



華人資料及諮詢中心 Chinese Information and Advice Centre

Charity No. 註冊號碼 : 800646 Company No. 註冊號碼 : 2306765

Summer 2011

Immigration

UK Immigration and Border Agency updates:

Migrants coming to the UK to work on temporary visas will no longer be able to apply for settlement, under proposals announced by the government on 09 June 2011.

Under the current system, many workers are allowed to apply to stay here permanently. In 2010, 84,000 people who entered the UK for employment were granted settlement.

The government has already implemented new settlement requirements for skilled workers entering under Tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system, which among others, require applicants to demonstrate English-language proficiency.

Key proposals under consideration are as follows:

- Re-branding Tier 2 (the skilled worker route) as temporary, ending the assumption that settlement will be available for those who enter on this route;
- Allowing certain categories of Tier 2 migrant, for example those earning over £150,000 or occupations of a specific economic or social value to the UK, to retain an automatic route to settlement;
- Creating a new category into which, after three years in the UK, the most exceptional Tier 2 migrants may switch and go on to apply for settlement;
- Introducing an English language requirement for adult dependants of Tier 2 migrants applying to switch into a route to settlement.

Next set of changes to student visa rules is announced!

Changes to the Immigration Rules affecting Tier 4 - the student tier - of the points-based system has been laid in Parliament. The changes will come into effect on 4 July 2011. The Home Secretary announced changes to the Immigration Rules in a statement to Parliament on 22 March, following a major public consultation on reforming Tier 4.

The aim of the revised Immigration Rules is to deliver a strong migration system which tackles immigration abuse, while allowing genuine students to study at genuine colleges.

Some of the revised Immigration rules are as follows:

- Restrict work entitlements to migrants studying at higher educational institutions (HEIs) and publicly funded further education colleges only;
- Restrict the sponsorship of dependants to those studying at postgraduate level at HEIs on courses lasting at least 12 months, and government-sponsored students on courses lasting at least 6 months;
- Extend the list of courses for which students must receive ATAS clearance;
- Restrict the ability to deliver accountancy courses accredited by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) to those sponsors accorded platinum or gold status by ACCA.

More detailed information can be found under:
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk>



Funded by the St James's Ward Councillors through the Westminster City Council Neighbourhood Fund programme



Refugee & Asylum Project

Do you want to open a bank account but only have a temporary address?

When you open a bank account in the UK it is necessary to show proof of address as well as proof of identity. Here is a list of verification documents that HSBC will accept as proof of address:

- Council tax bill for the current year
- Utility bill (for example, gas, electricity etc)
- Full UK driving licence
- Disabled parking document (as long as it shows your address, signature and photograph)
- Tenancy agreement from council or reputable letting agency

However, if you do not yet have permanent residency then the above can be hard to obtain. HSBC will also accept the following:

- Letter from a Prison Governor or Probation Officer
- Overseas driving licence (as long as it shows your signature and photograph) (FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS ONLY)
- Letter from a reputable university, college or language school (on official headed paper with a clear contact name, address and phone number) (FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS ONLY)

This information varies from bank to bank so it is best to check at the bank or call them to see what type of address verification they will accept, especially if you are finding standard documents difficult to obtain.



Donate now Text CIAC18 £5 to 70070

Donations can be made in denominations of £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 and £10. Make a difference and donate TODAY!

Changes to Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes:

As of 31st March, the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) is no longer the implementing partner for the UK Government on three major AVRR programmes.

IMPORTANT: Anyone under the programmes who has departed before the 31st March 2011 will continue to receive their reintegration assistance from IOM in their country of return.

If somebody returned home through one of IOM's programmes and has queries about their reintegration assistance, they can email iomuk@iom.int or call +442078116035.



Battery Recycling

CIAC is working with **BatteryBack** to promote environmental friendly workspace. You can join too by putting the old batteries in the bin provided outside our office.



Mobile Phone Recycling

CIAC also works with **Recycle4Charity** to recycle any old, faulty or unused mobile phones or printer cartridges.

Mobiles and printer cartridges donated will be reconditioned and sold to developing countries to help their communications infrastructure. Mobile phones that cannot be reconditioned are recycled and disposed properly.

This is not only environmentally friendly but also generates income for CIAC to give free legal advice or projects in supporting the disadvantaged Chinese living in the UK.

To donate, please leave the goods at the CIAC office or post to this freepost address:

Recycle4Charity
(Ref: C19975 CIAC)
Freepost, SAE 14098
Lewes, BN8 5BR

Please telephone 0845 3131 868 for Xiaoxi alternatively visit our website for more information.

Women Support Services

Secured London Councils funding

We are pleased to announced that our Women’s Support Project, which is part of the ethnic minority consortium managed to secure the funding until 2012 Oct. We will carry on providing the support and advice for individuals and their children who are or have been suffering from domestic violence. The Chairlady of the consortium Ms Sarbjit Ganger commented, “We are pleased that London Councils acknowledged the work we have done over the past few years and treasured the value of varies organisations targeting domestic violence within the ethnic minority population. We would like to emphasis that our aim is to ensure that there is equality of opportunity to access services, create an inspiring and empowering experience for all service users and voice out for BMER (Black Minority Ethnic and Refugee) communities”.

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Chen-Style Tai Chi



Instructor: Master Guang Ying TANG
 Date: Every Sunday.
 Time: 11am – 12noon
 Venue: Dragon Hall Trust, 17 Stukeley Street, WC2B 5LT
 (Please call to confirm as venue may vary)
 Cost: £5 per session
 For more information please contact Jaime at telephone no. 08453131868
 Email: jaime@ciac.co.uk

Miss Teen Ealing joining our fundraising events!

Local Ealing girl, Ms Sophia Woodleigh who recently won the title of Miss Teen Ealing has signed up as a Volunteer to help raise funds for CIAC. She will be competing in the prestigious grand final of Miss Teen Great Britain 2011 which will be held on Saturday, 24th September 2011 at The Imperial Hotel, Blackpool.

Sophia, aged 17years old, has seen off hundreds of teens from across UK to make it to the final. She hails from the London Borough of Ealing where CIAC Chairman Mr Yeo had served previously as an Ealing Councillor.

Sophia says, “I am so excited to have made it to the final. It is a great achievement as there were so many gorgeous semi-finalists! I am proud to represent my hometown and I hope I will be able to win the Miss Teen Great Britain crown for Ealing!”

Mr Yeo was grateful for Sophia’s willingness to help raise funds for the community. He said “Sophia is a superb teenager and role-model for the teenagers out there to do something good for others who may be less fortunate than themselves.”

The Property Director of Rosewheel Ltd, Mr Les Hardie also added “Sophia would be an excellent Volunteer to take on the challenge and lead CIAC’s fund raising activity for “The Great Big Small Charity Car Draw. “ The Winner will drive away a new Fiat 500 to be drawn on 25 October, 2011.



Charity Car Draw tickets are available at £2 each. Please contact Xiao Xi or Jaime on Helpline 08453 131 868 or email to info@ciac.co.uk. Your generous help and support is most welcome and appreciated.



CIAC's News

Funding

We are pleased to announce that CIAC has received funding from St James' Ward in order to provide free general tax credit, child tax credit, income support and housing benefit advice for Westminster residents. Please call 08453131868 or email info@ciac.co.uk for enquiries or to book your appointment.

CIAC wins volunteering awards

We are very proud to announce that CIAC has won 'Best Organisation' at this year's prestigious Westminster Volunteer Awards. Our Chairman Edmond Yeo's work in CIAC has been recognised by being the 'Volunteer Impact' at a ceremony held 8th June. The awards celebrate the important and varied work done by volunteers in Westminster.



CIAC Immigration Awareness Workshop

On 14 June 2011 CIAC ran a workshop with the Met Police and UKBA in order to raise the awareness of immigration issue within the Chinese Community. Ms Uche and Ms Bernedette gave a presentation to our guests on 'You and Your Rights'. In this workshop professionals from the Met Police and UKBA focused on Human Trafficking, Illegal Employment and ended with a Q&A session.



Police Community Walk-in Surgery

It was held on the 8th of June. PC Derek Hussain who speaks Cantonese came to CIAC and helped the Chinese community with any concerns. The date and time of the next session still has to be confirmed. Please our website for the latest update.

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London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival - 2011-

Chinese Information and Advice Centre (CIAC) took part in the London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival on the 19th June 2011.

The event was held at the London Regatta Centre and strongly supported by the community.

Thanks for the generous sponsor of a dragon boat from the London Chinatown Lions Club, CIAC put together a team to take part in the Dragon Boat competition.

Mr Edmond Yeo, chair of CIAC said "It was a great day out per team bonding and networking. We had managed to finish the 3 races although we were far than being the winners of the day. I am sure CIAC will do much better next year."

"It is great to see CIAC participated at this annual cultural event. They have made a lot of new friends there and it really helps to inform others what CIAC is offering to the Chinese community," – added Mr Les Hardie of Rosewheel Limited, a London Chinatown property developer and landlord.

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To:

If undelivered, please kindly return to CIAC (address below). Thank you.