

Applying for a UK Tier 4 Student visa



UK Visas
& Immigration



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The UK recognises the important contribution international students make, and welcomes those who wish to study at our world-class institutions. This leaflet is designed to provide you with some information about the Tier 4 visa routes for those wishing to study in the UK.

Visit www.gov.uk/visas-immigration for detailed and up to date guidance before proceeding with your application.

Tier 4 Student Visas

There are two categories under Tier 4:

General student
for students aged
16 years and above



Child student
for children aged
4 to 17 years

If your course lasts six months or less (or eleven months or less, if you are studying English language), you may prefer to use the student visitor route. Please refer to our website for more information.

What do I need to apply for a Tier 4 student visa?

You will need:

- **A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)** - This is completed online by your chosen place of study (sponsor) and contains details about you, your course, qualifications and confirmation of your English language skills. Your sponsor will give you a unique CAS reference number which you will need to make your application.
 - **Evidence of qualifications** - You must provide originals of the education qualification certificates or transcripts listed on your CAS. Your sponsor can advise which qualifications are listed.
 - **Finance** - You must provide evidence (for example: an original bank statement) showing us that you have enough money to pay for your course fees for the first year and your living costs for up to 9 months.
 - **English language requirement** - If you are a Tier 4 (General) student you will need to show that you speak English. The level of English language proficiency you need will depend on the course you are applying to study. You may also need to provide evidence of your English language ability with your application.
 - **Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate** - You will need an ATAS certificate if you intend to undertake studies in designated science and technical subjects.
 - **Tuberculosis (TB) certificate** - Please check our TB page at www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa to see if you need a TB certificate
 - **Suitable travel, reception and care arrangements for children** - If you are a Tier 4 (Child) student you must show that there are suitable arrangements in place for your travel, reception and care in the UK.
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- ➔ Visit our website www.gov.uk/visas-immigration for more details on the above requirements.
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Important note: If you hold a passport for one of the following countries/territories and you are applying from that country/territory to study at a higher education institution, you are not required to provide documents to evidence your finances or education qualifications with your visa application: Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Botswana, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Hong Kong (HK SAR and BNO passports), Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates and USA. This list is reviewed frequently, so you should check our website for the latest list of countries/territories.

How do I apply for my visa?

- 1** Go to www.visa4UK.fco.gov.uk to complete your visa application form, book an appointment and pay your visa fee online.
 - 2** Prepare your application package including a printed and signed copy of your application form, your supporting documents, your passport and a passport style photo.
 - 3** Visit the visa application centre to submit your application and biometric data at the time of your appointment. You may also be required to sit a short interview.
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- ➔ Further guidance is at www.gov.uk/visas-immigration and you will find information on your local visa application centre at www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre
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How long will it take to get my visa?

We aim to process student visas within **15 working days**. We recommend that you prepare and apply for your visa well in advance. You can make an application up to 3 months before you intend to travel.

Some countries offer a **3-5 day priority visa service** for an additional fee. Check your visa application centre web-site for information on available priority services: www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre

How long can I stay in the UK?

Your Tier 4 visa will be granted for the whole length of your course. The maximum amount of time you can spend studying at degree level and above is 5 years with exceptions for some courses and PhD students. The time allowed does not include the time spent studying as a child student.

Can I work in the UK?

Whether you will be allowed to work, and if so how much work you will be allowed to do, will depend on the level of the course you are applying to study and the type of sponsor you have. Further information is on our website.

Can I stay and work in the UK after completing my course?

There are a number of options available if you wish to stay in the UK to work after your studies:

- The Doctorate extension scheme for students successfully completing a PhD or other doctoral qualification at a higher education institution
- Tier 2 (General) for those with a graduate-level job offer
- Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) for those who want to develop a business idea
- Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) for world leaders in their field
- Tier 5 for those undertaking professional training
- Tier 5 (Internship)

➔ Visit www.gov.uk/visas-immigration for more information on these opportunities.

Can I bring my partner and children with me?

Only the following students will be able to bring their partners and children to the UK:

- Postgraduate students at higher education institutions on courses of 12 months or more
- Government sponsored students on courses lasting longer than 6 months.

Can my parent accompany me while I study in the UK?

There is a visa route which allows a parent to accompany a child who is less than 12 years old and who is attending an independent fee paying day school.

Can my parent or relative visit me while I am studying in the UK?

Your parent or relative can come to visit you. We offer a six month multiple entry visit visa but they may also want to consider applying for a multiple entry visit visa for a longer duration. We offer visit visas that are valid for 2, 5 and 10 years.

Please always be honest when completing your application. False declarations and/or forged documents will lead to a refusal of your application and a 10 year ban.

Always visit our website for the latest guidance:
www.gov.uk/visas-immigration