

A photograph of a woman and a man sitting at a desk in a classroom or office setting. The woman, in the foreground, has long brown hair and is wearing a light blue cardigan. She is looking towards the right with a slight smile. The man, in the background, has dark hair and is wearing a grey sweater over a white collared shirt. He is also looking towards the right. They are both sitting at a desk with laptops open in front of them. The background is softly blurred, showing other people and a bright window.

Student visas



UK Visas & Immigration

Studying in the UK

Applying for a visa is easier than you might think...

Applicants can apply to come to the UK to study under one of the following routes:

- Under Tier 4 of the points-based system
- As a student visitor



Tier 4 (General)

The Tier 4 (General) category is for adult students who want to come to or remain in the UK for their post-16 education.

- Applicants will need to apply for a course with a Tier 4 sponsor and be issued with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).
- Applicants will need to have available all the supporting documentation when they make a Tier 4 (General) application.
- The duration of the visa will depend on the length of the chosen course of study.



Tier 4 –Supporting Documents

Applicants will need the following when they make an application:

A current and valid travel document as well as previous passports	A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)	Evidence of qualifications as specified in the CAS and evidence of English language ability if applicable
Evidence of finances as detailed in the Tier 4 (general) guidance	An Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate (if applicable).	Anyone living in Australia does not require a Tuberculosis Certificate regardless of their nationality.

Whilst the requirements still need to be met, Australians applying in Australia will not need to provide evidence of finances or education qualifications when making a Tier 4 application. Australians are also exempt from English language requirements. Other nationals should check our website.



Tier 4 (General) - Funds Required

To qualify for a Tier 4 visa you will need funds in your bank account, to demonstrate you can support yourself, for at least 28 days prior to making an application:

Length of course	Place of study	Funds needed <small>(as of July 2014)</small>
12 months or less	In London	Course fees + £1020 for each month of the course up to nine months
	Outside London	Course fees + £820 for each month of the course up to nine months
More than 12 months	In London	First year of fees + £9,180 to cover the first year in the UK
	Outside London	First year of fees + £7,380 to cover the first year in the UK

Tier 4 – Working whilst in the UK

Students can work up to a maximum of 10 hours each week during term time and full time during the holidays if they are:

- A student sponsored by a Higher Education Institution (HEI) who are following courses below degree level
- A student at a publicly-funded further education college studying at any level.

Students can work up to a maximum of 20 hours each week during term time and full time during the holidays if they are:

- A student sponsored by a Higher Education Institution (HEI) following a course at degree level or above
- A student taking a short-term study abroad degree programme at an overseas recognised body or higher education institution.

Student Visitors

- How to qualify as a student visitor?

Short course
– no more
than 6
months

With an institution
accredited by a
recognised body
(BAC, Accreditation
UK, ABLIS, ASIC)

No
permission
to work in
the UK

And no
permission
to extend
your stay

Australian passport holders are non-visa nationals and therefore do not need to apply for a Student Visitor visa before they travel. You will need to provide documents to the UK border authority on arrival including evidence you have been accepted on a course, evidence of funds and evidence of any pre-paid accommodation.



Tier 4 or Student Visitor?

Student Visitor	Tier 4
Short term study abroad courses (except medical electives)	Short term study abroad courses (limited visa validity only allowed one week either side of the course)
Other courses less than six months which meet the requirements	Medical Electives
No work allowed	Other courses over 6 months including full degree courses
No switching or extending your visa	Can extend your visa or switch into another visa category
Visa valid for six months	Visa valid for the duration of your course

Other entry options!

Entry Option	Eligibility* (check website for further guidance)
British passport holders	You do not need a student visa. If you have a parent born in the UK you may qualify for a UK passport. It can take 12 weeks to get a British passport from Australia, so apply well in advance.
EU passport holders	You do not need a student visa. If you have an EU background, you may qualify for an EU passport so worth checking
Certificate of Entitlement	If you were born to a British mother before 1.1.83 or to British parents after 1.1.83 (and do not have time to apply for a British passport) you can apply for a Certificate of Entitlement to Right of Abode. This allows you to live, work and study in the UK indefinitely
UK Ancestry Visa	Available to Commonwealth nationals with a grandparent born in the UK. 5 year validity but you can re-apply. You must intend to work, but you can also do some study as well
Youth Mobility Scheme Visa	A one-off 2 year visa available to 18 to 30 year old Australians, New Zealanders and other selected nationalities. Allows you to live, work and study in the UK.

How to apply?

Step 1 Apply Online

- Visit www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk to complete the online application form, pay the visa application fee and book an appointment at a visa application centre.

Step 2 Prepare Documents

- You will need a printed copy of your online application form, your passport, a passport photo, confirmation of visa fee payment and any additional supporting documents required.

Step 3 Attend the Visa Application Centre

- Visit the visa application centre **in person** for your appointment and submit your documents and your biometrics – a photograph and digital fingerscan.

Step 4 Collect Your Documents

- Once your application is processed you can collect your passport from the application centre or have them couriered back to you.



How long will it take?

- Visa applications are assessed by our visa hub at the British Embassy in Manila
- We aim to process within 15 working days
- We recommend you allow **at least 4 weeks**, especially during peak season
- Priority Visa Service
 - Open to all visa applicants
 - 5 day service
 - Additional \$190



Top Tips

Make sure you:

- Plan your study and visa arrangements well in advance – you can apply for a visa 3 months ahead of travel.
- Read our website guidance carefully and gather any supporting documents.
- Allow enough time to get any documents you may need such as an ATAS certificate or traffic offences record.
- Have a valid passport
- Apply with a valid CAS – they are only valid for 3 months.
- Provide **original** documents if required.
- Have adequate funds in your bank account for at least 28 days prior to applying for a visa.
- Have a parental consent letter from both parents if you are 16 or 17 and consent to living independently
- Are completely truthful on your application. Failure to do so can result in a 10 year ban.



Work options after studies in the UK

Various work options are available:

- The doctorate extension scheme
- Tier 2 (General)
- Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur)
- Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent)
- Tier 5 (Internship)

Further details are on our website.



Thank you!

Immigration rules and requirements can change so please check our website for the most up to date information on student visas and other entry options.

www.gov.uk/visas-immigration

Our visa application centres (except Adelaide) are operated by our commercial partner, VFS Global and you will find location and services details on their website

www.vfsglobal.co.uk/australia

