

## DISCLAIMER!

This guide is provided for **informational purposes only** and does not constitute legal advice. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information at the time of publication, immigration laws and visa procedures are subject to change without prior notice. Readers are strongly advised to consult the **official government websites** or seek professional guidance from authorized immigration advisors before making any decisions or submitting applications. The use of this guide is at your own discretion and risk.

## UNITED KINGDOM (UK) – STUDENT VISA (GENERAL STUDENT VISA)

### Eligibility Requirements

- **Admission & Age:** You must be **16 or older** and have an offer (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies, **CAS**) from a UK university or licensed educational sponsor.
- **Financial Capacity:** You need **enough money** to pay your tuition and living costs. The required amount varies (e.g. higher for London) and you must show proof of funds for at least 28 days.
- **English Proficiency:** You must **speak, read, write, and understand English** at the required level (usually by providing a test like IELTS Academic UKIV).
- **Other Criteria:** If you are 16–17, you need **parental consent** to study in the UK. Applicants from certain countries must provide a **tuberculosis (TB) test certificate**. You should also intend to leave the UK or switch to a different visa after your studies (the UK now offers a Graduate Route for post-study work). *Note:* The Student visa replaced the former “Tier 4 (General)” visa.

### Required Documents Checklist

- **Passport:** A current passport (valid for the duration of studies) or other valid travel ID. It should have a **blank page** for the visa vignette if you need to give biometrics.
- **CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies):** The letter or electronic record from your UK university with a unique CAS number confirming your unconditional offer.
- **Financial Evidence:** Bank statements or sponsor letters proving you have sufficient funds to cover tuition and living expenses as required for your situation. If you’re sponsored by a government/organization, a sponsorship letter is needed (and if you’ve been sponsored in the past 12 months, a letter of consent from that sponsor).

## Course fee

You need enough money to pay for your course for 1 academic year (up to 9 months). The amount you need to pay will be on your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).

If you've been in the UK with a valid visa for at least 12 months, you do not need to prove you have this money for your visa application.

## Money to support yourself ('financial requirement')

You'll need to show you have enough money to support yourself - unless you've been in the UK with a valid visa for at least 12 months on the date of your application.

How much money you need depends on where you will be studying. You'll need either:

- £1,483 per month (for up to 9 months) for courses in London: Total £13,347
- £1,136 per month (for up to 9 months) for courses outside London: Total £10,224

If you're boarding at a residential independent school, you'll need to pay boarding fees instead. The amount you need to pay will be on your CAS.

London means the City of London and the 32 London boroughs. You must have this money for at least 28 consecutive days. The end date of the 28-day period must be within 31 days of the date you apply for your visa.

You'll need to prove you have extra money for each family member you bring with you: Your partner and child must each have a certain amount of money available to them. This is in addition to the money you must have to support yourself.

How much money they need depends on where you will be studying. They must have either:

- £845 a month (for up to 9 months) for courses in London
- £680 a month (for up to 9 months) for courses outside London

If you're applying at the same time as your partner or child (you're applying together as a family), you'll need to prove you have both [money to pay for your course and to support yourself](#) and additional money for each of them.

If your partner or child is applying at a different time to you (they're applying separately) they only need to prove they have money to support themselves.

You (or your partner or child) must have this money for at least 28 consecutive days. The end date of the 28 day period must be within 31 days of the date they apply for their visa.

- **Educational Documents:** Your academic transcripts or diplomas and proof of English proficiency (if your CAS or course provider requires you to submit these for the visa).
- **ATAS Certificate (if required):** For certain sensitive postgraduate courses (mostly in science/engineering fields) and certain nationalities, an Academic Technology Approval

Scheme certificate is needed. Check if your course requires an **ATAS** and obtain the certificate before applying.

- **TB Test Results:** Applicants from countries on the UK's TB testing list must submit an official TB test certificate from an approved clinic.
- **Under-18 Documents:** If you are under 18, provide a notarized **parental consent letter** from each parent/guardian (or one, if they have sole responsibility) authorizing your study and travel arrangements, plus a copy of your **birth certificate** naming your parents.
- **Additional Documents:** Any other evidence listed in the official guidance for your circumstances (for example, marriage or birth certificates for dependants, etc.). The UKVI may ask for other documents depending on your situation.

### Application Process (Step-by-Step)

1. **Apply Online:** All Student visa applications are filed online on the UK government visa portal. Complete the form, pay the visa fee and **Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)**, and upload any required documents. You can start applying as early as **6 months before your course starts** (if applying from outside the UK).
2. **Pay Fees:** Pay the **visa application fee** (currently £524 for an application from outside the UK) for each applicant. You will also need to pay the **IHS healthcare surcharge** (amount depends on your course duration – e.g. ~£470 per year of stay) when prompted. Keep the payment receipts/confirmation.
3. **Biometric Verification:** After submitting the form, you'll get instructions on proving your identity. Depending on your nationality, you will either:
  - Use the **UK Immigration: ID Check** smartphone app to scan your passport (this is available for many applicants with biometric passports), **or**
  - Book an appointment at a **Visa Application Centre (VAC)** to provide your **biometrics** (fingerprints and photograph). At the VAC, you'll present your passport and supporting documents (or upload them in advance, per instructions). Ensure your passport has a free page for a visa vignette if biometrics are required.
4. **Credibility Interview (if required):** In some cases, UKVI may require a short interview to confirm you are a genuine student. This interview (often called a **credibility interview**) might be done via video call or in-person at the VAC. Not everyone is interviewed, but the **Home Office conducts credibility interviews for most student visa applicants from overseas** (at the officer's discretion). If you are selected, you'll typically be asked about your study plans, university, course, finances, and post-study plans. Answer honestly and consistently with your application.
5. **Wait for a Decision:** UK Visas & Immigration will review your application after you've provided biometrics (and interview, if any). **Processing times** for a Student visa from outside the UK are usually about **3 weeks** (15 working days) for a decision. In peak periods it can take longer; you may have the option to pay for a priority service to get a faster decision. You'll be

contacted if your case is complex or if additional documents/information are needed, which can delay the decision.

6. **Decision & Passport Return:** If approved, you will get either a sticker (vignette) in your passport (if you gave your passport at the VAC) or instructions to obtain a digital visa. Nowadays, successful applicants receive an **eVisa (digital immigration status record)** linked to their passport. You'll also get a decision email/letter with details. If a vignette is placed in your passport, you use that to travel and then collect a **Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)** in the UK (though note the UK is phasing out BRP cards in favor of the digital eVisa system). If the visa is refused, you'll be notified of the reasons in writing.

### Visa Fees and Processing Times

- **Visa Fee:** £524 (British pounds) for the main student applicant applying from outside the UK. Each dependant (spouse/child) pays the same fee. This fee is paid during the online application.
- **Healthcare Surcharge:** Usually £470 per year of stay (for students) – this is paid upfront for the duration of the visa as part of the application. It grants access to the UK's National Health Service.
- **Processing Time:** Approximately **3 weeks** for most applications submitted outside the UK. It can vary; in some cases it may extend if additional checks are required. UKVI offers a priority (5 working days) or super-priority (24 hours) service in many countries for an extra fee. If you use these, you may get a decision faster. Always apply as early as allowed (up to 6 months before course start) to account for any delays.

### Tips for a Successful Visa Interview (Credibility Interview)

While a formal interview is **not always required** for UK student visas, be prepared in case you are contacted. Here are some tips:

- **Know Your Course and University:** Be ready to explain why you chose your course and institution, how it fits your career plans, and what modules or research you will do. Demonstrating knowledge and enthusiasm for your study plans will show you're a genuine student (the interview's purpose is to establish this).
- **Finances:** Understand your funding. You might be asked how you'll finance your studies and living expenses. Be clear on the sources of your funds (savings, family support, loans, scholarships) and the amounts. Your answers should match the documents you provided.
- **Post-Study Plans:** Be prepared to discuss your plans after graduation. Emphasize intentions to use your UK education in your career, and mention any ties to your home country (job prospects, family, etc.) that show you intend to comply with visa conditions.
- **English Ability:** The interview will be in English. Speak clearly and confidently. If you don't understand a question, it's okay to ask for clarification. The interviewer will be noting if you can communicate in English (since that's a requirement for the visa).

- **Honesty and Consistency:** Answer all questions truthfully. Visa officers have your application details, so ensure your verbal answers align with your documents (for example, don't quote a different tuition fee or financial figure than what's in your paperwork). If you don't know an answer, it's better to say so than to guess. *(Note: Many students are not interviewed at all – “**not everyone will be asked to attend an interview**” – so do not worry if you are not contacted. It means the visa officer had enough information to decide.)*

Official Link: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/family-members>