



Being smart and skilful

Visa seminar for local agents

Background

Visa seminar for local agents has been organised by British Council on 9 September 2014. The event took place in British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka-1000. Officials from the UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) of British High Commission (BHC) Bangladesh gave of presentation for the local agents and responded to different queries on recent visa issues. The seminar was done highlighting the UK Tier 4 visa policies.



Points covered through presentation

- 1) Commercial partners and our visa application centres
- 2) Visa application process flowchart
- 3) Student visitors
- 4) Extended student visitors
- 5) Can you study as a business or general visitor?
- 6) Tier 4 (General)
- 7) Tier 4 (Child)
- 8) Tuberculosis testing
- 9) Common mistakes
- 10) Top tips
- 11) Work options after you complete your studies
- 12) Question and answer session



During the event

31 local agents of different UK institutions took part in the event. UKVI received the queries in advance and responded to those during the seminar. UKVI also received different face to face queries and responded accordingly.



Local agents found the event really helpful as it was a great networking opportunity for them to meet with people who are working in the same arena of business, officials from UKVI of British High Commission and British Council. Local agents highly appreciated the initiative of British Council for creating this opportunity. Local agents raised many queries regarding recent changes in visa application procedures, difficulties faced in recent days and also provided different feedbacks for improving the system.

The officials from the UKVI of British High Commission also appreciated for the constructive feedback from the local agents.

During the seminar UKVI received following queries and responded later via email. We have circulated these to the agents who have participated in the seminar.

1. What appointment does a Tier4 dependant book?

Answer: The dependant will book a standard appointment

2. If an applicant has a partial scholarship do they select Tier 4 general or scholarship on the application form?

Answer: They would select 'General'

3. What is the preferred method of submitting an Administrative Review to New Delhi?

Answer: It has been advised that the preferred method would be via email to the address provided visqry.newdelhi@fco.gov.uk

4. If the applicant changes university after going for the IOM test does this matter?

Answer: This question has never come up before and having had a look through the guidance I can't see that this would cause any difficulty as the main concern is that the applicant holds a valid TB certificate



Points covered through discussion

- From 20 July 2014, all Tier 4 visa applications are being processed in Delhi office.
- Visa applications can be submitted in both Dhaka and Sylhet VFS offices. There was a problem in getting
- UKVI works under Home Office in the UK
- Credibility interviews:
 - As part of the Tier 4 (General) entry visa application process the applicants will need to sit a short credibility interview.
 - The interview will usually be held via video conference and may take up to 20 minutes. Applicants will be asked questions by a UK Visas and Immigration official on screen.
 - The interview will be conducted in English.
 - The answers provided by applicant during the interview will form part of the evidence considered in making a decision on your visa application.
 - **Plan Tier 4 Interviews and Genuine Student Rule:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tier-4-interviews-and-genuine-student-rule-gsr-sty02/tier-4-interviews-and-genuine-student-rule-gsr-sty02>
- Bank statements from non-Bangladeshi bank (situated outside Bangladesh) would be acceptable as long as those banks are UKVI approved Financial institutions
- Two bank statements are acceptable to show money (maintenance) as long as the total amount and duration of fund are met and both are UKVI approved Financial institutions
- Provisional certificates can be submitted along with visa application if it is mentioned in the CAS under document assessed i.e Provisional certificate of BA (Hons) in Business Studies. The documents need to be submitted according to the information provided in the CAS.
- Common mistakes:
 - Not applying early enough
 - Not providing original documents
 - Insufficient funds or funds not being held for long enough
 - Submission of false documents
 - Sponsor has not vouched for academic progression (or made clear they are aware of previous UK studies).
 - Exceeding time limit for study
 - No parental consent or, for 16 & 17 year olds, not giving clear consent to living independently
 - Applying with a used or expired CAS
- Top tips:
 - Plan your study and visa arrangements well in advance of your intended travel date
 - Before you make your visa application, know which institution you will be studying at, what course you intend to follow and where you will be living in the UK
 - Choose a reputable visa agent if you decide not to complete your visa application yourself
 - Make sure you read the guidance carefully and ensure that you have the correct supporting documents to submit with your visa application
 - Be prepared to be interviewed; be yourself and listen carefully to what you are being asked
 - Be completely truthful in your application. This is important because failure to do so can result in a 10 year ban
 - Useful link on Dependants of students and prospective students:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dependants-of-students-and-prospective-students-sty01>