



UK Visas
& Immigration

The sponsorship management system (SMS) manuals

Step by step guide for sponsors

Manual 7 of 12: Bulk data transfer (BDT) of CAS

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Additional SMS manuals

There are 12 SMS manuals available, plus a supplementary policy guide for completing a CAS. The manuals are grouped into three categories: common, CAS and CoS. The table below describes the purpose and audience of each manual.

You should read all manuals applicable to your licence before contacting the relevant helpdesk.

Manual reference	Manual title	Type	Purpose	Audience
Manual 1	Introduction to SMS	Common	Use this manual to log into SMS, change your password, manage SMS users and view important messages posted by the Home Office. In addition, this manual explains who should use SMS and for what purpose. The manual features a full introduction to SMS as well as a comprehensive troubleshooting section.	All sponsors
Manual 2	Managing your licence	Common	To help sponsors manage their key personnel, change their licence details, manage PAYE references, and apply for allocations of CoS/CAS.	All sponsors
Manual 3	Apply for Premium customer service, Basic Compliance Assessment and manage Action plans	Common	To help sponsors apply for Premium customer service, Basic Compliance Assessment and manage action plans.	All sponsors

Manual reference	Manual title	Type	Purpose	Audience
Manual 4	Creating and assigning CAS	CAS	To help sponsors create and assign individual and batches of CAS.	Sponsors licensed in the Student Route
Manual 4a	Creating a CAS – guide for education sponsors	CAS	This manual contains supplementary information on completing a CAS. Use this guide to determine what information is necessary in each field of the CAS.	Sponsors licensed in the Student Route
Manual 5	Reporting student activity	CAS	To help sponsors report student activity, for example if a student's circumstances change. This manual also contains help with reporting fee updates and adding sponsor notes to CAS that have already been assigned.	Sponsors licensed in the Student Route
Manual 6	Miscellaneous CAS functions	CAS	To help sponsors complete all other functions of CAS, such as managing batches of CAS, managing pre-stored addresses for use when creating CAS, transferring ownership of CAS, printing CAS and exporting CAS.	Sponsors licensed in the Student Route
Manual 7	Bulk Data Transfer of CAS	CAS	To help sponsors use the bulk data transfer (BDT) functions of SMS, including graduate notifications. You must have a bespoke IT system in place to use BDT.	Sponsors licensed in the Student Route

Manual reference	Manual title	Type	Purpose	Audience
Manual 8	Creating and assigning CoS	CoS	To help sponsors create and assign individual and batches of CoS.	Sponsors licensed in any Worker or Temporary Worker route
Manual 9	Reporting worker activity	CoS	To help sponsors report worker activity, for example if a worker's circumstances change. This manual also contains help with adding sponsor notes to CoS that have already been assigned.	Sponsors licensed in any Worker or Temporary Worker route
Manual 10	Miscellaneous CoS functions	CoS	To help sponsors complete all other functions of CoS, such as managing batches of CoS, managing pre-stored addresses for use when creating CoS, transferring ownership of CoS, and printing CoS.	Sponsors licensed in any Worker or Temporary Worker route

Manual reference	Manual title	Type	Purpose	Audience
Manual 11	Temporary Work – Creative Worker Group of CoS	CoS	To help sponsors create and manage groups of CoS. Groups of CoS are only available to sponsors licensed in Temporary Work - Creative Worker	Sponsors licensed in the Temporary Work - Creative Work Route
Manual 12	Defined CoS	CoS	To help sponsors apply for defined CoS, track applications for defined CoS and once granted, create defined CoS.	Sponsors licensed in Skilled Worker

Glossary

Term	Meaning
SMS	Sponsorship Management System
CoS	Certificate of Sponsorship
CAS	Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies
AO	Authorising Officer
KC	Key Contact
BDT	Bulk Data Transfer
SELT	Secure English Language Test
.XML	Extensible Mark-up Language
.PDF	Portable Document Format
Automation	On 6 April 2014 we introduced new functionality in SMS to automatically renew CoS allocations and to apply changes to your organisation address, or the address of your AO and KC. We will write to you if you meet the criteria and automation has been set.

CAS status

The table below shows each status which can apply to a CAS.

As seen in SMS	Meaning
WORK IN PROGRESS	The CAS is still 'in draft' as one or more mandatory fields are yet to be completed.
READY TO GO	All mandatory fields are complete and the CAS is ready to be assigned to an individual.
ASSIGNED	The CAS has been assigned to an individual and is ready to be used in support of an application for leave to enter/remain in the UK.
WITHDRAWN	You have used the 'Manage live CAS' function in SMS to withdraw the CAS.
OBSOLETE	SMS has automatically changed the CAS status to 'Obsolete' as it has detected that another CAS assigned to the same individual has been marked as 'Used' within the validity period of this CAS.
USED	The CAS has been used in support of an individual's application for leave to enter or remain.
EXPIRED	EITHER: The individual has not made an application for leave to enter or remain before the expiry date of the CAS. In this instance a new CAS is required. OR: The individual has applied by the CAS expiry date but we have not considered their application before that date. In this case, no action is required on your part; we will change the status of the CAS from EXPIRED to USED when the application is considered.
CANCELLED	The CAS has been cancelled as your licence has been revoked or has expired, or you have surrendered the relevant route / your whole licence prior to the CAS being used.

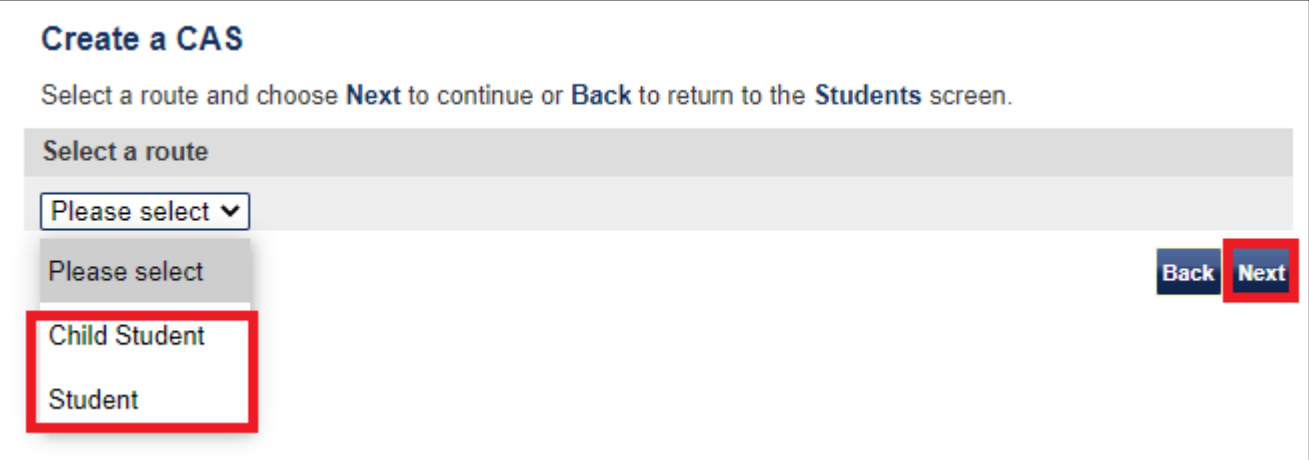
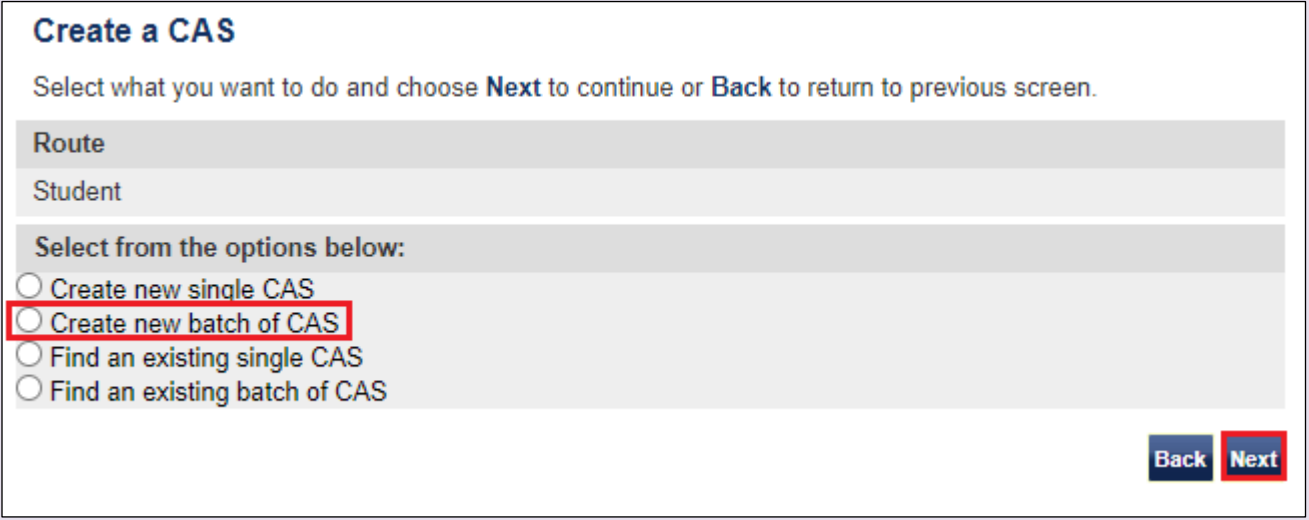
SMS guides

Guide 1: How to upload a batch of CAS using Bulk Data Transfer (BDT)

Follow the step by step instructions to upload a batch CAS records using BDT. This function is useful if you wish to transfer a large number of records from your IT systems directly into SMS. You must have installed a bespoke IT system on your network to create the .XML files required to use the BDT function.

You should read the [Sponsorship policy guidance](#), [SMS guide 4a – Creating a CAS – guide for education sponsors](#) and the [BDT toolkit](#) before uploading a batch of CAS.

Step	Instruction	Screen example
1	From the Student screen, select Create CAS .	 <p>The screenshot shows the 'UK Visas & Immigration' website. The breadcrumb trail indicates the user is in 'SMS user manuals > 7. Bulk data transfer of CAS'. The 'Students' section is active, displaying instructions to select a function and use 'Help' links. The 'Create CAS' link is highlighted with a red box. Below it are two bullet points: 'Create a new single CAS or a batch of CAS' and 'Edit a previously saved single or batch of CAS'. Further down are links for 'Help (opens in a new window)', 'Assign CAS', 'View CAS', and another 'Help (opens in a new window)' link.</p>

Step	Instruction	Screen example
2	<p>From the Create a CAS screen, select the relevant route (Student or Child Student) and choose Next.</p> <p>If you are only licensed in one of these routes, the drop-down list will default to that route.</p>	
3	<p>From the second Create a CAS screen, choose Create new batch of CAS, then select Next.</p>	

Step**Instruction****Screen example****4**

From the final **Create a CAS**, enter the name of the batch, then select **Next**.

Create a CAS

Select what you want to do and choose **Next** to continue or **Back** to return to previous screen.

Route

Student

Select from the options below:

☐ Create new single CAS

☒ Create new batch of CAS

☐ Find an existing single CAS

☐ Find an existing batch of CAS

Create new batch of CAS

Batch name:

[Help \(opens in a new window\)](#)

Back **Next**

Note The name of the batch should be something memorable as you might need to retrieve it later.

5

From the **Batch details** screen, select **Upload** (two buttons available).

Batch details

A maximum of 100 CAS will be displayed on this screen. From the options below, choose:

- **Save batch details** to save any changes to the batch name;
- **Unlink** to remove a CAS from a batch without deleting the CAS;
- **Edit** to make changes to the CAS or delete the CAS from the batch;
- **Upload** to upload CAS to the batch using bulk data transfer (BDT);
- **Add CAS** to add a single CAS to the batch;
- **Add pre-populated CAS** to add a CAS pre-populated with the non-personal details of the last CAS created within this batch;
- **Exit** if you do not wish to continue;
- **Delete all** to delete the whole batch and its contents; or
- **Assign** to pay for and assign the batch. All CAS must have a status of **Ready to go** to assign the batch.

Route

Student

Batch details

Batch name: *

Test Batch

[Help \(opens in a new window\)](#)

Number of CAS in batch: 1

Owner: test, test (HdcozV)

Status: READY TO GO

Date created: 23/11/2020

Upload

Add pre-populated CAS

Add CAS

Save batch details

Details of CAS within batch

	CAS status	Family name	Given name	Date of birth	Nationality	Passport number	Course start date

Upload

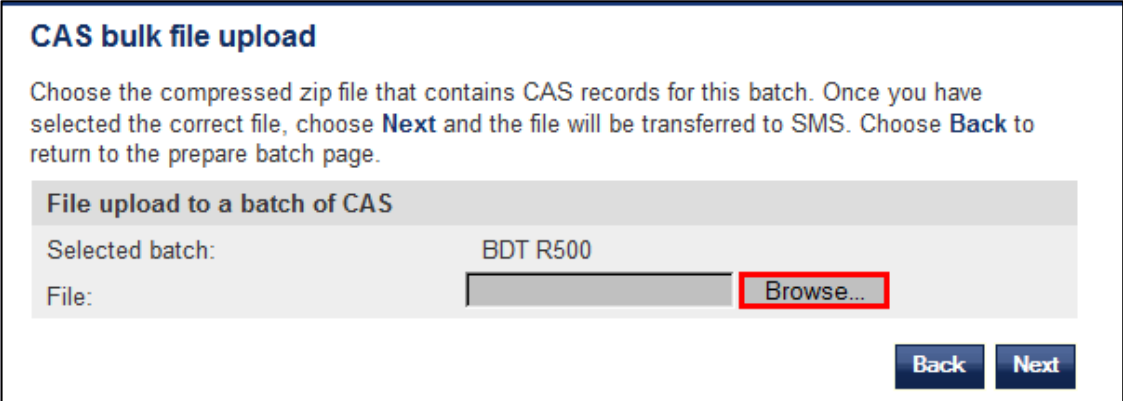
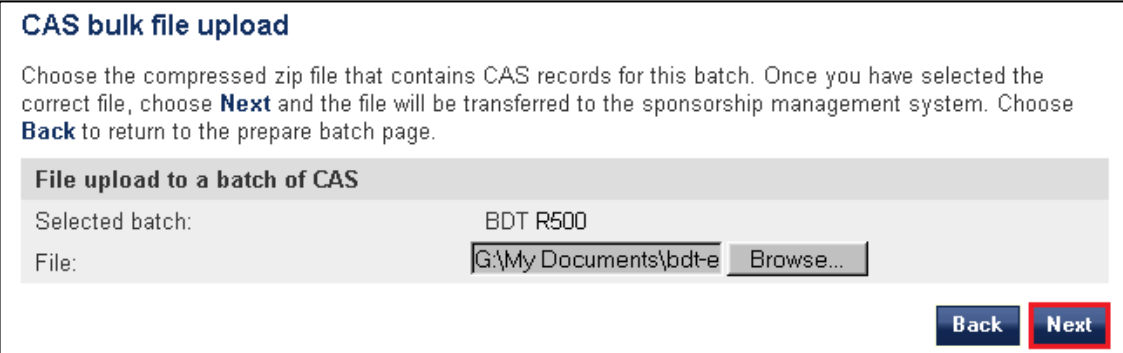
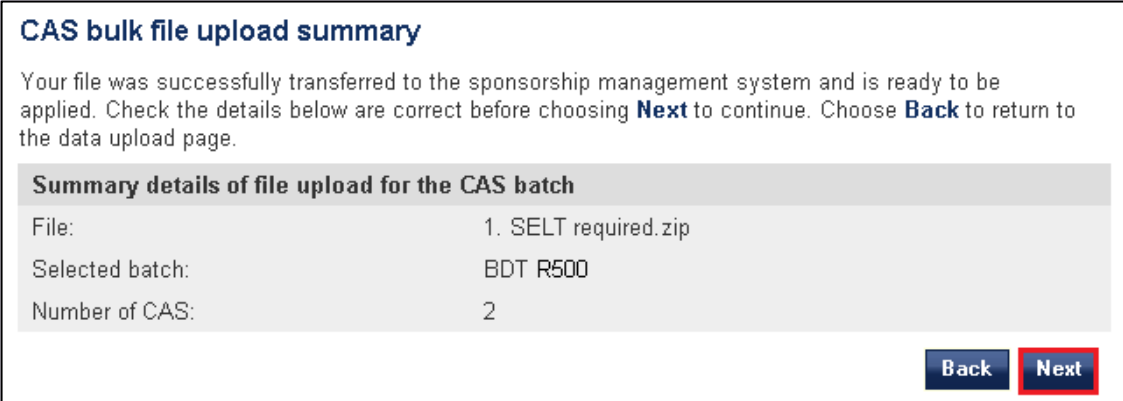
Add pre-populated CAS

Add CAS

Exit

Delete all

Assign

Step	Instruction	Screen example
6	From the CAS bulk file upload screen, select Browse and navigate to the location of the .zip file on your computer or network, select it then select Open .	
7	You are now ready to begin the upload process. Select Next .	
8	<p>The CAS bulk file upload summary screen is displayed. Your .ZIP file was successfully uploaded.</p> <p>Select Next to apply the data to the batch. This can take some time.</p>	
Note You may receive warnings regarding your file. Please check you are content with these before proceeding.		

Step**Instruction****Screen example****10**

The **CAS bulk file upload successful** screen is displayed.

Your upload was successful. You can now see the number of CAS records that have been added to your new batch. Select **OK** to return to the **Batch details** screen.

If you have received any warning messages, please check the details as you may have accidentally used a CAS number that is associated with another CAS.

CAS bulk file upload successful

The CAS bulk file was successfully uploaded. Once payment for these records has been confirmed CAS numbers will be issued. Choose **OK** to continue.

Upload successful

File:	1. SELT required.zip
Selected batch:	BDT R500
Number of CAS:	2

OK

Step

Instruction

Screen example

11

From the **Batch details** screen, you can see that all CAS in the batch have a status of READY TO GO.

Batch details

A maximum of 100 CAS will be displayed on this screen. From the options below, choose:

- **Save batch details** to save any changes to the batch name;
- **Unlink** to remove a CAS from a batch without deleting the CAS;
- **Edit** to make changes to the CAS or delete the CAS from the batch;
- **Upload** to upload CAS to the batch using bulk data transfer (BDT);
- **Add CAS** to add a single CAS to the batch;
- **Add pre-populated CAS** to add a CAS pre-populated with the non-personal details of the last CAS created within this batch;
- **Exit** if you do not wish to continue;
- **Delete all** to delete the whole batch and its contents; or
- **Assign** to pay for and assign the batch. All CAS must have a status of **Ready to go** to assign the batch.

Route

Student

Batch details

Batch name:

* Test Batch

[Help \(opens in a new window\)](#)

Number of CAS in batch:

1

Owner:

test, test (HdcozV)

Status:

READY TO GO

Date created:

23/11/2020

Upload

Add pre-populated CAS

Add CAS

Save batch details

Details of CAS within batch

	CAS status	Family name	Given name	Date of birth	Nationality	Passport number	Course start date
Unlink Edit	READY TO GO	Taylor		18/12/1938	AUSTRALIA	4321	18/12/2020

Upload

Add pre-populated CAS

Add CAS

Exit

Delete all

Assign

Step**Instruction****Screen example**

From the **Batch details saved** screen, select **OK**.

- 12** Your batch has now been saved. You are now ready to either add more CAS to the batch, or assign and pay for the batch.

Batch details saved

The batch has been saved with the details shown below. Choose to **OK** continue.

Route

Student

Batch details

Batch name: Test Batch

Number of CAS in batch: 1

OK

Guide 2: How to report multiple student 'no-shows' in bulk using BDT

Follow the step by step instructions below to report student 'no-shows' (i.e. the individuals have not arrived for enrolment) using the BDT functionality. This function is useful if you have had multiple student 'no-shows'.

If you need to report another type of activity, or if you need to provide further details about a student not arriving for enrolment, you should use the **Report Activity by CAS Search** or **Report Activity by CAS Number** functions to submit the appropriate details to us.

You should read the [Sponsorship policy guidance](#) and [SMS guide 4a – Creating a CAS – guide for education sponsors](#) and the [BDT toolkit](#) before reporting student no shows in bulk.

Step	Instruction	Screen example
1	From the Students screen, select Sponsorship duties .	 The screenshot shows the 'UK Visas & Immigration' logo at the top. Below it is a breadcrumb trail: 'You are here > SMS user manuals > 7. Bulk data transfer of CAS'. The main heading is 'Students'. Below this is a paragraph: 'Select the function you wish to perform. Details of each function can be found under each link and additional details can be obtained from the Help links. You may also use the menu left-hand side of the screen.' There are two main sections: 'Create CAS' and 'Assign CAS'. Under 'Create CAS' are two bullet points: 'Create a new single CAS or a batch of CAS' and 'Edit a previously saved single or batch of CAS'. Under 'Assign CAS' is one bullet point: 'Assign a single CAS or a batch of CAS'. There are 'Help (opens in a new window)' links for both sections. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Sponsorship duties' which is highlighted with a red box. It contains three bullet points: 'Report student activity, for example, absences from study', 'Withdraw a CAS', and 'Add or amend a sponsor note'.

Step	Instruction	Screen example
2	From the Sponsorship duties screen, select Report bulk student activity .	<p>Sponsorship duties</p> <p>As a sponsor, you have responsibilities to manage the students to whom you have assigned CAS. This section allows you to fulfil these responsibilities by reporting student activity and managing live CAS.</p> <p>Please note, Level 2 users can only report on CoS which they personally created and assigned, or which have been transferred to them.</p> <p><u>Report activity by CAS number</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report student activity with a known CAS number <p><u>Help (opens in a new window)</u></p> <p><u>Report bulk student activity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report student activity by bulk upload
3	From the Reporting bulk upload screen, select Browse .	<p>Reporting bulk upload</p> <p>Using the Browse function below, choose the file that contains sponsor reports. Once you have selected the correct file, choose Next to continue and the file will be uploaded to SMS. All upload files must be in a compressed zip file format. Choose Back to return to the Sponsorship duties page.</p> <p>Bulk file upload for reporting</p> <p>File to be uploaded: <input type="text"/> <u>Browse...</u></p> <p>Back <u>Next</u></p>

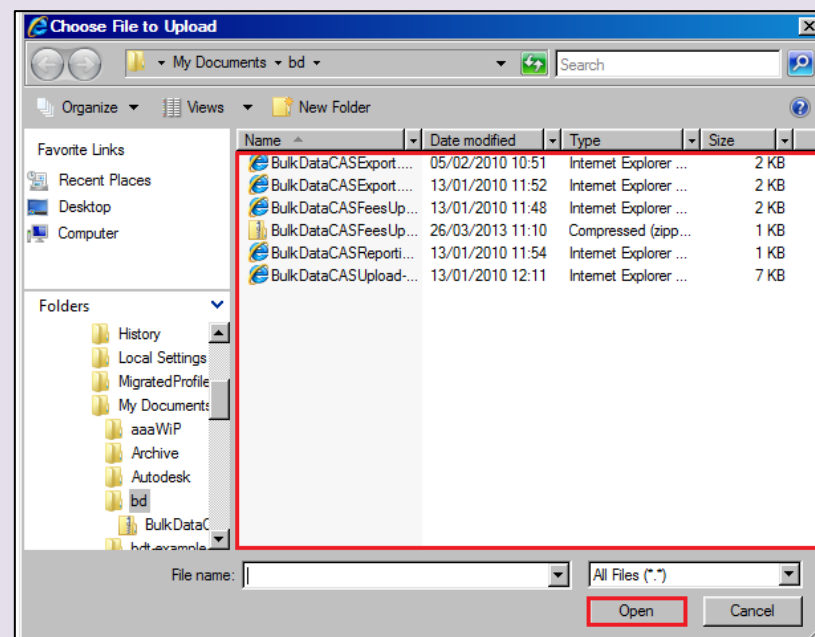
Step

Instruction

Screen example

4

From the **Choose File to Upload** dialogue box, navigate to the file you wish to upload, select it and choose **Open**. This must be a compressed (.ZIP) file.



5

The **CAS bulk file upload summary** screen is displayed, which indicates that your file is in the correct format. Select **Next**.

CAS bulk file upload summary

Your file was successfully transferred to the sponsorship management system and is ready to be applied. Check the details below are correct before choosing **Next** to continue. Choose **Back** to return to the data upload page.

Summary details of file upload for the CAS batch

File:	oneBasicCAS_v2.1-Complete-ReadyToGo.zip
Selected batch:	Tester
Number of CAS:	1

[Back](#) [Next](#)**Note**

You may receive warnings regarding your file. Please check you are content with these before proceeding, as you may have uploaded the same file previously.

Step**Instruction****Screen example****6**

The **CAS bulk file upload successful** screen is displayed. Your data has now been successfully uploaded.

You may receive a warning if your file contains errors. In this example, none of the errors were critical and the upload was successful. If your file contains a critical error, please see below.

Select **OK** to return to the **Sponsorship duties** screen.

CAS bulk file upload successful

The CAS bulk file was successfully uploaded. Once payment for these records has been confirmed CAS numbers will be issued. Choose **OK** to continue.

Upload successful

File:	oneBasicCAS_v2.1-Complete-ReadyToGo.zip
Selected batch:	Tester
Number of CAS:	1

Warnings

Description	Actual resolution
The bulk file ID is already in use.	The CAS data was uploaded successfully with a Bulk ID that was already identified in the system.
The record applicant ID: 987654321ABCDEFGH and Application ID: 123456789 has a duplicate within the database.	The CAS data was uploaded successfully, CAS records now exist that are duplicates of some already in the system.

OK

Step

Instruction

Screen example

Warnings:

You may receive a critical error, which will prevent you from being able to progress; the **Next** button will be unavailable (greyed out).

7

The most common problem when uploading bulk data is that the .XML file does not conform to the BDT schema, as set out in the BDT Toolkit.

You will need to edit your file to ensure the data is correct, for which you might need to contact your IT provider. Once complete, compress the file (.ZIP format) and try the upload again.

Reporting bulk upload warnings

Errors/Warnings have been detected in your upload file, these are displayed below. If the system is not able to resolve any error listed, choose **Cancel**. If errors/warnings are able to be automatically resolved by the system and you wish to proceed after reviewing the proposed resolutions below, choose **Next**.

Errors

Description

The record CAS Number: E4G7NB0C12T0A9 has already had a No Show activity recorded against it

The record CAS Number: E4C7NB0C12U0A6 has already had a No Show activity recorded against it

Bulk file upload summary

File:	BulkDataCASReporting-v1.1.SAMPLE.zip
Number of CAS:	2

Cancel

Next

Step**Instruction****Screen example****8**

When the upload is successful, you will be returned to the **Sponsorship duties** screen.

Report student activity - activity history

Any activity previously reported against this student is shown below. To report student activity select an activity type from the dropdown list and choose **Next**. Choose **Back** to return to the CAS details page.

Reported activity

CAS number: E4G7NB0C12T0A9

Date	Activity
26/03/13 11:35	NO_SHOW
13/02/13 11:17	Change in student circumstances
13/02/13 11:14	Previous notification withdrawn
13/02/13 11:13	Sponsor has stopped sponsoring the student

Activity type

Please select 

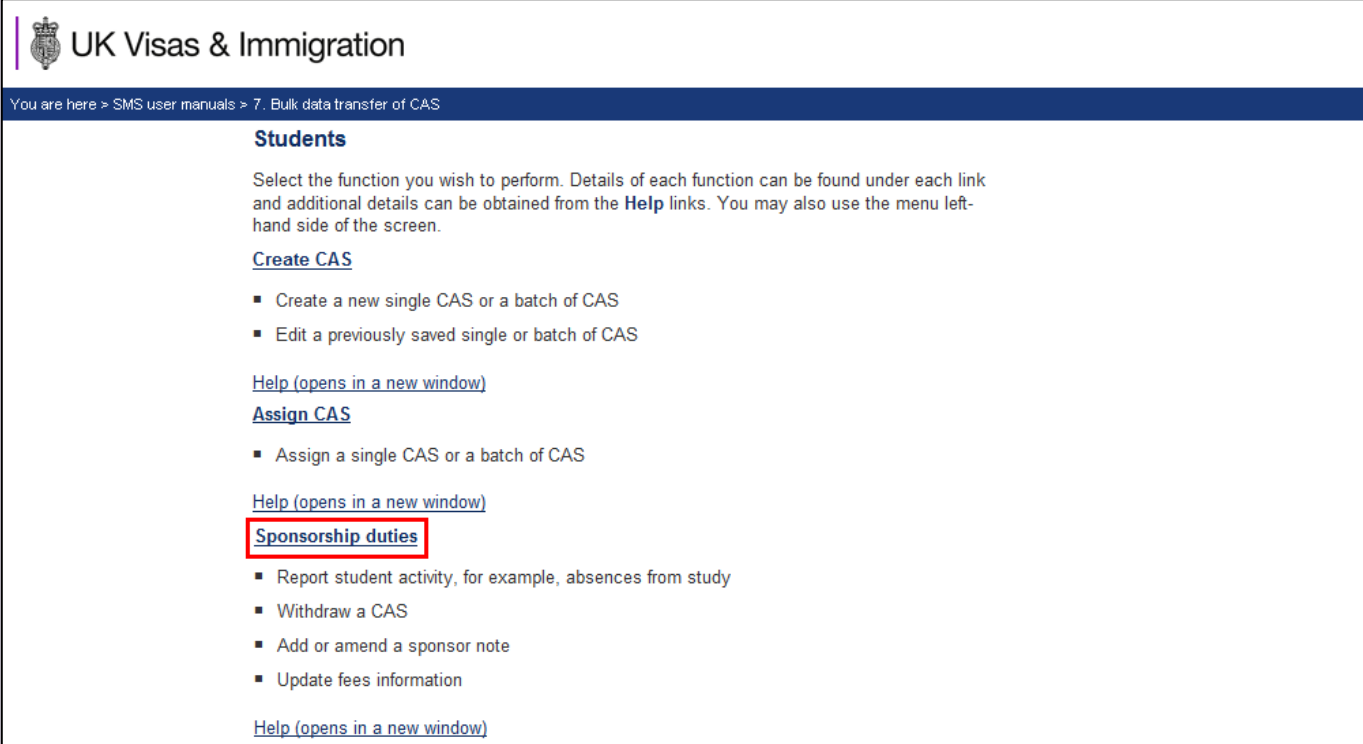
Back**Next**

Guide 3: How to provide bulk fee updates using BDT

Follow the step by step instructions below to report bulk fee information using the BDT functionality. This function is useful if multiple students pay their fees after you have applied for a CAS, but before the students' have submitted their applications to us.

You can only use this function if the CAS has a status of ASSIGNED. Once the CAS has been marked as USED, you will no longer be able to update the fee-related information. It is important to keep SMS updated with any fees charged or paid.

You should read the [Sponsorship policy guidance](#) and [SMS guide 4a – Creating a CAS – guide for education sponsors](#) and details of the [BDT toolkit](#) before reporting bulk fee updates.

Step	Instruction	Screen example
1	From the Students screen, select Sponsorship duties .	

Step	Instruction	Screen example
2	From the Sponsorship duties screen, select Provide bulk fee update .	<div data-bbox="949 181 1370 218"> Help (opens in a new window) </div> <div data-bbox="949 236 1339 272"> Provide bulk fee update </div> <div data-bbox="949 301 1834 338"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide fees update for multiple CAS records by bulk upload </div> <div data-bbox="949 365 1370 402"> Help (opens in a new window) </div> <div data-bbox="949 419 1469 456"> Manage live CAS by CAS number </div> <div data-bbox="949 491 2033 592"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access the manage a live CAS functions where the CAS number is known Add or edit a sponsor note, update fees or withdraw a CAS </div>

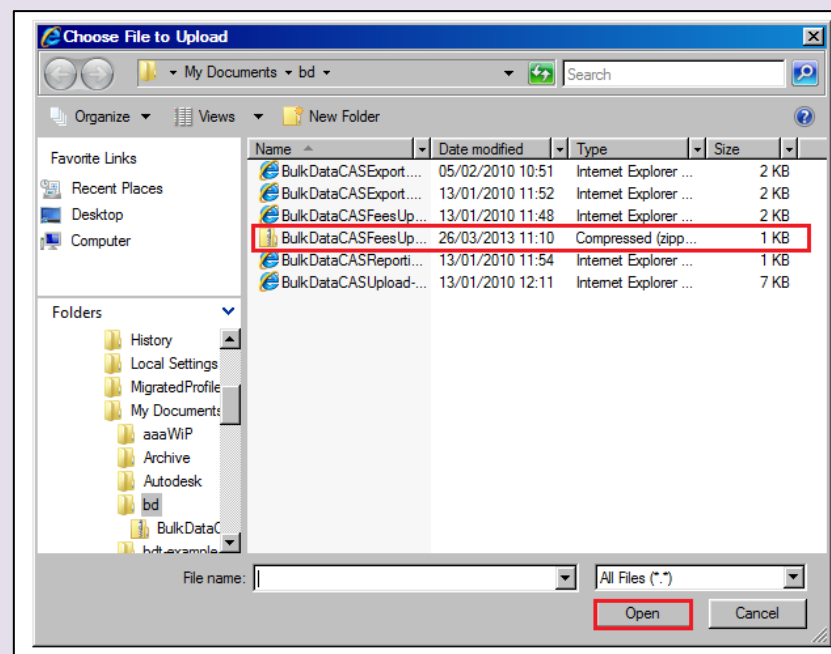
Step

Instruction

Screen example

4

From the **Choose File to Upload** dialogue box, navigate to the file you wish to upload, select it and choose **Open**. This must be a compressed (.ZIP) file.



5

The **Bulk CAS financial data summary** screen is displayed, which indicates that your file is in the correct format. Select **Next**.

Bulk CAS financial data summary

Your file was successfully transferred to the sponsorship management system and is ready to be applied. Check the summary details below, if correct choose **Next** to continue, if not choose **Back** to return to the file upload page.

Bulk file upload for CAS financial data

File: BulkDataCASFeesUpdate-v1.1.SAMPLE.zip
Number of CAS: 2

Back **Next**

Note

You may receive warnings regarding your file. Please check you are content with these before proceeding, as you could have uploaded the same file previously.

Step**Instruction****Screen example***Warnings:*

You may receive a critical error, which will prevent you from being able to progress.

6

A common problem, as in this case, is when the data does not match any CAS records.

You will need to edit your file to ensure the data is correct. Once complete, compressed the file (.ZIP format) and try the upload again.

7

When the upload is successful, you will be directed to the **Bulk CAS financial data upload successful** screen. Select **OK** to return to the **Sponsorship duties** screen.

Reporting CAS financial data errors

Errors have been detected in your upload file, these are displayed below. Please note the errors as you will need to address these before you can resubmit the file. Choose **OK** to continue.

Errors**Description**

CAS record(s) specified in the data file cannot be found. - E4G0AA0A00A0AX

CAS record(s) specified in the data file cannot be found. - E4G0AA0A00A0BX

CAS record(s) specified in the data file cannot be found. - E4G0AA0A00A0CX

CAS record(s) specified in the data file cannot be found. - E4G0AA0A00A0DX

Bulk CAS financial data summary

File: BulkDataCASFeesUpdate-v1.1.SAMPLE.zip

Number of CAS: 4

OK**Bulk CAS financial data upload successful**

The bulk CAS financial data file, as detailed below, was successfully imported to the sponsorship management system; the information will be updated shortly. Choose **OK** to continue.

Upload successful

File: BulkDataCASFeesUpdate-v1.1.SAMPLE.zip

Number of CAS: 2

OK

Step

Instruction

Screen example

8

If you wish to check that the fees have been updated as intended, navigate to **Sponsorship duties/Report activity by CAS number** and search for the CAS you just reported against.

CAS details

The full details of the CAS are displayed below. Select from the options below, choose:

- **CAS activity** to transfer the CAS to another user (where permissions allow) or link/unlink the CAS to/from a batch, then select **Next** to continue;
- **Print** to save or print a .pdf of the CAS; or
- **Back** to return to the previous screen.

Please note, if you want to amend and/or assign a CAS, you can do so by selecting the **Create CAS** function, then **Find an existing single CAS**.

Tier and category

Tier 4 (General)

CAS details

Sponsor licence number: QHDGHB91X

Sponsor name: Test Org 1

Accommodation and fees

Course fees charged for first year of the course (in pounds sterling):	100.00
Course fees paid to date (in pounds sterling):	123.00
Boarding or accommodation fees charged for the first year or current year (in pounds sterling):	500.0
Accommodation fees paid to date (in pounds sterling):	
Boarding fees paid to date (in pounds sterling):	
Fees last updated:	06/04/2014