

**Friday 20 March 2015**

**Colleges Scotland comment on post-study work opportunities for international students**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

“The abolition of post-study work visas by the UK government in 2012 has been an issue of concern for Scotland’s 26 colleges. These visas allowed recent graduates to work or set up businesses in the UK for 24 months, which retained skilled and educated graduates as part of the labour force.

“International students from around the world enrich the experience of Scottish learners by providing a more diverse pool of learners, with a broader global perspective. The cultural exchange benefits everyone as well as helping to promote Scotland.

“The re-introduction of a post-study work visas would attract more overseas students thus enhancing the college experience for all while retaining skilled graduates who contribute to our economy.

“We hope there is political goodwill to find a way to re-introduce the post study work visas as soon as practical after the general election.”

**ENDS**

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