

## **Points Based System**

### **What is the new Points Based System (PBS)?**

In March 2006, the government announced its plans to introduce a new points-based system (PBS) for people from outside the EU who are seeking to come to the UK to work or study. During 2008, the UKBA has been introducing this new system, the main aims of which are to:

- Consolidating more than 80 existing work and study application routes into five tiers;
- Have better identification and attraction of overseas workers who have the most to contribute to the UK;
- Be a more efficient, transparent and objective application process;
- Improve compliance and reduced the scope for abuse

### **Who does the system apply to?**

The points-based system only covers overseas workers from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. If the University wants to employ an EEA or Swiss national, we are able to do so without needing permission. The PBS does not apply to the following countries:

- Romanian and Bulgarian – nationals of these countries require an Accession Worker Card. Use the following link for further information on this scheme. [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/eea/bulgariaromania/liveworkuk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/eea/bulgariaromania/liveworkuk)<sup>1</sup>
- Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia or Slovenia – nationals need to register under the Worker Registration Scheme. Use the following link for further information on this scheme: [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/eucitizens/workerregistrationscheme](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/eucitizens/workerregistrationscheme)<sup>2</sup>

### **How will the new system work?**

Kingston University will issue the appropriate certificate of sponsorship in accordance with the new procedures as detailed on the UK Borders Agency website [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk)<sup>3</sup>.

### **Information for dependants**

Overseas workers are required to meet the maintenance requirement and evidence they have £800 in their bank account for the last three months prior to their application at the time of their application to enter/remain in the UK.

If the overseas worker has dependants they must be able to show they have an additional £533 available for each of them.

The University will not issue a letter to confirm we are willing to maintain and accommodate overseas workers and their dependants during their first month of work in the UK as this is not something we were required to do under the old Work Permit scheme.