Working after Study

Can I work in the time remaining on my Tier 4 student visa after my course ends?
If you have time remaining on your Tier 4 visa when you complete your course, you can normally stay in the UK up to four months after your course ends. During this period, you can work full-time in a temporary job until your student visa expires (as long as it doesn’t exceed 4 months and you don’t take up a permanent position).

If you plan to apply to remain in the UK after your studies, there are options available to remain and work in the UK if you meet the criteria. In all cases, you must apply for a visa to allow you to remain in the UK before your existing visa expires. Talent Scotland provide details of the visa categories available here: http://uod.ac.uk/int-1190

What is Tier 2 (General) visa?
Tier 2 (General) is part of the UKV&I Points Based System and is a visa for those that have a graduate level job offer from a UK company.

In addition to sponsoring you, your employer may need to satisfy the Resident Labour Market Test, proving that no other person in the EEA has the skills to do the specified job as well as you.

Can I switch from a Tier 4 (Student visa)?
Yes, if you are eligible you can apply to switch before your student visa expires. You must have at least equivalent to a Batchelor’s degree. See website for further guidance: http://uod.ac.uk/int-1191

Do I need to have a minimum salary?
Yes, to be eligible for a Tier 2 visa, currently your employer must pay you a salary of at least £20,800 per year or the ‘appropriate rate’ for the job you're offered – whichever is higher. Please check the appropriate rate at http://uod.ac.uk/int-1192

Can the job be with any company?
The Company willing to sponsor you must be registered, or willing to become registered with the Home Office list of sponsors. Find a list of companies here: http://uod.ac.uk/int-1193

What are the maintenance requirements?
You would need to have £945 in savings continuously over the last 90 days, or your Tier 2 employer may be able to make a guarantee on your behalf. Each dependent must have £630 available to them whether they apply with you or separately.

What are the English language requirements?
If you have completed a degree in English you will most likely be awarded points automatically. However, you may need to prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply and you are advised to check the website: http://uod.ac.uk/int-1194

Can my dependants be included on my visa?
Yes, but you must show that your dependants can be supported while they're in the UK. Each dependant must have £630 available to them whether they apply with you or separately. This is in addition to the £945 you must have to support yourself. You and your family will not be eligible to claim public funds.
How long does it take for the Home Office to process the application?
You should receive a decision within 8 weeks for postal and online applications. Or if you chose to use the Tier 2 Priority application service, you can get a decision on your visa within 10 working days. [http://uod.ac.uk/int-1195](http://uod.ac.uk/int-1195)

How much will my application cost?
How much you pay for a Tier 2 (General) Visa depends on your situation, where you are and how you are applying.
The following immigration fees apply for Tier 2 applicants and each Dependant:

- Extending within the UK       £704 per person
- Extending outside the UK     £610 per person
- Extending in the UK in person (Premium service) £1314 per person

Where can I find out more information and the application forms I need?
The latest Tier 2 guidance and application form for applying within/outside the UK can be found at:
[http://uod.ac.uk/int-1196](http://uod.ac.uk/int-1196)
[http://uod.ac.uk/int-1197](http://uod.ac.uk/int-1197)

Further guidance on working after study is available from the UKCISA website:
[http://uod.ac.uk/int-1198](http://uod.ac.uk/int-1198)