Worker registration scheme for A8 country nationals

Immigration - A8 Accession States

Nationals from the A8 countries - Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia - have to register under the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) if they wish to work for a UK employer for more than one month.

The WRS was introduced in 2004 when new countries joined the European Union. It allows the UK to monitor whether citizens of the A8 countries are working in the UK; the type of work they are doing; and the impact this has on the economy.

Registering for the WRS

You are responsible for making the WRS application; the University will give you a letter on company paper confirming the date on which you began working for us, which you will need to apply for registration.

The University can employ you for a month before you make the application, and once you have applied we can employ you until UKBA makes a decision on your application - if the application is approved, you can then remain at the University as set out in your contract.

If your application is refused, we are no longer authorised to employ you and must terminate your employment.

Please note:
Holders of Latvian 'alien' passports do not have the right to work in the UK under WRS and must apply for permission to enter the country before they come to the UK to work – via entry clearance in the form of a visa or entry clearance certificate.

Exemption from the WRS

As a national of an A8 state and an employee of the University, you are not required to register if:

- You have been working legally in the United Kingdom for 12 months without a break in employment – this needs to be evidenced by WRS certificate/s and payslips to cover the whole of the continuous 12-month period
- You have dual citizenship of the UK, another country within the EEA (except A8 or A2 countries) or Switzerland (passport evidence required)
- You are the family member of a Swiss or EEA citizen (except the A8 or A2 countries) and that person is working in the United Kingdom (residence card needed)
- You are the family member of a Swiss or EEA citizen (except the A8 or A2 countries) who is living in the UK as a student, or as a retired or self-sufficient person (residence card needed)

If you are exempt from registration on the WRS, you can obtain a registration certificate ('blue booklet') to confirm this, although you are not obliged to do so.

For further details about the WRS please see the UKBA website - http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/eea/wrs/