

Important information for overseas students applying for a UK study visa

Within its plans to selectively control migration and stamp out bogus colleges assisting in the migration of low-skilled illegal workers, the **UK Border Agency (UKBA)** has introduced new tougher measures, including a Points System. Tier 4 of this points system applies to Students who form a very significant proportion of the migrants coming to the UK every year.

Licensed training providers...

The existing **Register of Education & Training Providers** - operated by the **Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS)** will be replaced by new UKBA Licences and any training provider wanting to recruit international students will require a Licence. To obtain a Licence, the training provider (also known as a Sponsor) will need to show that they are inspected or audited or hold valid accreditation with one of the UKBA approved accreditation bodies such as the **British Accreditation Council (BAC)**. ACP requires all of its training centres to hold BAC accreditation. Those who hold a valid UKBA Licence will be added to the **Tier 4 Register of Sponsors**. Detailed information may be found by visiting:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/>

The ACP Advanced Diploma - a UK Border Agency recognised qualification...

In order to obtain entry to the UK for educational purposes, a prospective Student must show that he/she has been accepted on a course of study leading to a UKBA 'approved qualification'. In the UK, there are many ways in which a qualification may gain government approval. One example of this is for a qualification to be approved at Level 3 or above in the **National Qualifications Framework (NQF)** currently operated by the **Qualifications & Curriculum Authority (QCA)**. However, under the UK system, recognition with the QCA/Ofqual is **not mandatory** in the delivery of qualifications, particularly those which are of a higher level such as the 1 or 2 year degree foundation qualification as provided by ACP's Advanced Diploma*. There are bodies - such as UK Universities - which have their own degree awarding powers and these bodies are 'recognised' by the UKBA for Student Visa purposes. The full list may be viewed by visiting

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/recognisedukdegrees/index.cfm?fuseaction=institutes.list@InstituteCategoryID=1>

These 'recognised bodies' - for example a UK University such as the University of Greenwich - may in turn recognise another awarding body via a formal 'articulation agreement'. Where such agreement exists between a university and another awarding body - for example, The Association of Computer Professionals, the UKBA will accept the secondary awarding body (ACP) as 'recognised'.

Recognition of the Association of Computer Professionals (ACP) by the University of Greenwich is confirmed by visiting:

<http://www.cms.gre.ac.uk/collaborative/EntryQuals>

On its website the University of Greenwich states *"... the following qualifications are offered by recognised Professional Bodies and are accepted as entry qualifications for direct entry to the final year of the BSc (Hons) Computing which is run at approved centres around the world..."* ACP's Advanced Diploma is then listed beneath. This statement by the University of Greenwich and its clear recognition of the ACP qualification fulfils the criteria set out by the new UKBA legislation. Students applying for permission to enter the UK for legitimate study purposes are advised to print this information - including that which is contained within the above specified website pages - and to attach it to their application.

*The ACP Certificate in Information Technology broadly equates to NQF Level 3 and ACP's Diploma in Systems Analysis & Design to NQF Level 4.