

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
FOR SPONSORED RESEARCHERS
WHO HOLD
A CERTIFICATE OF SPONSORSHIP**

Information for Sponsored Researchers, who hold Certificate of Sponsorship, on the procedures for requesting leave, notification of sickness absence and change of contact details.

Summary

If you hold a certificate of sponsorship there are strict regulations related to that certificate. In particular the University must notify the UK Visas & Immigration if you are absent without approved leave or if your contact details change within 10 working days of the original date of the original absenteeism or change of contact details.

The attached document includes details on how you should request leave, report sick leave and notify the University of changes to your personal circumstances. Failure to comply may jeopardise your entitlement to hold a certificate of sponsorship.

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1. Requesting Leave

Prior to taking any leave this **must be formally requested and agreed** by your Research Supervisor.

The request must be in writing.

2. Reporting Sickness Absences

On your first day of absence, typically no later than the first hour of your usual start-time you will be required to report your sickness absence to your Research Supervisor. Failure to make contact will be regarded as unauthorised absence (and not sick leave). This may result in the University advising the UK Visas & Immigration that you are absent without permission within 10 working days of the date of the original absenteeism.

3. Notification of Change of Contact Details

The University is required to maintain up to date contact details for all migrant workers to include address, telephone number and mobile number, therefore if any of these change during the course of your sponsorship you must advise Human Resources **in writing** within 5 working days of any changes in your contact details by completing an Employee Contact Details Update form – available on the Human Resources web site at <http://www.ulster.ac.uk/hr/Forms/ContactDetailChange.doc> or by requesting a hard copy of this form from Human Resources as the University is required to report such changes to the UK Visas & Immigration within 10 working days of the date these details changed. You should also formally notify your Research Supervisor.

The accuracy of the detail of your contact details will also be checked by Human Resources on an annual basis via the requirement to conduct an annual check of your immigration documents – should your period of sponsorship exceed 12 months – in order to maintain your legal entitlement to work in the UK.