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PBS and HEIs

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What do we know? What don't we know?

Sponsorship

Key concerns

Key dates



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What do we know?

- Overview of system
- T1, T2, T4 and T5 Statements of Intent
- Sponsorship guidance – broad overview of roles and responsibilities
- Sponsor registration process
- Dates



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What don't we know?

- Final data required for 'visa letter' and CAS process
- Movement within system
- Detail on reporting
- IT



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Sponsorship

- ‘Sponsorship’ aims to try to ensure the migrant is able to do a particular job or course of study
- New ‘sponsor register’ run by Home Office
- ‘CAS’ – assurance from sponsor
- Will be a reference number generated from a central database – new Sponsor Management System (SMS)
- Replaces subjective tests of ability and intention in current system



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Sponsor register

- ‘Sponsor licence fee’ plus fees per ‘CAS’
- Organisations have provided information on how many certificates they expect to issue per tier
- Organisations will have to report on migrants
- Support and performance assessment by network of immigration officers
- Compliance officers



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CAS process

- Multiple CAS will be possible
- Detail of information needed on migrants not yet finalised
- Expiry of unused CAS – use of SMS to predict arrivals
- Payment process problematic



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Movement within system

- How will students move quickly (and cheaply)?
- Sponsorship obligations for HEIs
- Process being developed



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Reporting process

- Acceptance of 'progression' rather than attendance
- 'Enrolment periods'
- 'Progression points'
- Different types of students
- Need some parameters
- 'Good practice'



- HEIs largest volume users
- IT modelled on IT for T1, 2 and 5
- Basic system
- Need for bulk data transfer accepted
- Opportunities for improved MIS
- Robust? Testing?



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Key concerns

- Impact on HEIs
- Impact on students
- Support from UKBA
- Performance assessment
- 'Visa letter'



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Impact on HEIs

- Multiple roles – internal co-ordination
- More information but already into 2008/09 activities and 2009/10 plans
- Need to review policies and processes for recruitment, admissions, finance, registry, academic....
- Resources – additional staff or added to existing staff responsibilities



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Impact on students

- Changes for entry in autumn 2009 but information not finalised
- Visas tied to institutions, fixed maintenance levels
- When can we inform them?
- Students already in the UK needing further leave



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Support from UKBA

- Pre-registration visits not being done for HEIs for T4
- UKBA view that compliance visits will happen
- Regional difficulties
- T2 and T4 confusion



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Performance assessment

- How will UKBA assess performance?
- Sector norms? Regional? Size?
- Connections between employment activities and student activities
- 'Best practice' on international student recruitment



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‘Visa letter’

- Interim measure until SMS and CAS operational
- Problems around level of detail originally requested by UKBA
- Qualifications and financial arrangements
- UKBA considering what is needed
- Needs to be finalised



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Key dates

- Phase 1 T4 July 2008 – HEIs able to apply for T4 licence
- Phase 2 T4 March 2009 – policy changes and ‘visa letter’
- Phase 3 T4 autumn 2009 – SMS and CAS for in-country switchers and extenders
- Phase 4 T4 February 2010 – SMS and CAS for all applicants both in the UK and overseas



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Key activities

- Sector group advising UKBA on implementation of Tier 4
- Trying to finalise 'visa letter'
- Focus on clarifying CAS process, reporting process and IT development
- Communications



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Other student issues

- Relationship of PBS to ATAS
- ID cards
- Police registration



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Related issues

- International employees
- International visitors – academic visitor route retained
- Sponsored researchers – success!
- HEIs able to directly sponsor researchers through T5



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Thanks

Comments, queries, questions....

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