

Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Iraq: Mr Stephen Hickey

Mr Stephen Hickey has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq in succession to Mr Jon Wilks CMG.

Olympiacos v Tottenham Hotspur travel advice

Travel advice for Tottenham fans travelling to Athens for the Olympiacos v Tottenham Hotspur Champions League group match on Wednesday 18 September 2019.

UK announces 2-year post-study work visa for international students

The new 'Graduate' immigration route will be open to all international students – including those from China – who have valid UK immigration status as a student and have successfully completed a course of study at undergraduate level or above, at an approved UK Higher Education Provider. The visa will allow eligible students to work, or look for work, at any skill level or subject, giving them valuable work experience at the start of their careers.

This will build on government action to help recruit and retain the best and brightest global talent, but also open up opportunities for future breakthroughs in science, technology and research and other world-leading work that international talent brings to the UK.

It follows recent announcements, such as the creation of a new fast-track visa route for scientists and the removal of the limit on PHD students moving into the skilled work visa route, which collectively aim to cement the UK as a science superpower and a world-leader in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) sector.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said:

The new Graduate Route will mean talented international students, whether in science and maths or technology and engineering, can

study in the UK and then gain valuable work experience as they go on to build successful careers.

It demonstrates our global outlook and will ensure that we continue to attract the best and brightest.

Dame Barbara Woodward, the British Ambassador to China said:

This is great news for Chinese students! The new Graduate visa will give students a 2 year opportunity to find work that builds on their degree qualification and gives them valuable international work experience.

The UK is a popular choice for Chinese students because it is home to three of the top ten universities in the world. Last year alone over 100,000 Chinese students came to the UK to study and this number grows each year.

The UK remains open and welcoming for Chinese students, visitors and business people, with over 100 direct flights per week between the UK and China.

Notes

- This follows a shake-up of immigration rules [announced by the Prime Minister](#) in August to encourage the world's top scientists to move to the UK.
- The new route will launch for the 2020/21 intake of students to university. After the two years, they will be able to switch onto the skilled work visa if they find a job which meets the skill requirement of the route.
- The UK has seen a strong increase in Chinese student numbers in recent years. The latest available statistics are [on the Home Office website](#).
- The status of each institution will be shown in the register of licensed sponsors, which is publicly available [on the GOV.UK website](#).

Prime Minister pledges to bring shipbuilding back to the UK

Thousands of jobs in the British shipping industry will be created over the next decade, the Prime Minister will announce on Thursday, as he pledges to bring shipbuilding back to the UK and strengthen the Royal Navy.

During a visit to a ship in the Thames for London International Shipping Week

the Prime Minister will announce which bidder's design has been selected for new Type 31 warships. The UK Government has committed to buying at least five of these cutting edge vessels for the Royal Navy, with more expected to be exported to governments around the world. The first British Type 31 ship will be in the water by 2023.

The Type 31 programme will support over 2,500 jobs across the UK, with different elements of the frigates being assembled and built at British shipyards. At least 150 of these jobs will be for new technical apprenticeships. The ships will be built exclusively in the UK.

Today's announcement forms part of the Prime Minister's commitment to reinvigorate the British shipbuilding industry, ensuring British design and building expertise, in military and commercial shipping, is once again at the heart of this important international market.

The new Type 31 ships will build on the exporting success of the Type 26 frigates, which were designed in the UK and will soon be sailing as part of the British, Australian and Canadian navies.

The Government is also committed to realising the UK's potential to be a world leader in commercial shipbuilding, particularly for cruise ships, ferries and yachts. The leisure, superyacht and small commercial marine sector expanded by 1.7 per cent last year, its seventh consecutive year of growth. Last year the UK was third in global yacht building rankings.

To realise this shipbuilding ambition, the Prime Minister has appointed Defence Secretary Ben Wallace as Shipbuilding Tsar. As part of this brief the Defence Secretary will work across government to enhance the UK's shipbuilding enterprise, including with the Department for Education, BEIS and the Department for International Trade which this week launches a new Maritime Trade and Investment Plan.

The Prime Minister has tasked Ben Wallace with looking at how the government can use Further Education, skilled apprenticeships and graduates to achieve a sustainable, longer term skills base for British shipbuilding across the UK. This will ensure that British shipyards are able to compete fairly for all UK government contracts as we leave the EU.

The Prime Minister's commitment to reinvigorating the British shipbuilding industry will also strengthen and enhance the capabilities of the Royal Navy and those of our international partners and allies.

The Government has pledged to maintain a surface fleet of at least 19 frigates and destroyers and to grow this fleet in the 2030s. The first batch of five Type 31 frigates will help achieve this, by replacing Type 23 frigates.

At a time where the challenges across the world's seas are increasing, the Type 31 frigates will enable the UK to undertake more missions such as the interception and disruption of those breaching international maritime law, intelligence collection and protecting commercial shipping.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

UK is an outward-looking island nation, and we need a shipbuilding industry and Royal Navy that reflect the importance of the seas to our security and prosperity.

This is an industry with a deep and visceral connection to so many parts of the UK and to the Union itself. My government will do all it can to develop this aspect of our heritage and the men and women who make up its workforce – from apprentices embarking on a long career, to those families who have worked in shipyards for generations.

I look forward to the restoration of British influence and excellence across the world's oceans. I am convinced that by working together we will see a renaissance in this industry which is so much part of our island story – so let's bring shipbuilding home.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

These mighty ships will form the next generation of the Royal Navy fleet. The Type 31 frigates will be a fast, agile and versatile warship, projecting power and influence across the globe. The ships will be vital to the Royal Navy's mission to keeping peace, providing life-saving humanitarian aid and safeguarding the economy across the world from the North Atlantic, to the Gulf, and in the Asia Pacific.

Secretary of State for International Trade, Liz Truss, said:

We will make the Type 31 frigate an export success. Like the Type 26 before it, there has been significant interest in the design and capabilities of the Type 31 from around the world. Countries are modernising their fleets to safeguard against 21st century naval threats and British-built vessels and maritime technology are in high demand. An outward looking United Kingdom will seize this opportunity as we leave the EU.

Hundreds of students to take youth

work qualifications after new government investment

- £500,000 will provide bursaries for 400 students to undertake youth work qualifications
- Minister for Civil Society opens applications for delivery partner to distribute new Youth Worker Bursary Fund
- Announcement comes as Minister hosts first of a series of events across the country to meet charity leaders and representatives of civil society

Hundreds of students will be able to pursue careers as youth workers through a new £500,000 bursary fund, Minister for Civil Society Baroness Barran announced today.

The fund will provide financial assistance to 400 people who otherwise could not afford to access the approved level 2 and level 3 qualifications in youth work.

The Youth Worker Bursary Fund aims to increase the number of people taking up the qualifications and ensure the sector attracts new youth workers from a variety of backgrounds.

Charities, benevolent and philanthropic organisations from across England are now able to bid to become the delivery partner of the Youth Worker Bursary Fund.

The announcement coincides with the first in a series of events across the country hosted by the Minister for Civil Society, to meet a wide variety of sector stakeholders and discuss the Civil Society Strategy.

In the coming weeks the Minister will meet individuals and organisations in Newcastle, Liverpool, Nottingham, Bradford, Norwich and Birmingham.

Minister for Civil Society, Baroness Barran said:

The UK's civil society is the glue that holds our communities together. Having volunteered and worked in the sector for over 30 years, I know the power our charities, social enterprises and community groups have to change lives for the better.

Today and over the next few weeks I will be meeting representatives of this brilliant sector across the country to ensure the positive work of the Civil Society Strategy continues.

I look forward to listening to a wide variety of people and organisations, from national bodies to smaller grassroots charities, to ensure their voices are heard.

The Civil Society Strategy, published in August 2018, set out a bold vision for the sector. It included plans to create stronger communities, proposing significant reforms across the public and private sectors to build a fairer society.

Notes to Editors:

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they can deliver impact across multiple regions, and that bursaries will be provided to individuals who would otherwise not be able to afford to undertake the qualification.

The application form and guidance for applicants can be found [here](#).