

Disciplined Entrepreneur Accelerator Programme

Information Sheet

Welcome! This document is for further information about the DEAP.

This scheme is delivered free to those who are selected to join, and it is open to all Lancaster University students and recent graduates. However, there are a limited amount of spaces available and we expect this to be highly competitive. Please note that priority will be given to those who have a genuine and serious interest in starting a business for themselves within the next 12 months.

If you are currently an international student studying on the Tier 4 Student Visa, then there is an opportunity for you to gain endorsement, and apply for the Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur Visa, please read the [*What is the T1 GE Visa?*](#) section below.

If you are an UK/EU student then please skip straight to the [*What is the DEAP?*](#) section.

What is the T1 Graduate Entrepreneur Visa (T1 GEV)?

The T1 GEV is a government run scheme aimed at international graduates of UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs [universities]) who would like to set up and run a business here in the UK. Generally speaking there are no restrictions on the type of business that you can start, with the exception of the areas of property development and property management.

You can only apply for this visa once you have graduated from a UK HEI, and you must also have an endorsement from that HEI. In order to receive an endorsement from the HEI, you must submit a full business plan which will be assessed to see if you have a genuine and credible business idea.

If you are granted this visa, you will have 12 months to work on your business, with the potential for extending this for a further 12 months (total maximum 2 years). At the end of this 2 year period, you need to have achieved a minimum total of £50,000 in funds – either through investment into the business, or through earnings from the business in order to apply for further visas.

If this criteria is met you may then apply for the full T1 Entrepreneur Visa and continue to run your business, for another 3-5 years. At the end of this time, you may be eligible to apply for indefinite leave to remain.

We highly recommend that you follow the links below and read all about the T1 GE Visa, and subsequent T1 Entrepreneur Visa in full. Please note that all Terms & Conditions laid down by the Home Office supersede those of the University.

Lancaster University is authorised to endorse a limited number of students per year, and this scheme is highly competitive. However, this scheme is ultimately operated by the UK government Home Office and their decision is final.

Home Office guidance:

T1 Graduate Entrepreneur Visa – <https://www.gov.uk/tier-1-graduate-entrepreneur-visa>

T1 Entrepreneur Visa – <https://www.gov.uk/tier-1-entrepreneur>

T1 GEV Full Guidance (PDF)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/606690/T1-Graduate-entrepreneur-v15.pdf

If you still have questions, please first refer to our FAQs page located here: <http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/student-based-services/international/visas-and-immigration/>

If you still have further questions after reading the FAQs, please direct any VISA related queries to: tier1grad-ent@lancaster.ac.uk

What support does Lancaster University offer?

As mentioned previously, you are required to submit a full business plan for assessment in order to receive an endorsement letter from the university. This endorsement will allow you to apply to the Home Office for the T1GE Visa.

[Lancaster University Enterprise Centre](#) is here all year round to support all students (undergraduate & postgraduate), staff and alumni from Lancaster University. Whatever your idea is, whatever stage it is at, and wherever you plan to get this off the ground – we are here to help you make it happen.

However, we are also introducing a dedicated accelerator scheme aimed specifically at those who are graduating this academic year, and are seriously considering starting up a new business here in the UK – (for international students - you will require a T1 GE Visa to do so). If you want to know more about this programme, please see below.

What is the Disciplined Entrepreneur Accelerator Programme (DEAP)?

This year will see the introduction of our *Disciplined Entrepreneur Accelerator Programme*. This is an intensive 2-part support programme aimed at fully developing your business idea, and in turn helping you to write a comprehensive business plan which will put you in good stead to start running your business.

This programme will be conducted in two separate parts over the summer period:

PART 1) 3 day intensive workshop

PART 2) 4 day intensive residential workshop

Key Dates:

Part 1 – Wednesday 20th June ~ Friday 22nd June

Part 1 will be located on campus.

This part will be looking at things related to market validation, market segmentation, defining and understanding your customer, product specification, defining a clear value proposition, and more.

Part 2 – Tuesday 10th July ~ Friday 13th July (residential)

Part 2 will be held off campus in a contained residential venue. All accommodation, catering, and travel to the venue will be provided.

This part will be looking at things related to understanding how your customers acquire your product, mapping how to acquire paying customers, how to make money, how to design a business model, financial modelling, designing and testing assumptions, building a minimum viable product, how to scale the business and more.

A full and detailed itinerary will be available at a later date, and as part of the course handbook.

Learning outcomes:

This programme will help you to develop the core 21st century skills of **Collaboration**, **Communication**, **Critical thinking**, and **Creativity**.

The programme intends to deliver on a number of learning outcomes, the full extent of which will be available in the course handbook. Here is a quick overview of the key outcomes are as follows:

Ideas & Opportunities

Learners will be confident and have the skills and knowledge to:

- Recognise, seize and shape opportunities to respond to challenges and create value for others,
- Transform ideas into solutions that create value for others,
- Use their vision to guide strategic decision-making and
- Develop strategies to make the most of the value generated by ideas.
- Act to ensure that their ethical and sustainability goals are met.

Resource

Learners will be confident and have the skills and knowledge to:

- Compensate for their weaknesses by teaming up with others and by further developing their strengths,

- Remain focused on their passion and continue to create value, de-spite setbacks,
- Learn the skills and knowledge to define strategies to mobilise the required resources,
- Make a plan for the financial sustainability of a value-creating activity and
- Inspire others and get them on board for value-creating activities.

Into Action

Learners will be confident and have the skills and knowledge to:

- Seek out opportunities to take the initiative to add or create value
- Refine priorities and plans to adjust to changing circumstances,
- Weigh up risks and make decisions despite uncertainty and ambiguity,
- Build a team and networks based on the needs of their value-creating activity and improve their abilities to create value by building on their previous experiences and interactions with others.
- Places on this programme are limited, and you must be available to complete BOTH parts in full.

For Tier 1 GE Visa Applicants only:

Those who successfully complete both parts of the DE programme will receive a conditional offer to be endorsed by the university.* The condition is for the subsequent completion and submission of a FULL written business plan and financial forecast, demonstrating all of the learning from this program; along with evidence of the subsequent market research, and market validation of your business idea.

This final business plan document will be assessed by a panel of expert entrepreneurs who will score the plan, and if successful at this stage you will be given an endorsement by Lancaster University.*

*All endorsements are subject to full checks by the Lancaster University Registry office, for attendance records, any debts owed, grades achieved and examination resits etc. The Registry decision is final and cannot be further challenged.

What are the costs, and how do I apply?

This programme is **completely free to participants**, all costs of transport, catering, accommodation and content delivery are covered by the university. Please be aware that the equivalent **support value of this programme is over £5,000.**

However, given the low number of limited places available we expect that this will be highly competitive. Furthermore, given the value of this support we must ensure that you are 100% committed to the programme.

Step 1) To apply, download the application form here: [<Click To Download>](#)

Step 2) Please email completed form to enterpriseteam@lancaster.ac.uk

****Deadline for applications are 17:00 on Friday 18th May 2018****

Once the deadline has passed, we will evaluate all the applications and create a shortlist. Those who have been shortlisted will be invited to an informal interview at a mutually convenient time.

Interviews will be in the week commencing 28/05/2018

Places on the programme will be confirmed shortly after interview, and no later than a week before the programme commences.

Full Timeline

DE Programme applications open: **Week Commencing (w/c) 30/04/2018**

Application deadline: **17:00 @ 18/05/2018**

Invites to interview: **(w/c) 28/05/2018**

Interview dates: **(w/c) 04/06/2018**

Confirmation of place on programme: **(w/c) 11/06/2018**

Programme dates: **(1) 20~22/06/2018 & (2) 10~13/07/2018**

Tier 1 GEV applicants only:

Final business plan submission^{**}: **@ Your graduation date**

Undergraduate Graduation^{**} : **September**

Postgraduate Graduation^{**} : **December**

^{**}Graduation dates are estimated. If you have already graduated, you are free to apply for once you have received the full endorsement from the university. A more concrete date will be discussed with you once you have completed the DEAP.

FULL TERMS & CONDITIONS

This is a highly competitive scheme and the university only has a maximum of 20 endorsements for the T1 GE Visa which it may allocate per year (running from April to April).

- Placement on the DE Accelerator does not guarantee endorsement by the university.
- Lancaster University reserves the right to withdraw your place on the DE Accelerator Programme at any time.
- The issuing of the endorsement letter is subject to satisfactory background checks by the University's visa & Immigration team.
 - Conditional endorsements from the university are subject to submission of a final business plan for evaluation by a panel of experts.
 - The decision of this panel is final, and cannot be challenged.
 - Endorsement by the university does not guarantee acceptance for T1 Graduate Entrepreneur Visa by the Home Office.
 - The Home Office decision is final and will not be challenged by the university.
- Lancaster University holds the right to withdraw the offer of an endorsement at any time.
- Endorsement for the first 12 months of the T1 GEV does not guarantee re-endorsement for the second 12 month period.
- Successful funding of the £50,000 within the two year time frame does not guarantee acceptance for the T1 Entrepreneur Visa by the Home Office.
- Whilst living and working in the UK on the T1 GE Visa, you must maintain at minimum quarterly contact with Lancaster University Enterprise team. Failure to do so will result in being reported to the Home Office.
- Please be aware that as a current student studying on a T4 licence, you are allowed to conduct research etc into the business.
- You are full responsible for reading and understanding the full Terms and Conditions laid out by the Home Office.
<https://www.gov.uk/tier-1-graduate-entrepreneur-visa>
- Please be aware that acceptance onto and/or completion of the DE Accelerator does not change the status, nor the conditions of your T4 Student visa.
 - YOU MUST NOT REGISTER A BUSINESS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES UNTIL YOU HAVE APPLIED FOR YOUR T1 GE VISA!
 - You MUST NOT conduct any business activity whilst still under your T4 Student visa
 - i.e. you cannot start trading, conduct sales, or setup contracts for sales etc.
 - *Business idea validation, and business planning activity is acceptable* under the T4

Student visa.

– Please refer back to the conditions of your T4 Student visa, if in doubt about anything please consult the Lancaster University Registry Office

- Lancaster University is not responsible for your failure to read and comprehend the Terms & Conditions of your Visa as laid down by the Home Office and any subsequent breaches caused by your lack of understanding.
- LU does not guarantee the success of your, or any business. All business ventures are a risk, and by undertaking this programme you understand the inherent risks involved in seeking to start your own venture.
- All Terms & Conditions related to the Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 4 Visas laid down by the university are superseded by the Home Office – the Home Office will be the final say on any decisions made.