

Applying for a UK student visa




GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

Want to experience the UK's world-class higher education institutions for yourself?

You can apply for a student visa to study in the UK if you're 16 or over and you:

- have been offered a place on a course by a licensed student sponsor
- have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course (the amount will vary depending on your circumstances)
- can speak, read, write and understand English
- have consent from your parents if you're 16 or 17 (you'll need evidence of this when you apply)

If you're 18 or over and your course is at degree level, you can usually stay in the UK for up to 5 years. If it's below degree level, you can usually stay in the UK for up to 2 years.

When should I apply?

We encourage all international students to apply for their visa as soon as they have all their supporting documents together.

The earliest you can apply for a visa is 6 months before you start your course.

You'll usually get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks of attending your appointment at the visa application centre.

Priority visa services may be available in your country. You will be able to access this information as part of your application process.





How much does a student visa cost?

For the latest information on the cost of your UK visa use our online tool at [GOV.UK/visa-fees](https://www.gov.uk/visa-fees)

Along with your visa fee, you must also pay the immigration healthcare surcharge (IHS) as part of your application. Check how much you need to pay before you apply by visiting [GOV.UK/healthcare-immigration-application](https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application)

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- study
- work as a student union sabbatical officer

You may be able to work, but how much depends on what you're studying and whether you're working in or out of term-time.

You cannot:

- claim public funds (benefits) and pensions
- work in certain jobs, for example as a professional sportsperson or sports coach
- be self-employed
- study at an academy or a local authority-funded school (also known as a maintained school)



Checklist

When applying for your student visa, you must have:

- a valid passport or other travel document
- a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) reference number from your course provider

You may also need to provide:

- evidence of finances or scholarships
- proof of consent and relationship with parent or other legal guardian (if student is aged under 18)
- proof of your knowledge of English
- a valid ATAS certificate (if required by course)
- tuberculosis test result (if required)
- supporting letter about gaps in study



UK Visas
& Immigration



Find out more at
GOV.UK/student-visa