

# STUDENT VISA APPLICATIONS FACTSHEET



## **DO YOU NEED A VISA TO STUDY IN THE UK AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT?**

Yes. International students must apply for a Student visa before they can commence their studies in the UK.

## **WHAT ARE THE VISA CATEGORIES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CAN APPLY FOR TO STUDY IN THE UK?**

Persons aged 16 or over may apply for a Student Visa.

Persons aged 16 – 17 years of age may also apply for Child Student Visas.

Students intending to attend short courses for 6 months or less with an accredited provider may apply for a Visitor Visa.

Students applying to study English Language courses for 11 months or less with an accredited provider may apply for a visa under Appendix Short – Term Student

## **WILL A STUDENT VISA ALLOW ME REMAIN IN THE UK INDEFINITELY?**

No. The Home Office expects Students to return home after completion of their studies.

International Students may however switch into other Immigration categories at the end of their studies, if they satisfy the requirements of any other visa category.

## **WHAT ARE THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR A STUDENT VISA APPLICATION?**

### **VALIDITY REQUIREMENT**

- Applications must be made using the designated webpages on the gov.uk website.
- Applicants are required to provide adequate ID documents, including national passports or other relevant travel documents.
- Applicants must pay the Home Office Application fees and the Immigration Health Surcharge
- Applicants must supply their biometrics as required.
- Applicants must provide a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) reference number issued no earlier than 6 months before their application is submitted.
- Where Students have been sponsored by a government or International scholarship agency covering both fees and living costs in the last 12 months prior to the submission of their application, they must provide written consent from the government or international scholastic agency that sponsored them.

### **SUITABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A STUDENT**

- Applicants must not be in breach of the Immigration Rules

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Students must obtain a visa before arriving in the UK for a course of study.
- Students who come from a country listed under paragraph A39 of Appendix T must provide a certificate confirming that they have taken a Tuberculosis Test confirming they do not have the ailment.
- Students must submit their visa applications no earlier than 6 months before their course is due to commence.

## GENUINE STUDENT REQUIREMENT

The Home Office must have no reason to believe that an Applicant is not a genuine student.

## POINTS REQUIREMENT FOR A STUDENT

An Applicant must score at least 70 points to satisfy the Points requirement as set out below:

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies requirement

Course Requirement

Approved qualification requirement

50 points

Level of study requirement

Place of study requirement

Financial

10 points

English Language

10 points

## FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT FOR A STUDENT

Where an Applicant is applying to undertake a course of study that is not at an Independent School, for example at a university, the Applicant will need to have sufficient funds to pay any outstanding course fees as stated on the CAS document and show that he has enough money to maintain himself.

Students must be able to show that they have funds for at least 9 months. The level of funds required by Students in London is £1,334 per month and £1,023, if outside London.

The funds required for Independent schools will be the sufficient funds to pay any outstanding fees (course and boarding fees) for one academic year.

Monies being relied on for accommodation and any outstanding fees must be held for a minimum of 28 consecutive days, unless the Applicant is relying on a Student loan or on financial sponsorship from a government or international scholarship agency.

Monies being relied on must be held in the name of the Applicant or in their partner's name but there are limited exceptions to this requirement.

The most recent piece of financial evidence must be dated no earlier than 31 days before the Student Visa application is submitted.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Students are required to demonstrate English language proficiency in line with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Students who intend to study courses at UK Bachelor degree level or above, must take an English Language Test under CEFR at level B2.

Students intending to study a pre-sessional course or a course below UK bachelor's degree level are required to take an English Language Test under CEFR at level B1.

## **WHERE CAN I FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION NOT COVERED BY THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOVE IN RELATION TO STUDENT VISAS?**

Applicants are advised to consult the Immigration Rules and in particular:

- Appendix Student
- Appendix English Language
- Appendix Finance
- Home Office Guidance – Student and Child Student

## **IS IT ADVISABLE TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION WITHOUT SEEKING LEGAL ADVICE?**

Potential Applicants should consider obtaining legal advice from a UK Immigration Solicitor or Qualified Advisor before submitting a Student Visa application.

Sources:

### **Immigration Rules – Appendix Student**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/appendix-student>

### **Immigration Rules – Appendix English Language**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-english-language>

### **Immigration Rules - Appendix Finance**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-finance>

### **Home Office Guidance – Student and Child Student (version 3.0)**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/976139/student-route-casework-guidance-v3.0-ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/976139/student-route-casework-guidance-v3.0-ext.pdf)

**If you would like more information about the issues raised  
in this factsheet or any aspect of immigration law, please  
get in touch on 01582 514000 or visit our website  
[www.machins.co.uk](http://www.machins.co.uk)**

Machins Solicitors LLP have offices in Berkhamsted and Luton. We are one of the leading law firms in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and recognise the need to establish a proper relationship with our clients which allows us to understand individual requirements and to give effective practical advice in a pragmatic, cost effective way. We provide specialist advice and assistance both for businesses and individuals