



UK Visas
& Immigration

Guide to applying for your student visa



Applying in the Seychelles to study in the UK?

- You can apply for your visa to study in the UK at a pop-up Visa Application Centre (VAC) in Victoria during July and August 2017.
- The UK visa application process for students is simple and straightforward as long as you understand the guidance and provide the correct supporting documents.
- Check what the requirements are before applying for your student visa. Full user-friendly guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas> and should be considered carefully by all applicants.
- This guidance pack provides a brief outline of the main requirements for Seychellois customers applying to study in the UK, it covers the Tier 4 (General) route and is to be used as an aide memoire only.

Apply for your UK student visa in 3 simple steps

1. Check!

Check what the requirements are before applying for your visa. You will need to demonstrate that you have a place at an educational institution with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies certificate (CAS), the funds to support yourself while in the UK, and the relevant qualifications for your course.

2. Apply!

You can apply up to 3 months, and travel up to 30 days, before your course starts. Apply, pay the visa and health surcharge fees, and book your appointment at the Visa Application Centre (VAC) online. Instead of travelling to Mauritius, customers in the Seychelles can attend one of four pop-up VAC sessions to be held at the British High Commission premises in Victoria during July and August. The pop-up VAC will be operated by UKVI's Commercial Partner, TLScontact, and customers will be charged a service fee of £350 per application to use it. Ensure you are picking the correct appointment location.

3. Attend!

Visit the VAC to submit your biometric data and supporting documentation. Customers using the pop-up VAC in Victoria are reminded to make the service fee payment of £350 directly to TLScontact online at <https://uk.tlscontact.com/sc/sez/index.php> before they attend their appointment.

Check the requirements

In your visa application you must demonstrate and evidence that you have:

1. A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

This **CAS** certificate is given to you by your College or University and will show that they have accepted you onto the course. It has a unique number which you will need to include on your visa application form. It contains details of your qualifications, how much your course fees are, the course start date, and other useful information. **You cannot apply for a Tier 4 study visa without a CAS.**

2. Funds to support yourself

You will need to provide supporting documentation to show that you can pay your course fees and living costs. You must include bank statements, a conditional loan letter, or evidence of a scholarship to demonstrate this. **Remember**, funds in a bank account must be held for a minimum of 28 days before you apply for your visa and the account needs to be in your name, or that of a parent/legal guardian. **Top Tip!** Plan how you will evidence your finances well in advance of applying for your visa and read all guidance at the link in the footer below to ensure you fully understand the acceptable methods of funding your studies.

3. Qualifications

You will need to show that you hold the correct qualifications for your course. You must provide your original educational qualifications as listed in your CAS. If not written in English, you should also submit translations with your visa application. All original documents submitted with the visa application will be returned to you with your passport.

Applying – the online process

- **Create an online account** on gov.uk at <https://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/account/register>. Follow the online prompts.
- **Complete your application** and **pay** the visa fee and health surcharge online. **Tip!** You will be directed straight to the health surcharge payment portal during the course of your online application, this payment is a separate transaction and, using information you provide about the length of your course in the UK, the system will calculate how much you are required to pay.
- At the same time, **book your appointment** to attend a VAC at the most convenient time. **Remember**, customers in the Seychelles can choose to attend one of the four pop-up VAC sessions in Victoria during July and August. **A service fee of £350 per application is charged to use the pop-up VAC in Victoria.** This is in addition to the visa fee and health surcharge and is payable directly to UKVI's Commercial Partner, TLScontact, online at <https://uk.tlscontact.com/sc/sez/index.php>. **Tip!** Ensure you are choosing the correct VAC location as you will be directed to apply in Mauritius outside of the pop-up VAC dates in the Seychelles.

The online process continued

- **Attend your appointment** at the VAC, your biometric data will be taken. **Remember** to bring with you your passport and all supporting documentation, including your CAS, original qualifications and evidence of your finances.
- **Your application will be sent to South Africa to be assessed.** UKVI officers will expedite a decision and return your passport and documents directly to you. If your visa has been granted, you will be issued with a travel vignette in your passport that is valid for 30 days. **Tip!** This is based on the intended travel date you state in your application, so please ensure it is accurate. Once in the UK you will have 10 days from arrival to collect a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) from a location set out in your visa letter. This BRP will evidence your rights in the UK.

Top Tips for students applying for a UK visa

1. You **cannot** apply for your Tier 4 student visa without a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (**CAS**) certificate.
2. Start preparing your application in advance. **Remember**, funds held in a bank account used to evidence the financial requirements need to have been held for a minimum of 28 days when you apply and the statement cannot be older than 30 days.
3. Apply as early as you can when you get your CAS, if you are asked to submit any extra documents or additional information you will have time to do so and won't risk missing your start date.
4. Be honest when completing the application form. Every application is assessed on its individual merits, however, if we discover that you have lied in your application or used false documentation you will be turned down.

Top Tips for students applying for a UK visa

5. You must show that you have enough money to support you in the UK. You need to evidence in your application that you have funding to cover the first year's course fees and up to 9 months' living costs. See full guidance on supporting documents at the link in the footer below.

6. You can use money held in a bank account owned by you or by your parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The account **cannot** be in the name of any other family member. If you are a Tier 4 (General) student and using funds held by a parent or legal guardian you will also need to show us evidence that you are related to them and that you have their permission to use this money. **Tip!** There are other acceptable methods of funding your studies in the UK, please check full guidance at the link below carefully for further details.

7. You must show that you have held the required money for a consecutive 28 day period (finishing on the date of the closing balance) ending no more than 30 days before your application.

Top Tips for students applying for a UK visa

8. Where your funds are in a currency other than pounds sterling, the amount we consider will be based on the exchange rate for the relevant currency on the date of your application, taken from the rates published on www.oanda.com.
9. You will need to satisfy the Entry Clearance Officer that you can pay for your studies without breaking the terms of your visa by working where this is not permissible.
10. Make sure you submit all the original documentation in the correct format, supplying translations if necessary.
11. Make sure you have paid the health surcharge for the full period of your stay in the UK in advance. The surcharge is £150 per year for students and the online portal will automatically calculate how much you need to pay.

Top Tips for students applying for a UK visa

12. Ensure you provide an accurate travel date and UK address and post code in your application. These are used to determine the start date of your travel vignette and where you will collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) from once in the UK. **Remember**, you can only enter the UK a month before your course starts, and your travel vignette is only valid for 30 days. You will need to collect your BRP within 10 days of arriving in the UK.

Study visa checklist for Seychellois

You will need these for your visa application to study in the UK:

- ✓ Your passport;
- ✓ A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) certificate;
- ✓ Evidence of funds to cover your first year's course fees and up to 9 months' living costs;
- ✓ Proof of your relationship with your parent or legal guardian if the funds are held in an account owned by them, and a supporting letter from them confirming you have permission to use this money;
- ✓ All original qualifications and education certificates, as listed in your CAS;
- ✓ An ATAS certificate if required. Your University or College will let you know if you need this;
- ✓ Translations of supporting documents that are not in English;
- ✓ A receipt showing online payment to TLScontact of the £350 service fee for all customers choosing to apply at a pop-up VAC in Victoria during July and August 2017;
- ✓ You may need to complete an English language test (SELT). Please check if this is required in your case.