

GSA Student Welfare Service

Applying for a UK Student Visa



AUTHORISED TO PROVIDE
IMMIGRATION ADVICE AND
SERVICES BY THE IMMIGRATION
SERVICES COMMISSIONER



- **UK Student Visa (previously known as the Tier 4 Visa) regulations, guidance and application:**

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

It is each student's own responsibility to ensure they correctly complete their visa application and submit the appropriate supporting documents.

- **Helpful information and guidance from UK Council For International Student Affairs (UKCISA):**
<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Student-route-eligibility-and-requirements>

○ Obtaining your CAS

CAS = Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

You cannot complete your visa application without a CAS. To receive your CAS you are required to pay the tuition fee deposit and provide proof you have met the conditions of your offer to study at GSA to our Registry Office

registry@gsa.ac.uk

○ Access the Online Visa Application Form

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply>

- Select “Student” for Visa Type
- Select the country from which you are applying
- Confirm that you are able to attend an appointment at one of the visa application centres . At this appointment you will provide your Biometric information (photo and finger prints). A Credibility Interview may also take place.

○ Required Documents

- Financial evidence
(You will need financial evidence if you are applying overseas, or you are applying in the UK and have had a UK visa for less than 12 months)
- Passport (current and valid)
- Original educational certificates (as listed on your CAS)
- Proof of English language ability (if applicable - this will be stated on the CAS)
- A [TB certificate](#) (if applicable)
- A letter of parental consent if you are under 18
- Evidence about any changes to your name
- Official translations of any evidence which isn't in English

○ **Low Risk Applicants**

Some Student Visa applicants do not need to provide evidence of their qualifications or their finance. The Home Office calls this the 'differentiation arrangement' for 'low-risk applicants'.

○ **Low Risk Countries:**

Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Rep, Denmark, Dominican Rep, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, UAE, USA.

○ Financial Evidence

If financial evidence is required it must show that you have funding for:

- **tuition fees** for the first year of your course, or for the full course duration if it's a one-year course or shorter, and
- **living expenses** (or maintenance funds) of £1,023 per month for up to nine months

UKVI has strict rules on the documentation that can be used as evidence of funds: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-student-and-child-student-route-applicants>

Helpful guidance can be found here: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Student-route-eligibility-and-requirements#layer-5347>

○ Complete the online application

Declaration

By sending this application, you confirm that to the best of your knowledge and belief the following is correct:

- the information relating to the application
- the supporting evidence

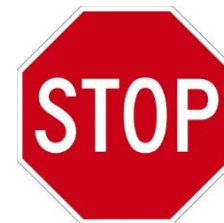
Also, the application will be processed according to the [privacy policy](#) and [terms and conditions](#).

If false information is given, the application will be refused and the applicant may be banned from the UK and prosecuted.

I confirm that:

- I am the applicant
- I am a representative of the applicant and have been authorised to act on their behalf and have discussed and confirmed the contents of this application with them

I accept the above



Only proceed beyond this section of the application once you are ready to submit your application.

You cannot change your answers after the declaration stage.

When ready tick the declaration and complete the final steps to submit the application.

GSA does not offer a visa application form checking service.

○ Pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

Once you have carefully read and signed the declaration you will be taken to the **Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)** page.

- Confirm you will not stay in Jersey / Guernsey / Isle of Man.
- Copy the course start and end dates as well as the course level from your CAS (please note that “NQF 7” is equivalent to “RQF 7”/“SCQF 11”)
- You will need a credit or debit card to pay the IHS. You can check how much you will need to pay using the details on your CAS and the IHS Payment Estimator: <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application>

Currently £470 per person per year of stay in the UK

Once you have paid the IHS, the system will generate an IHS reference number which will automatically be entered on your visa application form.

○ BRP Collection

The final section before payment is regarding **BRP (biometric residence permit) collection**. This will be your actual visa (if your visa is longer than 6 months). You must collect it from a Post Office within 10 days of arriving in the UK.

Select 'Collect from a UK Post Office', alternative location collection is not an option for GSA students.

You can use the post-code for your UK accommodation or the post-code for your main study address (as listed on your CAS), to select a Post Office to collect your BRP.

Students applying to extend a student visa from **inside the UK** will have their BRP sent by courier to their UK address.

Demonstrating your permission to be in the UK

If your application is successful you may need to collect evidence of your immigration status in the UK.

You will usually need to do this if you are given permission to stay in the UK for more than six months.

If you need a biometric residence permit (BRP) in the UK, where do you want to collect it from?

▶ What is a BRP?

▶ What if I do not need a BRP?

If you have a sponsor, they may have made arrangements to receive your BRP, and they will give you an Alternative Collection Location (ACL) code to enter below.

Otherwise, you will need to collect your BRP from a UK Post Office. Enter a UK postcode below to find out where your nearest UK Post Office will be.

Collect from a UK Post Office

Collect from an alternative location (for example, your sponsor)

[Save and continue](#)

[Return to this application later](#)

Collect from a UK Post Office

Enter your UK postcode

[Find a Post Office near you](#)

○ Pay the Visa Application Fee

You are required to pay the UK Student Visa application fee. Your application is not fully submitted until this is done.

Student Visa fee (applying outside the UK) = £348 *Paid as the equivalent in your local currency.*

Student Visa fee (applying inside the UK) = £475

In certain locations there is an additional fee to use the Visa Application Centre (VAC). You will be notified of this and the extra fee which will be added to your visa fee during the payment process for this application.

In the UK and some other countries you can pay an additional 'priority fee' or an additional 'super priority fee' to have your application processed more quickly.

○ Book a Visa Appointment

Review the *Document Checklist* and application form as PDFs.

Book and attend an appointment at your nearest **Visa Application Centre**:

- Applying outside the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre>
- Applying inside the UK: <https://www.ukvcas.co.uk/locations>

Take the Document Checklist, your passport, your printed appointment confirmation details and any required supporting documents. If applying inside the UK, you can scan and upload your documents prior to your appointment.

You will give your Biometric details (fingerprints and photos) at your visa appointment. If applying inside the UK, you may be sent an e-mail explaining that you do not need to attend a visa appointment.

EU/EEA/Swiss nationals applying outside the UK with a passport containing a biometric chip are not required to make an appointment to give their biometrics. They are expected to use the UK Immigration ID check app to scan and upload their passport and a photo:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-uk-immigration-id-check-app>

○ Credibility Interview

You might be sent an email asking you to attend a ***Credibility Interview*** as part of the application process.

The interview will be short (around 5 minutes) and should be conducted during your appointment at the Visa Application Centre.

The interview will be via video link with UK Visas & Immigration staff based in the UK. The purpose of this interview is to check that you are coming to the UK as a genuine student. The questions will be about your immigration, education and employment history, study and post-study plans and financial circumstances.

○ What happens next?

Your passport will be sent to you with an **Entry Clearance vignette/sticker**, which allows you to travel to the UK.

You will receive a **Visa Decision Letter** which confirms the application has been successful and specifies the address from which you will need to collect your BRP after arrival in the UK. (If coming to the UK for less than 6 months you will not be issued a BRP)

EU/EEA/Swiss nationals who have used the *UK Immigration: ID check app* receive their visa in the form of an online digital status. This can be shared with anyone who needs to check your visa status.

If applying from **inside the UK**, Your BRP will be sent by courier to your UK address.

If your Student Visa application is **refused** contact registry@gsa.ac.uk and welfare@gsa.ac.uk with your Refusal Notice.

○ After receiving your new BRP:

Check that all of the information is correct on your BRP or online digital notice:

- name, gender and date of birth
- Work permission. Your BRP should state that you can work for 20 hours per week.
- Visa expiry date
 - 4 months after your programme end date, if your programme is 12 months or longer
 - 2 months after your programme end date, if your programme is for less than 12 months but more than 6.

You must report any problems with your BRP within 14 days. You can do this online:

www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits/report-problem

If you are required to register with the Police, you must make contact with the Police within 7 days of arriving in the UK:

<http://www.gsa.ac.uk/media/1095131/police-registration-leaflet.pdf>

Useful Websites:

GSA New Students Pre-Enrolment Gateway:

[Tinyurl.com/enrolgsa](https://tinyurl.com/enrolgsa)

GSA Website: [https://www.gsa.ac.uk/about-gsa/key-information/coronavirus-\(covid-19\)/](https://www.gsa.ac.uk/about-gsa/key-information/coronavirus-(covid-19)/)

UKCISA: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>

The British Council:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk>

Scottish Government advice for international students:

<https://www.scotland.org/study>

**Any questions or concerns please
contact Student Welfare:**
welfare@gsa.ac.uk

GSA Student Support Services:
[https://www.gsa.ac.uk/life/student-support-
services/](https://www.gsa.ac.uk/life/student-support-services/)