



2009

## Majestic College receives Tier 4 Sponsors Licence

### Victory for Majestic Students as visa refusals are overturned on appeal

Each week another batch of students, previously refused visas, arrive at Majestic College in London to start their NVQ course after successful appeals by specialists Bison UK.

Many of the students had their refusals overturned by the British Embassy after Bison UK had lodged strongly worded appeals, whilst others had to watch their cases go all the way to a full hearing at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) in London.



One Filipina student, Ersie, arrived at Majestic on 23 June 2009, the very day her case was due to be heard before an Immigration Judge at the AIT in Hatton Cross.

Two weeks ago she was contacted by the British Embassy and told to send in her passport for visa stamping. She had been refused for the usual reasons: "Intention to return to the UK", "Over Qualified" and "Course too long" (in the opinion of the Entry Clearance Officer).

In an interview with Immigration Matters published on YouTube (see - <http://www.immigrationmatters.co.uk/category/videos>) Ersie said she was happy that her ordeal was over.



Majestic College has been awarded an "A Rating" from the UK Border Agency's Tier 4 sponsor licensing unit. The college received its licence to sponsor international students from the UK Border Agency in May after going through the accreditation process.

Centre Manager Cynthia Barker was delighted to see **Majestic College** on the official **Tier 4 Register of Sponsors**, published on the UKBA website. She said: "Our team has been working flat out on this for almost nine months and are delighted that we can now move

forward with our expansion plans for further classroom facilities and look forward to a bright future for our students."

Under the new Points Based System Tier 4 rules an educational establishment must be licensed in order to recruit, or 'sponsor', non EEA students.

For more information on NVQ training courses visit [www.majesticcollege.org](http://www.majesticcollege.org)

## Successful Student Receives NVQ 3 Certificate

Maria Tes arrived in the UK in 2007 as a tourist, having worked for many years as a Carer in Israel. She decided she would like to study in the UK in order to expand her horizons, and enrolled on an NVQ Level 3 Health and Social Care course with Majestic College in 2008.

With the help of Immigration Advisers Bison UK, Maria Tes returned to the Philippines to successfully apply for a 3 year student visa.

Bison UK arranged her paid work placement and Maria Tes has since been promoted to Team Leader.

Maria Tes was delighted to have achieved the NVQ Level 3 in Health and Social Care award and thanked all the team at Majestic College.

She is now progressing to an NVQ Level 4 Leadership and Management course and hopes to eventually obtain a Work Permit under Tier 2.





## Tier 4 for students kicks-in – is your college on the sponsors register?

Hundreds of students are calling and emailing Immigration Matters (the free on-line immigration news resource) worried about whether or not their visas will be renewed because their college is not on the Tier 4 sponsors register.

According to Immigration Adviser, Evelie Padadac, an increasing number of overseas students are running into difficulty, when renewing or extending their student visas, where the educational provider is not listed on the Tier 4 Register of sponsoring colleges.

Since Tier 4 of the points-based system was implemented on 31 March this year, colleges must be licensed by the UK Border Agency (UKBA) in order to recruit international students on student visas. Existing in country students already in the system do not come to light until they want to extend their visas or change college. The new 56 page 'Tier 4 (g)' form, which replaced the FLR form, clearly requests the 'Sponsor Licence Number' in section 3. Evelie, an OISC registered adviser with Bison UK, is currently advising a number of students whose visas are expiring but are studying at colleges not yet licensed by the UKBA.

Some have even been told by the non-registered college that their "applications have been sent to the Home Office", which leaves the students in a very dangerous position since the application, in the unlikely event that it had been submitted, would be rejected.

Evelie was worried that they could be left stranded if their visas expired. She said: "These students are being kept in the dark

whilst the clock is ticking on their visas. If their visa expires they will have to leave the UK and could be branded as 'overstayers' and even deported and given a 10 year ban from returning to the UK. Others have had their applications returned by the UKBA advising them to register with a licensed college."

You can check the Sponsors Register on the 'Sponsoring students under the points-based system for immigration' on the UKBA website:

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

Colleges appearing on the register will be given a Tier 4 'A' or Tier 4 'B' rating based on a scoring system, but the main point is that they must be listed.

Colleges not yet listed may be one of the hundreds of educational institutions still going through the accreditation process with one of the accreditation bodies such as the British Council, BAC or ASIC.

Once a college is accredited it can apply for a Tier 4 licence, which will take around six weeks and involve an inspection visit by a UK Border Agency officer. Cynthia Barker, Centre Manager of Majestic College, which has received its Tier 4 Licence, said "the whole accreditation and licensing process could take up to nine months."

If you need any immigration advice or help with Studying in the UK, Settlement, Citizenship, Sponsorship, Extending Work Permits, Visa or an appeal against a refusal please email:

[info@immigrationmatters.co.uk](mailto:info@immigrationmatters.co.uk) or visit [www.immigrationmatters.co.uk](http://www.immigrationmatters.co.uk)

## The 'Majestic' Team



**Joanna Garlitos – Administrator**  
Joanna takes care of enrolments, new arrivals, student welfare and administration. On the front line, she is often the first member of the team with whom a student has contact at the college.

**Paula Jane Lewis – Administrator/Trainer**

Paula is involved in a number of student areas including induction, fire, health and safety and other training.



**Divya Patel - Hr and Welfare Officer**

Divya is a qualified HR specialist who looks after a number of areas for the college.

**Katrina Catapang - Administrator**

Katrina deals with telephone enquiries as well as assisting the team with student administration and welfare issues.



**Rohana Daraba – Administrator**

Rohana deals with student administration, enquiries and any other welfare issues.

**Evelie Padadac - Immigration Adviser**

Although not directly working for Majestic College, OISC registered Immigration Adviser Evelie is very much a part of the team. As a qualified adviser for parent company Bison UK, Evelie is kept busy with student enquiries on everything from "What are the requirements for renewing my student visa?" to "How can I bring my dependant to the UK?"



**Cynthia Barker – Centre Manager and NVQ Assessor**

Cynthia is responsible for the day to day management of the college.

**Charles Kelly – Centre Coordinator and NVQ Assessor**

Charles is responsible for the overall management of the college as well as marketing and finance.



Other members of the team, including NVQ Assessors and Internal Verifiers, will be featured in future issues of Majestic Matters



## IMMIGRATION MATTERS

### Switching immigration categories into Tier 2 Skilled Worker

By Charles Kelly 01 June 2009

The UK Border Agency's website contains detailed information on what immigration categories you can switch from into the skilled worker category (Tier 2 General) of the points-based system to work, assuming you are currently in the UK.

The website also contains a useful **Points Calculator** tool, which allows you to calculate how many points you have and to see if you may be eligible to work in the UK under the points-based system.

You can switch into the skilled worker category (Tier 2 General), subject to meeting the points based requirements, from the following immigration categories:

- highly skilled worker (tier 1)
- sponsored skilled worker (tier 2)
- student
- student nurse
- student re-sitting an examination
- person writing up a thesis
- overseas qualified nurse or midwife
- postgraduate doctor or dentist
- student union sabbatical officer
- qualifying work permit holder
- highly skilled migrant
- a participant in the International Graduate Scheme (formerly known as the Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme)
- a representative of an overseas newspaper, news agency or broadcasting organisation
- a participant in Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland Scheme
- minister of religion, missionary or member of a religious order
- member of the operational ground staff of an overseas-owned airline
- innovator
- a Jewish agency employee

If you are not in any of these categories, you will have to leave the UK and apply for a visa at your local entry clearance post.

You must have worked in the job you have now for your current sponsor for at least six months before applying under Tier 2. You must also continue to work for your sponsor in the job you have now.

If you have not worked for your potential sponsor for at least six months before you apply, your sponsor will need to meet the 'resident labour market test' unless the job is on the 'shortage occupation' list.

The care industry employs thousands of care workers on student visas taking **NVQ courses** in Health and Social Care. Many of these workers would naturally like to switch into a work permit, or Tier 2 as it is now known, after completing their NVQ3 qualification.

The rules allow qualified students to switch into Tier 2, subject to meeting the points based criteria and finding an employer who is registered as a Sponsor.

The **Migration Advisory Committee (MAC)** recently recommended that the qualification threshold for overseas Social Care Workers be changed to NQF (National Qualification Framework)/NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) Level 2 and the minimum salary cut from £8.80 to £7.80.

The independent committee, which advises the Home Office on the need for overseas workers and employment trends, also recommended that work permits should be issued for Care Assistants. See video.

Employers wishing to sponsor migrant

workers should visit the **Working in the UK** section of the UK Border Agency Website.

Registering as a Sponsor under Tier 2 can take several months, so employers need to plan ahead if they want to take on new overseas workers or renew existing Work Permits.

If you need any immigration advice or help with Sponsorship or Work Permits, Visa or an appeal against a refusal please email:

[info@immigrationmatters.co.uk](mailto:info@immigrationmatters.co.uk) or visit [www.immigrationmatters.co.uk](http://www.immigrationmatters.co.uk)



# majestic matters



2009



STUDENT LIFE

AT

MAJESTIC COLLEGE



## HOW TO FIND US



**By Car:** From the A1 turn off at the Borehamwood sign, drive through the town centre across several mini roundabouts. At the end of the shops is a mini roundabout into Station Road. Penta Court is on your left. Turn left down the side of Penta Court. Parking is available in the station car park or various car parks in Borehamwood.

**By Rail:** Capital Connect trains run regularly from St Pancras to Elstree and Borehamwood station. Penta Court is opposite the station.

For travel enquiries, call Travel Information Line on 020 7222 1234 or Rail Information on 08457 484950.



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