, the site states that the scheme has
Training Programme		medium sized companies) in			now closed.
(METP)		languages, culture and business			
		practices and building networks.			
		Programme co-funded by the EU			
		and the People's Republic of China.			
Finance Ministries	1-18	Includes secondments by	Employee of a Central	Any	For general graduate schemes:
and Central Banks	months	employees of other Central Banks	Bank, or Economics research student.		www.bankofenglandgraduates.co.uk/
schemes		and Financial Institutions, research fellowships and PhD research	research student.		For PhD internships:
		internships for economists who will			www.bankofenglandgraduates.co.uk/our-
		undertake placements with the			programmes/phd/
		Bank of England.			programmes/pild/
Fulbright UK/US	Autumn	UK teachers trade places with US	Qualified, experienced	US Citizen	Limited information for US candidates can
Teacher Exchange	term or	teachers. Exchanges involve	teacher.		be found at <u>www.fulbright.org.uk/fulbright-</u>
Programme	full	elementary and secondary schools,			awards/exchanges-to-the-usa/scholars-
	academic	including community and further			and-professionals/us-uk-teacher-exchange-
Grundtvig	year. Up to 12	education colleges. The Grundtvig Programme was part	Employed in the Further	Any	programme www.erasmusplus.org.uk/.
Grundtvig	months	of the Lifelong Learning	Education sector.	Ally	www.crasmuspius.org.uk/.
	montils	Programme which ended in	Education Sector.		
		December 2013. This was replaced			
		by the Erasmus+ Programme which			
		you can find out about here.			

Hanban: Mandarin Teachers Scheme	Up to 24 months	Sponsors Mandarin teachers to undertake placements at Confucius institutes and elsewhere in the UK. Aims to build and/or enhance foreign language skills and foster good cultural relations between the UK and China.	"teaching history longer than 2 years, academic diploma above bachelor degree, and be the teacher in service at university, middle or primary school teaching Chinese as a foreign language, or teaching Chinese language, foreign language, or pedagogy. " (from website).	Chinese National	http://english.hanban.org/node_7973.htm
HMC Projects in Central and Eastern Europe Teachers' Work Exchange Scheme	Up to 12 months	Offers teachers from Central and Eastern Europe a year of work experience in UK independent schools.	Qualified, experienced teacher in home country.	Eastern European	www.hmc.org.uk/about-hmc/projects/
International Defence and Security Scheme (IDSS)	Up to 12 months	Aims to share knowledge, experience and best practice between the UK and foreign defence, aerospace, security and space industries.	Experience of defence, aerospace, security or space industries.	Any	No information about scheme evident on website, & contact details incorrect. Have emailed to find more information
International Exchange Programme (UK) Ltd	Up to 12 months	Guided practical work experience across the environmental and land based sector.	At least 12 months relevant work experience. Normally 18-30 years old.	Any	www.iepuk.co.uk/applicants/countries/uk "The majority of our inbound applicants come to the UK through a partner organisation in their home country and individuals may also apply directly through their website or ask questions through our Facebook pages" (email)
Leonardo da Vinci	Up to 12 months	EU initiative, open to any organisation involved in vocational training in the countries participating in the programme.	Working within vocational training setting.	Any	http://ec.europa.eu/education/opportuniti es/adult-learning/staff_en.htm
Lord Chancellor's Training Scheme for Young Chinese Lawyers	Up to 12 months	Enables Chinese lawyers to obtain practical experience in commercial law, litigation and court procedure.	Chinese-qualified lawyers with 2-10 years' experience in a practice involving international commercial law and dispute resolution.	Chinese National	www.barcouncil.org.uk/ (general site)

Mathematics Teacher Exchange Programme (England - China)	Several weeks	Chinese mathematics teachers visit England for a period of four weeks during which time they work alongside their English counterparts to share their approach in the teaching of mathematics.	Qualified, practicing mathematics teachers.	Chinese National	This is a 'closed' programmed organised by the UK Government and China. Individuals cannot apply, so should contact the school in which they currently work, to see if it is affiliated.
NHS Tayside International Staff Exchange Scheme	CLOSED	"The NHS Tayside Scheme is not open to independent application from candidates. The scheme was established for a specific exchange programme which we no longer run." (email correspondence).	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
REX Programme	Up to 12 months	Administered by Monbukagakusho (the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture in Japan). Offers Japanese school schools the chance to teach Japanese language and culture in secondary schools in the UK & elsewhere. After completing the programme, REX teachers are expected to return to teach in Japan.	Qualified teacher with at least 3 years' experience in Japanese Junior or Senior High School.	Japanese National	www.jpf.org.uk/download/Guidelines%20f or%20Potential%20Teachers%202014%20 English%20Version.pdf Also offers good general advice for Japanese teachers looking to work in the UK.
Sponsored Researchers	Up to 24 months	Scheme to enable higher education institutions (HEIs) to recruit researchers and visiting academics.	Your host university will organise this visa for you if you are offered a temporary, paid contract as an academic researcher.	Any	A good general resource for researchers coming to the UK: www.britishcouncil.org/new/global/euraxe ss/euraxess-uk-guide-for-researchers- moving-to-uk.pdf
Welsh Language Teaching Programme in Patagonia	Up to 12 months	Aims to strengthen the use of Welsh in Patagonia by bringing Patagonians to Wales to improve language fluency. Aimed at teachers & those who can develop the use of Welsh in wider social and business situations.	Welsh language speaker, usually teacher.	Argentina	Information on Patagonian Welsh culture can be found here: <u>www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-29611380</u> This is the site of a Patagonian Welsh language state school: <u>http://patagonia2015.com/enysgolgymraeg</u> <u>.html</u>
BAE Systems	Up to 24	Programme designed to allow	From correspondence	Any	BAE Graduate recruitment site:

Training, Intern and Graduate Programme	months	individuals to train alongside BAE Systems in the UK. However their FAQ states that "Under the current immigration rules BAE Systems has a very limited ability to sponsor visas to enable individuals to work in the United Kingdom. We would therefore only consider sponsorship for exceptional candidates."	with BAE: "if a successful candidate is able to achieve the required level of (security) clearance and we are in a position to confirm a firm offer of employment, we can then provide support with any visas that they are required to obtain in order to work in the UK."		www.baesystems.com/careers-rzz/careers- in-the-uk/graduate-opportunities
Defence Academy	Up to 24 months	The Defence Academy is responsible for post-graduate education and the majority of command, staff, leadership, defence management, acquisition and technology training for members of the UK Armed Forces and MOD Civil Servants.	The Defence Academy is not able to sponsor under Tier 5 – this is an error in the original database.	Not applicable (scheme does not exist)	www.da.mod.uk/
Foreign & Commonwealth Office	Up to 12 months	No further specific information is evident.	Presumed secondment/post- experience.		FCO general graduate careers site <u>www.gov.uk/government/organisations/f</u> <u>oreign-commonwealth-</u> <u>office/about/recruitment</u>
International Cross- Posting Programme for Kazakhstan	Up to 12 months	No further specific information is evident.	Presumed secondment/post- experience.	Kazakhstan	No further specific information is evident.
International Science and Innovation Unit	Up to 12 months	UK-based organisation, focusing on international scientific cooperation.	Presumed secondment/post- experience. SIN has been contacted, to ask for more information.		Limited information can be found at www.gov.uk/government/world/organisati ons/uk-science-and-innovation-network
Erasmus Mundus	Up to 12 months	European Commission educational exchange programme for Higher Education students and teachers. Erasmus Mundus is for mobility programmes for postgraduate students, researchers and staff.	Generally a Tier 4 via would be appropriate for students, so this opportunity is more geared at researchers & academic staff.	None	<u>http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-</u> <u>plus_en</u>