

# 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](http://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration) for detailed and up to date guidance before proceeding with your application.*

## **Student Visas (Tier 4)**

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), the student visitor route might be more appropriate. Please refer to our website for more information [www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa](http://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa)

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

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.
- **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](http://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](http://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration) for more details on the above requirements.

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Where documents are requested, you should provide originals unless we specifically state otherwise. Where these documents are not in English you may need to provide a translation.

## How do I apply for my visa?

- 1 Go to [www.visa4UK.fco.gov.uk](http://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.

For top tips on arriving in the UK please visit [www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-arrivals-10-top-tips](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-arrivals-10-top-tips)

## 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 website

for information on available priority services: [www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre](http://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?

This 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 [www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa](http://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa)

## 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)

For more information on the post study work routes visit [www.gov.uk/visas-immigration](http://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration)

## 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 I extend my visa in the UK?

Yes you can. You will need to provide documents as specified in the guidance and ensure that you make the application before your current leave runs out. You must have an unconditional offer of a place on a course with a qualified education provider. You will also need to show that you have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course. For more information go to [www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/eligibility](http://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/eligibility)

You can make your application on-line and make an appointment to submit your biometrics at locations throughout Great Britain.

For more information please visit [www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa](http://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)