

## The immigration process under the new Point Based System



The UK Border Agency (UK BA) has introduced a new Points Based System for immigration.

Under the new system there are five Tiers through which individuals can apply to come to the UK:

Tier	Description	Launch date
1	Highly Skilled Individuals – will replace the current Highly Skilled Migrant Programme	Launched February 2008
2	Skilled workers with a job offer – this will replace the current work permit scheme	Autumn of 2008
3	Temporary low skilled workers – previously Sector Based Scheme or Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme	Suspended
4	Students	Spring of 2009
5	Youth mobility schemes and other temporary workers	Autumn of 2008

Points can be earned through a number of different ways; e.g. for earnings and qualifications. However, before an individual can apply to enter the UK they need a 'sponsor'. It is the responsibility of sponsoring organisations to ensure that individuals coming to the UK satisfy the various criteria. Under the new system sponsors also have specific duties once the migrant has arrived; such as reporting later arrival, unauthorised absence etc.

Organisations that recruit individuals from outside the EU will also need to register as sponsors with the UK Border Agency directly.

Individuals applying through Tier 1 (Highly Skilled Individuals) will have to hold a qualification that is considered to be comparable to at least a British Bachelor degree and also demonstrate that they have an effective operational proficiency at English Language.

'The new system fundamentally changes the way in which employers process applications from outside the EU,' said

*(continues on page 3)*



## Improving the transparency of skills for vocational learners

Improving the awareness of the skills and competencies gained as part of a vocational course has always been difficult. Well this is no longer the case. The UK's National Europass Centre and City & Guilds have worked closely this year to support the launch of the Europass Certificate Supplement; a document that clearly sets out the skills and competencies an individual develops as a result of completing a vocational qualification. City & Guilds are the first Awarding Body to launch the Certificate Supplement in the UK and are they have been incredibly positive about the results. Since February learners were able to claim their Certificate Supplement on successful completion of a City & Guilds International Vocational Qualification and all new qualifications designed after 2008.

City & Guilds backing for the Europass initiative carries an important message and highlights the role of vocational education and training in enabling mobility.

The City & Guilds Europass Certificate Supplement can be downloaded at [www.cityandguilds.com/europass](http://www.cityandguilds.com/europass).

The Europass team have had a busy few months as a result of increased collaboration with the British Council, ECOTEC, EURES and other National Europass Centres.

We have hosted study visits from the Lithuanian and Dutch NEC. The latter meeting led to an exciting development between the Dutch and UK NEC teams who are in the process of developing a collaborative Inland Mobility pilot scheme, set to run simultaneously in each host country. The inland mobility scheme will allow organisations to record an individual's skills and programme details for work placements which take place within the UK rather than between countries. So far there has been considerable interest in the project.

For more information on Europass, please visit [www.europass.org.uk](http://www.europass.org.uk).

## Pathways to Skills Transfer

UK NARIC has recently completed a project that helps employers to help identify key skills gaps and additional training needs for people in the construction industry whose qualifications cannot be recognized across EU member states.

Work on the "Pathways to Skills Transfer" project ran from September 2006 to May 2008 and UK NARIC worked in partnership with the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce. The project was funded by Leonardo da Vinci and the key partners also included Aarhus Technical College, Construction Skills, the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Oneco, the European Vocational Training Association, the Polish-British Construction Partnership and the World Chambers Federation.

The project has created a model to identify and overcome existing barriers to the recognition of vocational qualifications for men and women working in the construction industry. This model facilitates the recognition of vocational qualifications in the European construction sector and encourages the free movement of skilled tradesmen and women across Europe. In-depth research has enabled the qualifications from five European countries, Spain, Denmark, UK, Poland and Hungary, to be compared with the needs of employers across Europe and measured against best practice.

The main outcome of the project has been to create a matrix of acceptable vocational qualifications in construction related trades including wood activities, finishing and brick and stone masonry. All identified qualifications in the five European countries have been benchmarked to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) using a well established UK NARIC methodology. The matrix presents a series of mapping tables, clearly demonstrating how the qualifications compare to a set of agreed pan-European competencies in each construction trade. As such, the matrix mapping tables that make it easy for employers and training providers to be able to help identify key skills gaps and additional training needs.

The matrix is available online at <http://pst.naric.org.uk/>. In addition to the matrix, an overview of the construction industry in each of the five selected countries is provided as well as the NARIC methodology and a user guide.

## What's new

Over the last few months, updates have continued to take place to our 3 main databases: International Comparisons, Vocational Comparisons and Teaching Comparisons. These updates represent the results of on-going research, the outcome of enquiries received by the team and on-going developments and reforms to education systems worldwide. Updates to the databases include the addition of new qualifications in countries including Spain, Malta, Botswana, Sri Lanka and Morocco, HEI listing updates for 9 different countries including Greece, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Spain, Morocco and India as well as edits to country profile sections covering grading information, HE admission requirements and university name changes. A research trip to Nepal has been carried out resulting in new information which will be added to products over the coming weeks.

## Stats

Over the last three months April has seen the biggest increase in the number of enquiries submitted to UK NARIC from countries worldwide. From March to May the amount received from the top countries India and Pakistan has increased by a third whereas a total of 10000 enquiries have been received over that period. Enquiries from Poland, Australia and the Russian Federation have all increased by more than 40%.

The number of French, Brazilian and Chinese enquiries has also continued to rise steadily with France seeing one of the highest percentage rises. The majority of enquiries continue to relate to professional employment and employment overall remains the most common purpose of enquiry, representing between 50% and 60% of enquiries received.

## Where we have been

Over the past few months UK NARIC staff have been gathering information about qualifications, skills, education system and institutions on a number of countries. This information is fed into the editorial process and used to update the UK NARIC websites.

The countries visited in the recent past include:

- Belgium
- China
- Greece
- Kosovo
- Malta
- Nepal
- Singapore
- Switzerland

We have also received visits from representatives from the following countries:

- Greece
- Malaysia
- Mauritius
- Singapore
- South Africa

## UK NARIC's new licensing model

After various rounds of questionnaires and numerous client meetings UK NARIC is pleased to present our new membership packages. The packages have been designed to give members greater access to the variety of services we offer as well as introduce some new services to help in the area of fraudulent documents.

We have moved from a product and site based model to a user and 'level of service' model which we believe is fairer and will enable us to provide our members with better and more accurate information on numbers of users and levels of usage.

The key elements of the packages include:

- Number of users
- The online databases: International Comparisons; Grade Comparisons; Vocational Comparisons; Teaching Comparisons; Childcare Comparisons; Social Care Comparisons
- Customer support: we will be guaranteeing a 5 day or 48 hour resolve or response time
- Books: Degrees of Deception; English Language Tests; International Secondary Qualifications
- Training and conferences
- NEW – Info Bulletin – designed to make sure you are up to date with the latest developments in education systems worldwide as well as topics such as the changes in immigration and fraud
- NEW – Counter fraud checking service – this service has been introduced to allow our members to get a second expert opinion on whether or not a document is fraudulent and what further checks they may want to undertake.

A member of the Membership Services team will be in touch with you before your membership is due for renewal to discuss the new packages and help you decide the most appropriate service. However, if you would like more information in the meantime please contact us on [customer.services@naric.org.uk](mailto:customer.services@naric.org.uk) or call 0871 330 7303.

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Tim Buttress, Head of Communication at UK NARIC, the national agency responsible for providing information and advice about qualifications from overseas, 'it is vitally important that they have access to accurate and up-to-date information. In the new system it is the responsibility of the organisation, or sponsor, to ensure that the individuals coming to the UK have the relevant documentation and that they are qualified to the appropriate level.'

'We are working with UK BA to ensure that they have the most up-to-date data and we also urge organisations to use the information we provide so they can make the

most informed decision about the level of qualification that migrants holds. The best way to ensure that the individuals have the correct information about their qualifications is to get them to apply for a UK NARIC Letter of Comparability; that way everybody will be clear about the level of their qualification. We all want the best people to come to the UK and we want to make sure that they are coming into the UK with the right qualifications and skills.'

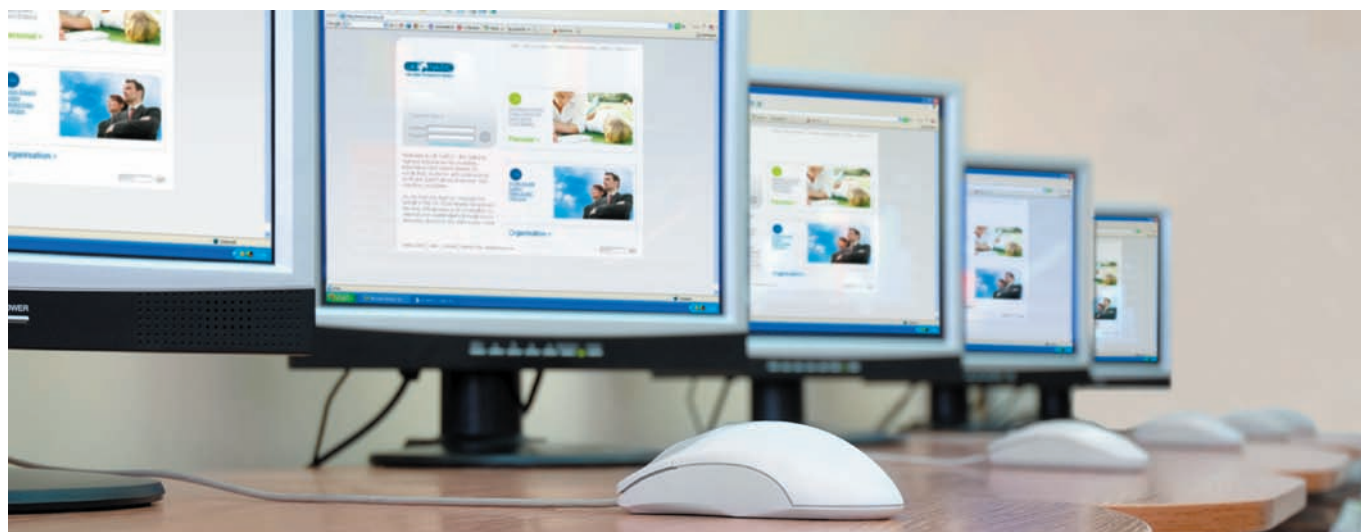
More information about the Points Based System and its impact on employers and education institutions can be found at [www.naric.org.uk](http://www.naric.org.uk).

# Training

## In-house events 2008

The following events will be held in our Cheltenham offices. Morning sessions run from 09.30 – 12.30 and afternoon sessions run from 13.30 – 16.30.

<i>Key sessions and schedule of dates 2008</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>December</i>
Using UK NARIC's International Comparisons	23rd (am)	
Evaluating International Qualifications	23rd (pm)	3rd (am)
Degrees of Deception – Combating Education Fraud	24th (am)	3rd (pm)
Education in China	25th (am)	4th (am)
Education in India, Pakistan & Bangladesh	25th (pm)	
Education in English Speaking Africa		4th (pm)
Education in New EU Member States	24th (pm)	



## External events 2008

We are currently putting the programme together for a two-day event in Edinburgh and Dublin. The events will take place in November and further details such as venue, courses and dates will be made available shortly.

For course requests and general feedback please e-mail [training@naric.org.uk](mailto:training@naric.org.uk).

For more details on UK NARIC training courses or if you would like to host your own event please contact our training department on e. [training@naric.org.uk](mailto:training@naric.org.uk) or t. **+44 (0) 871 330 7303**.

## Feedback

If you have any comments about the service that we provide, or any of the articles in this edition of NARIC News, please contact us on [feedback@naric.org.uk](mailto:feedback@naric.org.uk)

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