# Postgraduate Student Working Hours Guide (Academic Year 2025/2026)

This guidance applies to students on MSc, MA, and PGCE programmes sponsored under a Student visa, in line with UKVI regulations and St Mary’s University’s academic structure. It does not apply to MBA, MPhil, MRes, or PhD students.

## Work Eligibility Overview

Most postgraduate taught courses at St Mary’s University do not include formally recognised vacation periods within the academic calendar.  
  
Postgraduate students may work a maximum of 20 hours per week in part-time employment from the start of their course until the official submission of their dissertation or final assessed work, provided there are no outstanding assessments or resits.  
  
At no point between the course start date and the official submission of the final academic component should students work more than 20 hours per week.  
  
Postgraduate students are expected to maintain continuous academic engagement throughout their 12-month programme, including periods between terms, which are not considered breaks. Dissertation writing and revision for resit and resubmission are regarded as academic activity in term time.

## Academic Calendar and Term Dates

- Induction Week: Monday 15 – Friday 19 September 2025  
- Semester 1 (Term 1): Monday 22 September – Friday 12 December 2025  
- January Examinations: Thursday 8 – Friday 16 January 2026  
- Reconnect Week: Monday 19 – Friday 23 January 2026  
- Semester 2 (Term 2): Monday 26 January – Friday 27 March 2026  
- Semester 2 (Term 3): Monday 13 April – Friday 15 May 2026  
- May Examinations: Wednesday 6 – Friday 15 May 2026  
- Summer Resit Exams: Tuesday 14 – Friday 17 July 2026

## Eligibility for Full-Time Work

Postgraduate students are permitted to undertake full-time, non-permanent work or part-time work exceeding 20 hours per week only:  
- From the date of official dissertation or final submission  
- Provided there are no outstanding assessments or resits  
- Until the expiry date of the Student visa

## Important Notes for Employers

- Student visa holders must not undertake full-time permanent roles under any circumstances.  
- Full-time contracts must conclude before the start of the next academic engagement and prior to visa expiry.  
- Part-time roles may be held continuously, as long as hours remain within the permitted limits during term time.

## Institutional Disclaimer

This document is a general guide and does not serve as an individualised term-time or right-to-work verification letter. Employers are responsible for complying with UK immigration law when employing Student visa holders.