



# Points Based System

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Welcome to the UCISA CISG seminar on Tier 4 of the new points based system for immigration

Woburn House  
London



# Programme

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- Welcome and introduction
- PBS and the application process
- Monitoring and reporting
- Q & A



# Glossary

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- PBS – points based immigration system
- Tier 4 – the tier of the PBS relating to students
- SMS – sponsorship management system
- CAS – confirmation of acceptance for studies
- BDT – bulk data transfer

# Why a Points Based System?

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## Points Based System takes us from...

- 80 schemes designed to meet particular needs as they have arisen
- A complex mix of application routes, many of which requires separate work permits & visas
- Decisions based on wide range of entry criteria, some of which are subjective.

## To...

A 5-tiered system designed to deliver on UK economic and control objectives

A more straightforward application process for all applicants.

Decisions made using an expanded points system and other objective criteria with greater transparency

# Tiers under the Points Based System

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- 1: Highly skilled individuals
- 2: Skilled workers with a job offer
- 3: Limited low-skilled schemes to fill temporary shortages
- 4: Students
- 5: Temporary workers and Youth Mobility Scheme

# Immigration Decision

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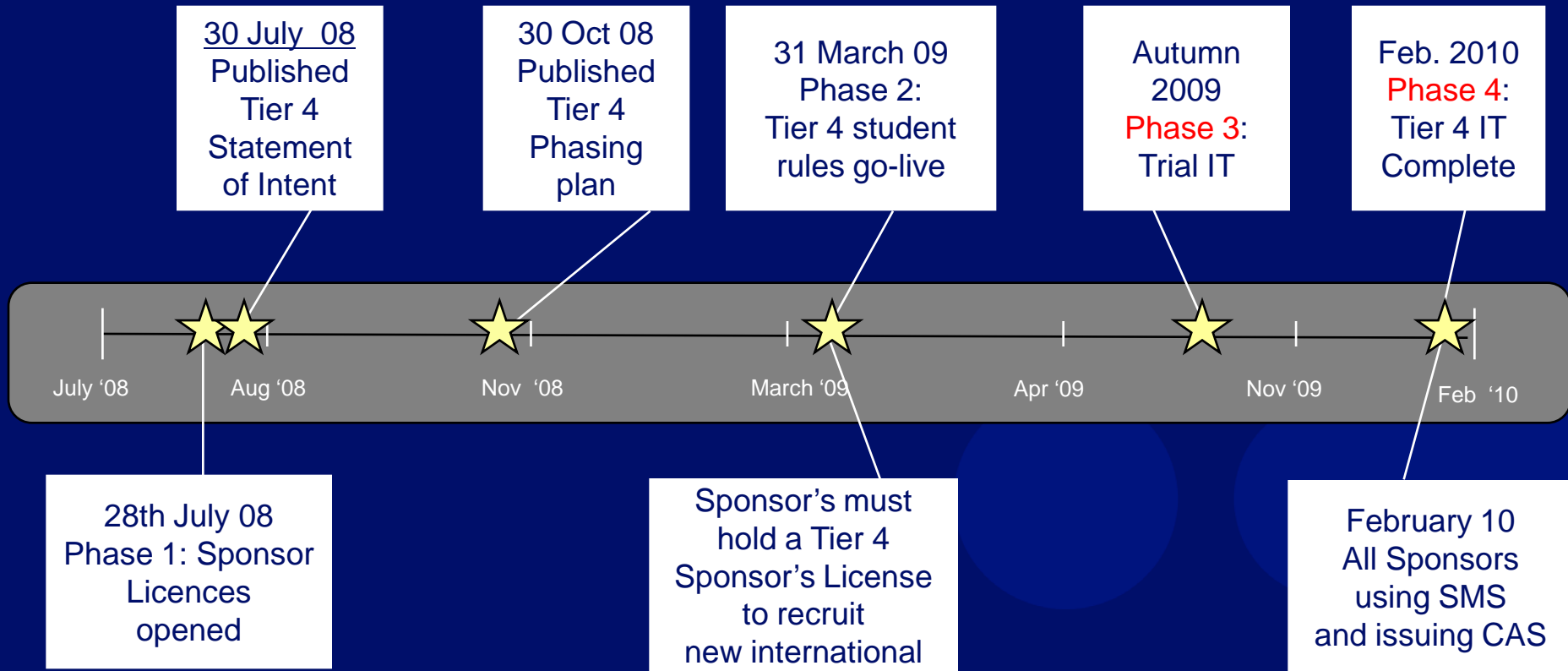
- Identity
- Suitability
- Eligibility
  - Sponsorship (CAS or Visa Letter)
  - Evidence of Funds

# Tier 4 students

- PBS places the responsibility of sponsorship on education institutions
- There are 2 types of student categories:
  - General – for the majority of students
  - Child Student – for those who are aged 4-17

Points under Tier 4 – Pass mark 40	
Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)/Visa Letter	30 points
Maintenance and Funds Test	10 points

# Tier 4 timetable



# Visa Letters

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- All Tier 4 sponsors have been issuing Visa Letters for international students since March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009
- Contains information on a student
  - Name
  - Nationality
  - Passport or travel document number (optional)
  - Course title
  - Academic level of course
  - Expected end date of course
  - Hours per week (in some cases)
  - Fees for the first year
  - Fees paid so far
  - Documents required to get the offer or statement of continued sponsorship based on progress on existing course (as appropriate)
- Proves an education institution's sponsorship of a student

# CAS – Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

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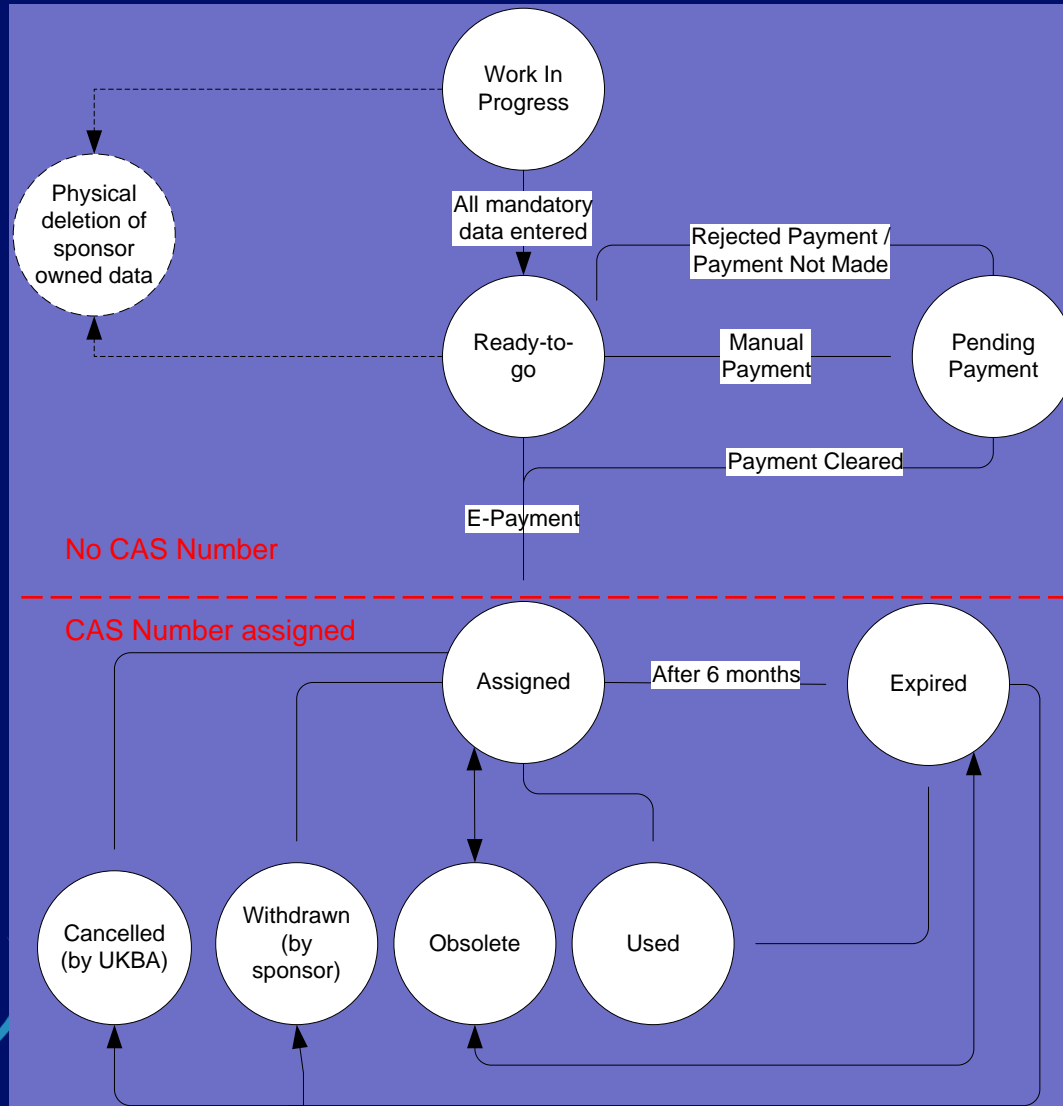
- A CAS will be a secure unique reference number issued to their would-be students by Tier 4 sponsors via our web-based Sponsor Management System (SMS). – it is not a physical document.
- Education providers will issue CAS to students they choose to sponsor. In issuing the CAS, the Sponsor will be vouching for the ability and intention of the student to follow the course of study concerned.
- A CAS will be required by the student as part of their entry clearance or leave to remain application to confirm they have a sponsor.
- The CAS will tie the student to the sponsoring institution. If the student wishes to change institution a new CAS will be required.

# CAS – Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

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- From Autumn 2009 CAS will start to be phased in.
  1. Would-be students in country who are switching from another Tier (or predecessor route) into Tier 4 will require a sponsor issued CAS to apply to the UK Border Agency for an extension of leave.
  2. All would-be students in country who are switching from another Tier (or predecessor route) into Tier 4 OR extending their current student visa in country will require a sponsor issued CAS to apply to the UK Border Agency.
  3. From February 2010, all potential students in and out of country will require a sponsor issued CAS to apply to the UK Border Agency.

# CAS statuses and process



- Work in progress
- Ready to go
- Assigned
- Used
- Expired
- Obsolete
- Withdrawn
- Cancelled



# Data transfer in bulk

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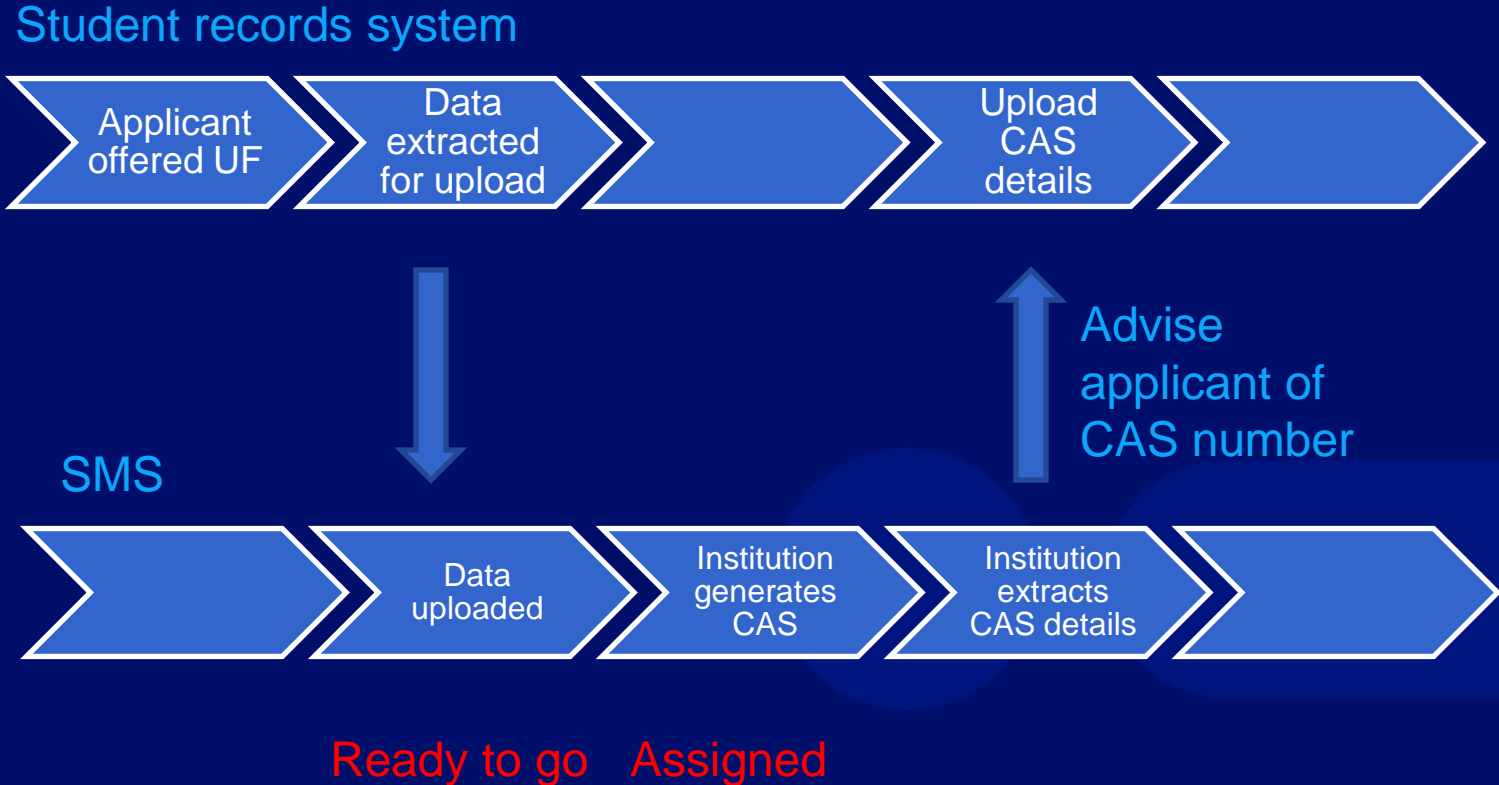
- There are four proposed points of transfer between student records systems and the Sponsorship Management System (SMS):
  - Bulk data upload
  - Bulk data update
  - Bulk data export
  - Bulk data No-shows reporting

# The application process (example 1)

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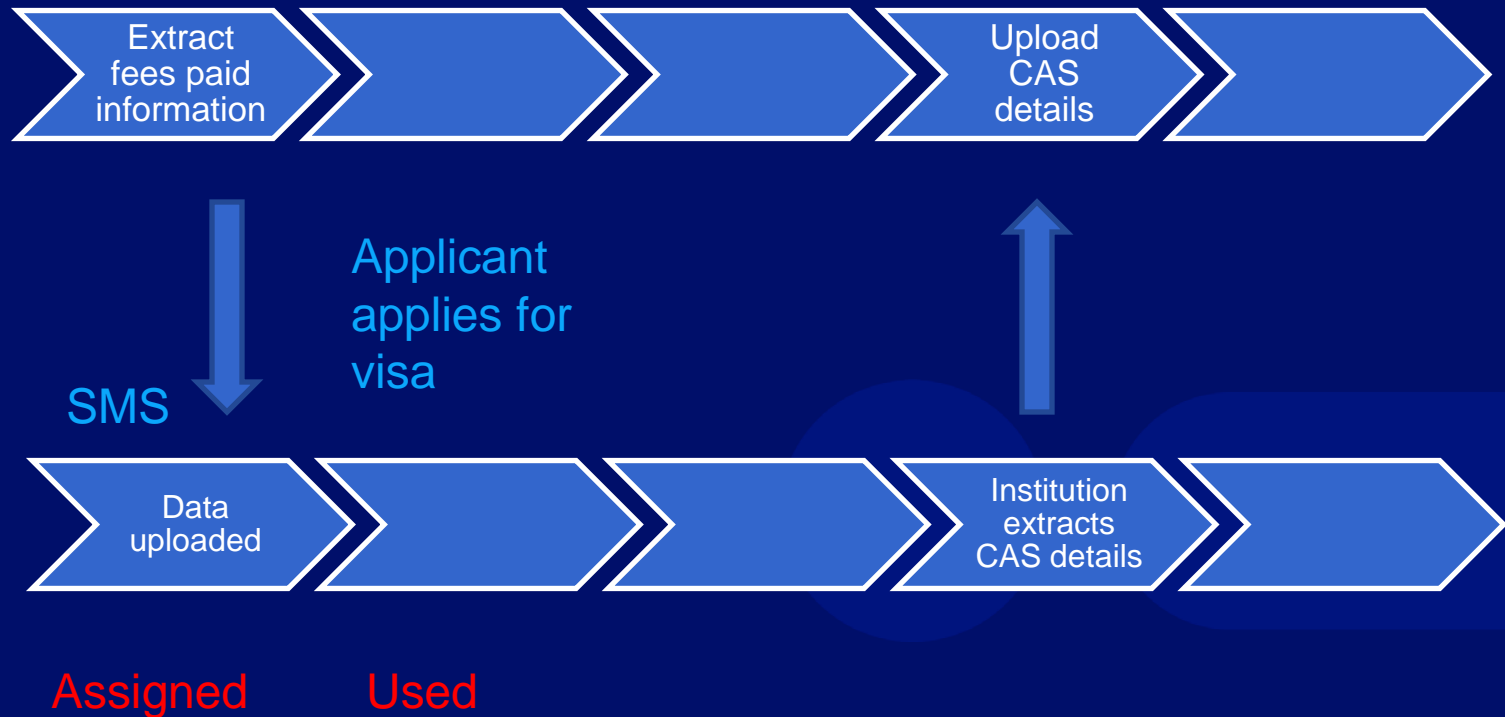
- Applicant applies to a single institution
- Institution makes conditional offer
- Applicant accepts
- Applicant meets conditions
- Applicant offered unconditional place
- Institution generates CAS for applicant
- Applicant uses CAS to apply for visa

# Applications process



# Applications process

## Student records system



# The application process (example 2)

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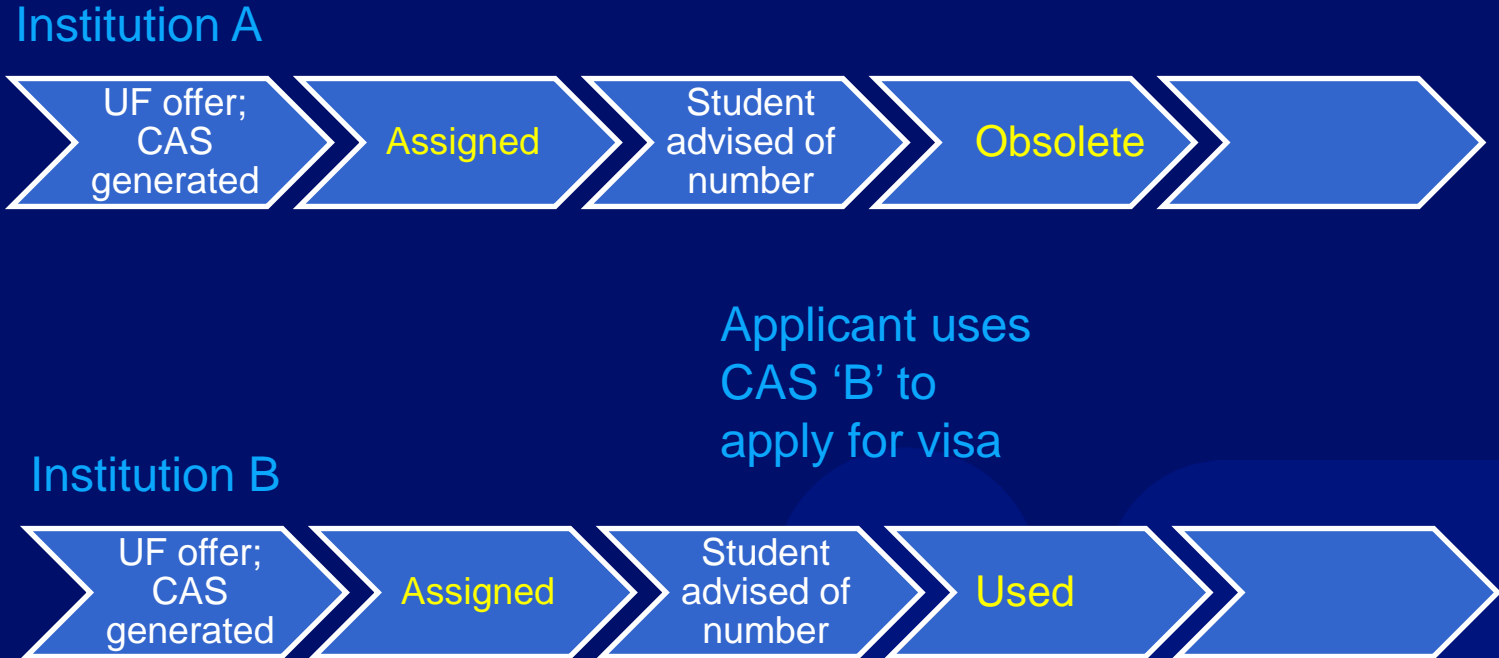
- Applicant offered unconditional place at institution A
- Institution A generates CAS for applicant
- Applicant offered unconditional place at institution B
- Institution B generates CAS for applicant (etc)
- Applicant has two (or more) CASs for courses for the same period, each with the assigned status.

# The application process (example 2)

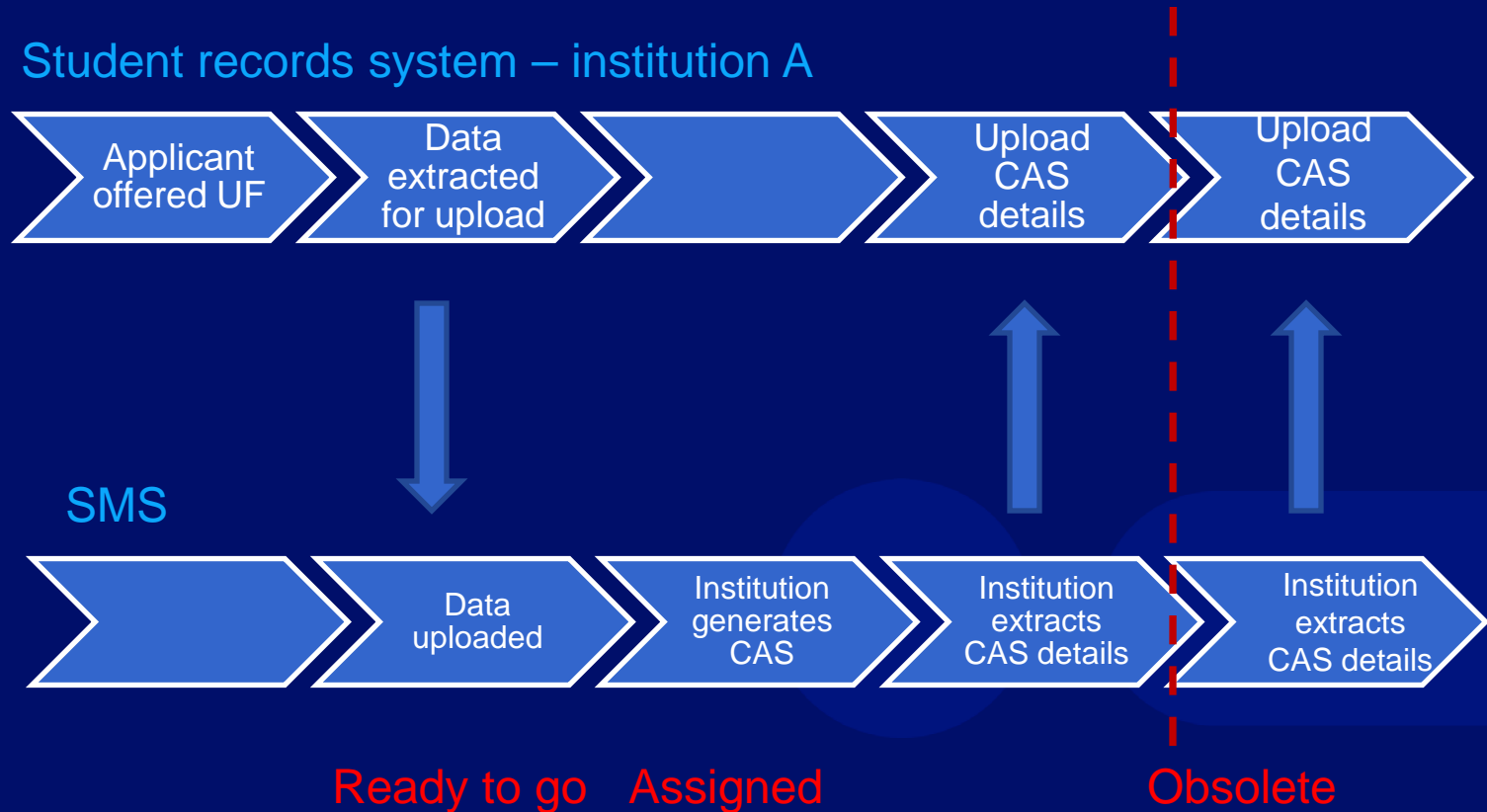
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- Applicant selects institution they are going to study at (and course they are studying for)
- Applicant uses CAS for that institution/course combination for visa.
- CAS status for that course/institution combination changed to used. All other CAS for overlapping courses set to obsolete.

# Applications process



# Applications process





# Key time points

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- CAS only have a lifetime of six months
- Applicants can only apply for a visa within three months of the programme start date
- For programmes lasting an academic year or longer, students may enter the country one month ahead of the start date
- For courses less than 6 months (except for pre-session courses), students can only travel to the UK 7 days before the start of the course.



# Process issues to consider

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- When to generate the CAS
- Who will generate the CAS
- Processes for uploading CAS details
- How the finance information may be updated
- Processes for checking (and uploading) CAS statuses
- Processes for dealing with rejections

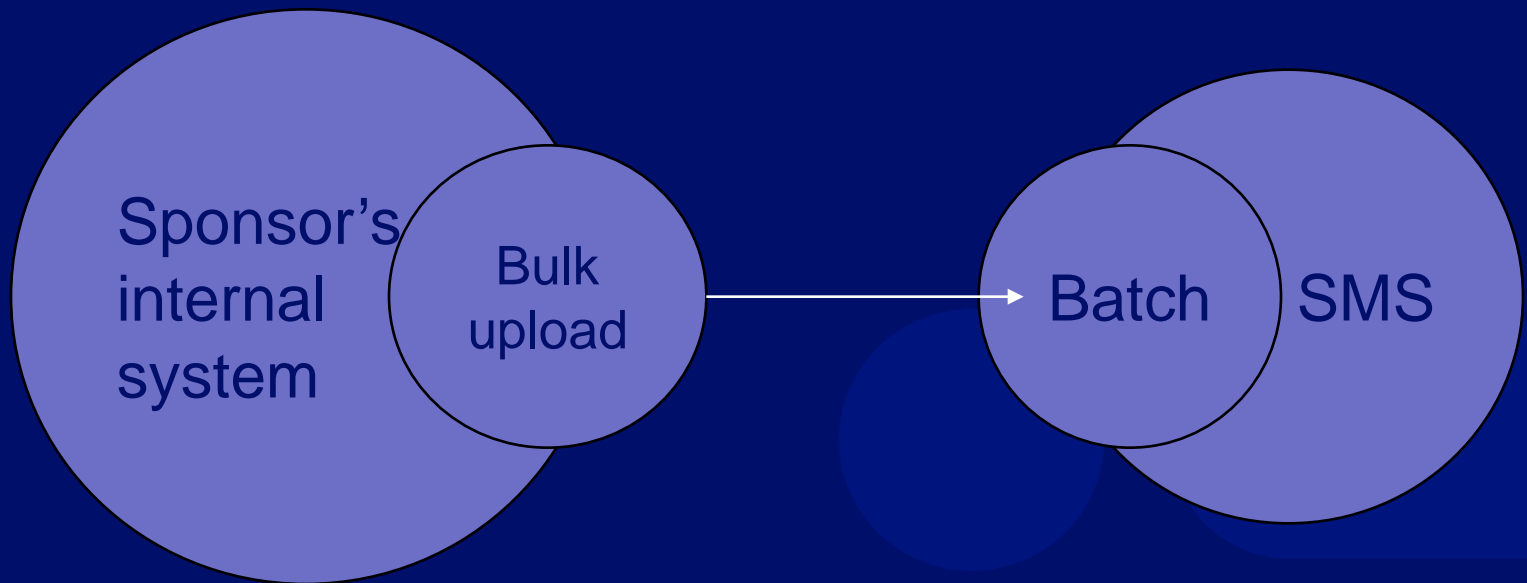
# The upload process

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- Files will be limited to a maximum of 1000 records.
- If an error is detected the entire upload process will be unsuccessful. It will not proceed until the error is resolved.
- A successful upload creates a batch in the SMS.
- This can be managed (you can delete, edit or add to it) and paid for in a single transaction.
- At this point CAS numbers are assigned to the records.

# Diagram of the upload process

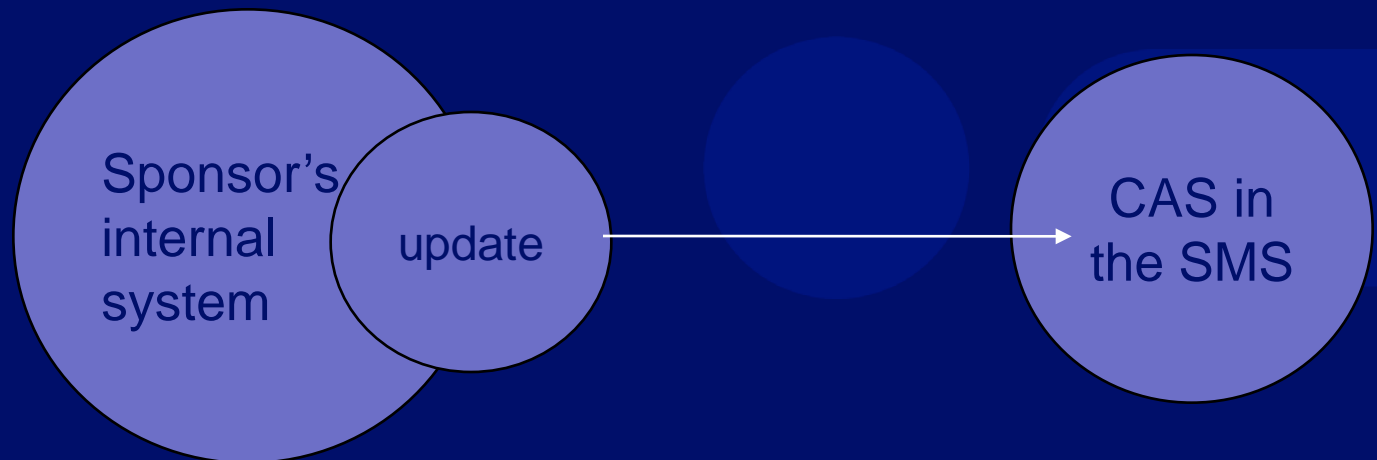
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# The update process

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- A facility has been requested to enable sponsors to make updates the financial fields on fees paid-to-date by bulk data transfer.
- The change in information is made directly to the CAS through the using the CAS number.



# The export process

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- Allows you to export details of CAS in the SMS to your student records system.
- The CAS number and what status it is in.
- You will need to inform the student of their CAS number so they can use it in their leave application (if they decide to use your CAS, they may have others)





# Monitoring and reporting

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- Monitoring and reporting
- Bulk reporting no-shows and the process



# Monitoring and reporting

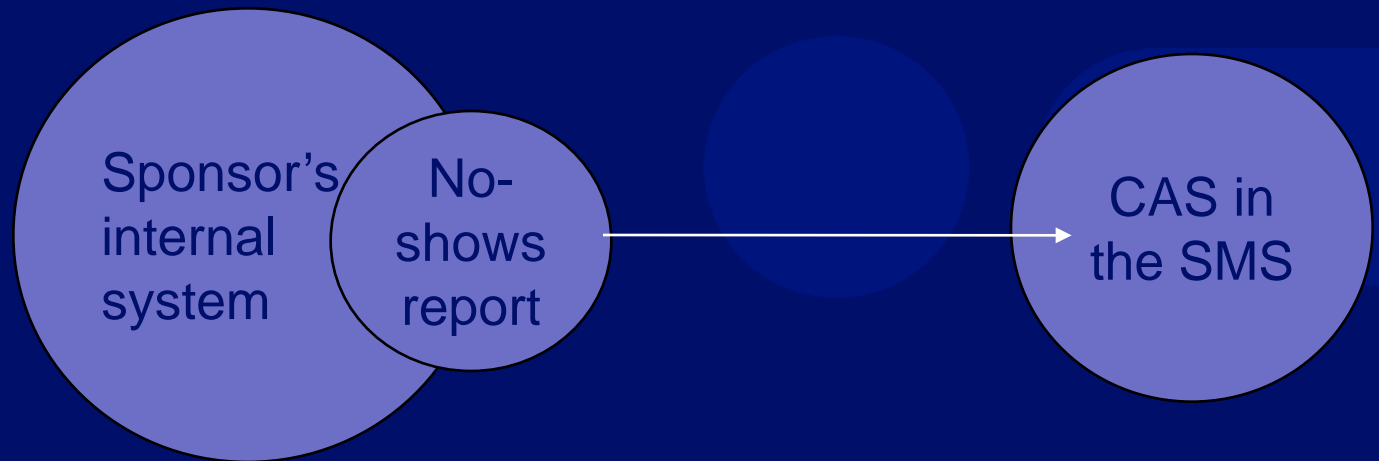
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- Sponsors must assure themselves that a student is within the conditions of their leave as a student.
- UKBA does not want to act as an academic assessor so it is for the sponsor to determine what is meant by “ten consecutive expected contacts”.
- If a student breaches the conditions of their leave – the sponsor has an obligation to report them to UKBA.
- Reporting duties will be carried out through the SMS.

# Process to bulk report on no-shows

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- A facility has been requested to enable sponsors to allow sponsors to report on no shows in bulk.
- The change in information is made directly to the CAS through the using the CAS number.



# Points based immigration system

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Questions?

# Points based immigration system

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Key resources:

[www.ucisa.ac.uk/members/activities/immigration.aspx](http://www.ucisa.ac.uk/members/activities/immigration.aspx)

[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/employersandsponsors/pbsguidance/>

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/Tier4migrantguidance.pdf>