

Suella Braverman KC MP  
The Home Office  
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12 July 2023

Dear Ms Braverman

We the undersigned are extremely concerned by news of international students not being able to apply for post-study visas and/or extend student visas.

The University and College Union (UCU) has embarked on a Marking and Assessment Boycott (MAB) from 20 April 2023 in an ongoing dispute over pay and conditions with the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA). Our members have not taken this decision lightly. We have done everything possible to encourage the employers to come back to the negotiating table for a quick resolution. We are currently coordinating with UCEA for an emergency meeting in the coming days with the objective of suspending the MAB if our demands are met.

While we work to resolve the dispute, we have heard of at least one case, at the University of Edinburgh, of an [international student](#) not being able to apply for a post-study High Profile Individual Visa (HPI) while they await their full qualifications due to the ongoing MAB. Similar concerns have been raised by students at Durham University and other institutions.

Whilst we are doing our best to resolve our dispute with the employers' association, once a resolution is reached, there will still be delay in updating students' marks given the impact of the action so far and the time it will reasonably take to complete outstanding marking. Therefore, we ask the Home Office to consider as extenuating circumstances the impact that delayed marks and qualifications will have over the upcoming months on international students' visa applications, and to grant visa extensions, renewals and post-study visas on a discretionary basis to all affected students.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jo Grady  
General Secretary

Jeanette Findlay  
President, UCU Scotland

UCU Migrant Members'  
Standing Committee