

The Rt Hon Priti Patel  
Secretary of State for the Home Department  
2 Marsham Street  
Westminster  
London  
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Cc: Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP, Secretary of State for Education

14 July 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to you as the Director of Migrant Voice to ask that you bring forward the introduction of the Graduate Route so that international students graduating in the UK during 2020 can benefit from this.

Having lobbied for its return since the Post-Study Work Visa was scrapped in 2012, we were delighted to hear last year that students will again be able to remain in the UK to work for two years after they complete their studies. Prior to 2012, the opportunity to work in the UK and to test and expand their skillset by means of this visa was a huge incentive for students around the world considering where to study abroad. And following last year's announcement of its return, the attractiveness of the UK as a study destination will no doubt have been enhanced once again.

However, we were disappointed to hear that this visa route would not be implemented until 2021, especially given that this is not a new immigration route, but only the reinstatement of a route that existed until eight years ago.

Even prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, this delay was deeply unfair to students graduating in the UK during 2020. But this crisis has severely disrupted the studies, experiences and financial situation of many international students in the UK, some of whom are speaking out via [our platforms](#) this week. They have had a particularly raw deal during the pandemic, and many want to stay in the UK after graduating and contribute to rebooting the economy. The Graduate Route would be the ideal means for them to do so, but by delaying its implementation, the UK is missing out on those valuable contributions.

Given the significant value of the Graduate Route to international students, the UK economy, and the image of Britain abroad, are you able to explain why this route – essentially the reinstatement of a previously existing route – is taking so long to implement?

And secondly, will you consider bringing forward the introduction of this route, so that students in the UK who have contributed during this crisis both financially and as members of our communities, standing in solidarity with all UK residents, can benefit from the opportunity to remain in the UK and continue contributing?

I would be delighted to have the opportunity to meet with you and your team to discuss this further.

Kind regards,

*Nazek Ramadan*

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