



To Whom It May Concern:

ACADEMIC CALENDAR AND VACATION DATES FOR STUDENT VISA HOLDERS 2026/27

PhD Students

Students on PhD and Postgraduate Research programmes are granted a quota of annual leave to be agreed with their academic supervisor. Where a whole week of annual leave is booked by a Student Visa holder, that student may work unrestricted hours (a week starts on a Monday).

PhD / Postgraduate Research students need to request a letter from the Postgraduate Research Office to confirm their annual leave dates.

PhD students can also work full-time hours during the relevant Christmas and Easter breaks for this academic year which are shown below.

The comments relating to work restrictions are indicative and do not constitute legal advice.

Employers should still follow guidance from their HR department or solicitors if they are considering providing paid or unpaid work to a Student Visa holder.

Employers should please note that we cannot provide personalised letters for students, however this letter should be used alongside a students personalised enrolment letter .

Break times:

[Academic calendar - Heriot-Watt University \(hw.ac.uk\)](https://www.hw.ac.uk/academic-calendar)

December Break	24 th December 2026 to 3 rd January 2027
Easter Break	Friday 26 th March to Monday 29 th March 2027

Yours faithfully

Peter Scott
Student Visa Advice & Compliance Manager