



NEWS RELEASE  
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## UK-BOUND JOB SEEKERS URGED TO CHECK IF JOBS APPLIED FOR ARE REALLY AVAILABLE

POEA Administrator Jennifer Jardin-Manalili urges prospective applicants seeking employment in the United Kingdom (UK) to first inquire at the POEA whether those offering them employment under the UK New Points-Based System are accredited or registered with a licensed recruitment agency. The availability of job vacancies in the UK, ranging from professionals like scientists, environmental, IT and telecoms, and social care specialists, marketing and PR executives, and teachers to healthcare workers like nurses and caregivers has lured job seekers there, but all may not be what it seems.

Administrator Manalili advises applicants to search the website of the British Embassy-Manila at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/> for the details of the Point-Based System, and to verify whether those jobs are available in the UK.

Under the Points-Based System, the Tier 2 work permits are applied for by employers who need to fill a vacant position with a specific person. In order for the employer to be able to obtain a work permit, they must first be able to prove that they had advertised the position nationally and could not fill it with someone from inside the European Economic Area. Before employers can sponsor a foreign worker, they must first get a Sponsorship License issued by the UK Border Agency. Job applicants are advised to ask for this license first before they transact with UK employers.

For possible entry to the UK, it is also necessary for the skilled workers to reach a minimum score of 70 "immigration" points based on qualifications, prospective earnings, maintenance funds and English language capability.

Admin Manalili also warns applicants about the deceptive scheme of some training and learning schools offering a study-work program to their students or trainees. These schools target mostly nurses, healthcare professionals and students who are required to finish their course in the said schools then promised that the school will facilitate their employment abroad.

Related to this scheme is the trainee-worker scheme where workers are recruited and deployed as trainees on the basis of a training agreement. The POEA leadership warns that training and learning schools are not licensed to recruit workers for overseas employment.

Admin Manalili also emphasized that applicants going to UK should not pay any placement fee because there is a prevailing law in the UK that restricts the charging of fees to persons seeking employment.

She stressed all interested job seekers to check and double check the veracity of all the "rosy promises" of would-be employers through the POEA website [www.poea.gov.ph](http://www.poea.gov.ph). ###