

Global BRIEF Immigration Alert | December 7, 2011



## UNITED KINGDOM | Licensed Sponsors Must Estimate 2012 CAS/COS Allotments

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) will be forwarding a message soon to all licensed sponsors to estimate their foreign student/labor populations to renew their 2012 allocations for Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) or Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS).

### What are CAS/CoS Allotments?

In order to host foreign students (CAS-Tier 4 Category) or foreign workers (CoS-Tier 2 Category), the UKBA requires that British education providers and companies be licensed sponsors. Licensed sponsors must estimate the number of CAS or CoS they expect to assign each year in every tier, category or sub-category for which they are applying. This number must include existing migrants who will apply for extensions of their permission to stay, and any new migrants requiring a sponsor.

### ACTION ITEMS FOR EMPLOYERS

For UK companies, there are "restricted" and "unrestricted" Tier 2 CoS categories. The allotment year for "restricted" CoS will run from April 6, 2012 to April 5, 2013. Pro-Link GLOBAL is issuing this alert to provide advance notice to clients to initiate forecasting their foreign labor needs no later than January 2012.

Tier 4 categories will require licensed UK education providers to assign CAS's to foreign students. A CAS confirms that a qualified foreign student has been given an unconditional offer of a place on a course of study with a licensed Tier 4 sponsor. Licensed Tier 4 sponsors should also initiate their student population forecasts as soon as possible.

This news alert was provided in coordination with our UK KGNM-Sarah Butler Associates.

**Caveat Lector | Warning to Reader**

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