

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

The information below indicates vacation periods for Postgraduate (PGT) students at Heriot-Watt University UK Campuses.

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.

Postgraduate Students

If your programme is at degree level or above, you can work 20 hours per week during term time and full-time during break times.

Break times:

<https://www.hw.ac.uk/study/apply/uk/academic-calendar.htm>

December Break	21st December 2026 to 15th January 2027
April Break	12th April 2027 to 23rd April 2027
Summer Break	10th May 2027 to 3rd September 2027

(Only applies to students with a January 2027 start date)

Students who are working on their dissertation during the April and Summer semesters, are not on a break and are considered term time during these periods.

Students on a Placement programme do not get the break times specified above. Instead, they have an annual leave allowance. Placement students need to request a letter confirming their break time dates directly from the Placement Team.

Students who have completed all programme assessments may work unrestricted hours after the course end date indicated on their Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).

Where a Student Visa Holder is informed that they are permitted to undertake unrestricted hours of paid or unpaid work, due to passing the programme end date on their CAS, and they then re-enrol with the University to continue their studies, including completing a dissertation or thesis, they must go back to complying with the restricted working hours indicated on their Visa.

Yours faithfully



Peter Scott
Student Visa Advice & Compliance Manager