

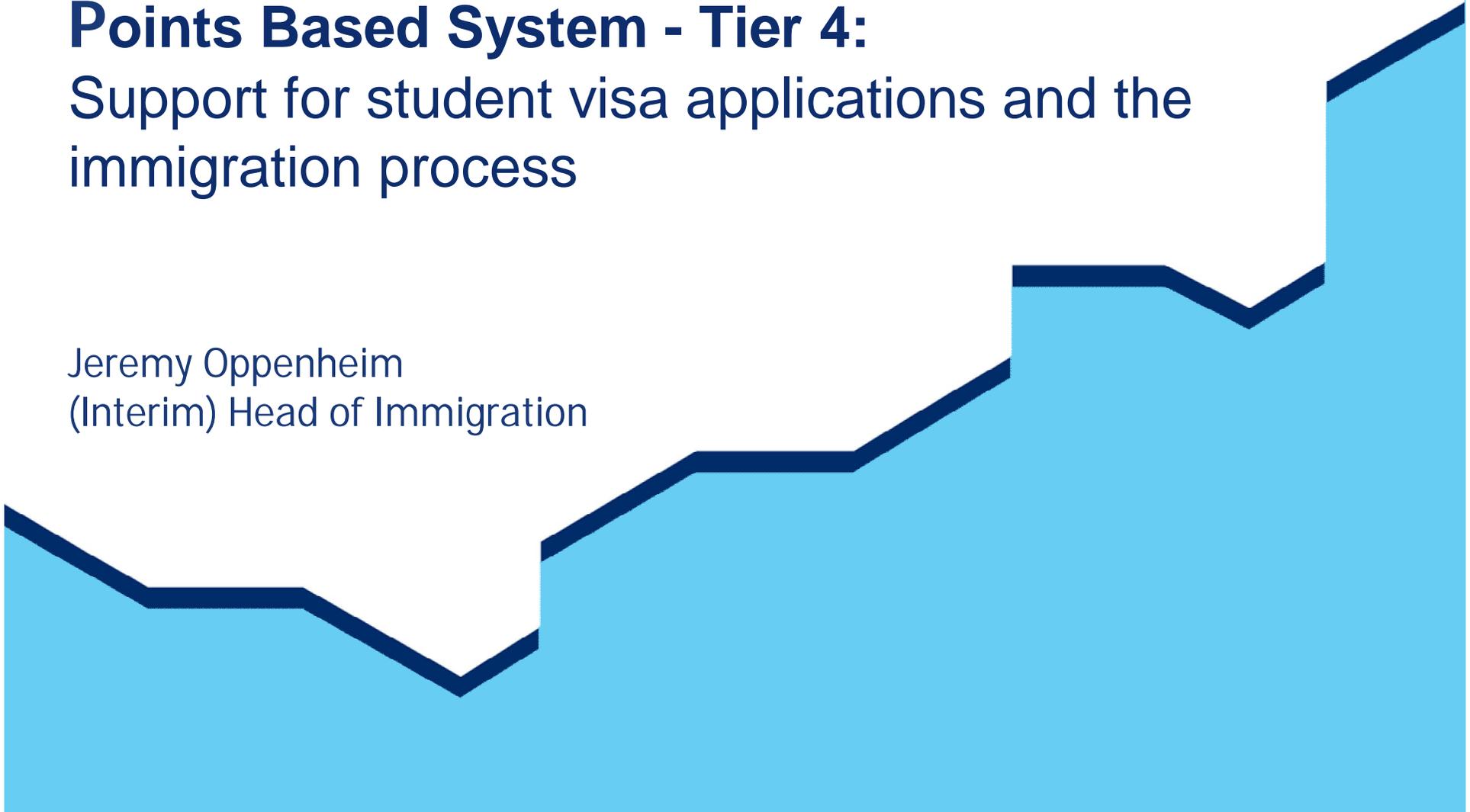


SECURING
OUR BORDER
CONTROLLING
MIGRATION

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 review 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.