



UK Visas
& Immigration

Applying for a visa to study in the UK



The UK's Student Visa Offer

- The UK is open for business and genuine students are welcome
- The UK remains the most popular destination in the world, after the USA, for international higher education students
- This presentation will cover:
 - Common Misperceptions
 - Stats
 - What you need for your Tier 4 Visa
 - Visa application process
 - Common reasons why students are refused
 - Work – during your studies & after
 - Top Tips



Study Visas

T4 General – Post 16 Education
T4 Child – Aged 4-17 studying at
Independent Schools
Short term study – 6 months or
less (11 months for English
Language)

Common Misperceptions

It is very difficult to get a UK study visa

The UK is unwelcoming to students and trying to keep the numbers coming down

If I go to the UK I won't be able to work alongside studying to help pay for my course

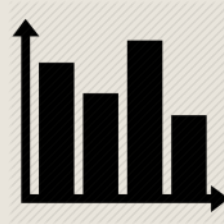
But I won't be able to stay on after my course and find a job

Student visa applications from India



91%

of student (Tier 4)
applications are
successful



11,700

Tier 4 applications
granted in the last
year



99%

of all visa applications
processed within 15
working days

Preparing for your visa application

- **Check** – check what the requirements are and the documents you will need to submit with your application
- **Apply** – Apply online, and prepare your supporting documents before attending one of our visa application centres
- **Tailor your application** –Optional additional services are available

What do I need to apply for a Tier 4 visa?

1

- Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

2

- Funds for course fee & living costs

3

- Appropriate level of English for the course

4

- TB certificate from an approved medical clinic
- ATAS Certificate if applicable

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

Evidence that you have been accepted onto a course.

You will have to submit the educational documents listed.

Your CAS can only be used for one application

English Language skills

Students need to have the relevant level of English for the course.

At degree level or above at a UK HEI
Institution will choose how to assess the level of English

Studying below degree level, or at an institution that is not an HEI
Will usually need to pass a SELT

Funds to support yourself

You will need to provide evidence to demonstrate that you will be able to support yourself financially during your studies and pay your course fees and living costs

Funds

- You must demonstrate you have enough money to pay your first year course fees and living expenses which are:
 - Inside London** - £1,265 for each month of the course, up to a maximum of 9 months
 - Outside London and elsewhere in the UK** - £1,015 for each month of the course, up to a maximum of 9 months.
- Students can demonstrate they have the money through:
 - cash in the bank in the student's name or in the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) name
 - an Education Loan in the students name
 - official financial or government sponsorship

If you have paid all or some of your course fees to your sponsor before making your application, this can be taken away from the total you need to show

How to demonstrate funds in the bank

You can use:

- Personal bank or building society statements
- Building society pass book
- Letter from the bank or regulated financial institution

The documents should

- Be in the student's or their parent/legal guardian's name
- Show funds have been held for 28 consecutive days
- Be dated within 31 days before the date the visa fee was paid
- Show the account number, financial institutions name and logo

Money held by parent(s) or legal guardian (s)

If the funds are held in your parent or legal guardian's name you must show that you are related to them and provide:

- your birth certificate
- your certificate of adoption
- a court document naming your legal guardian(s)

and

- a letter confirming the relationship and that they have given consent to use their funds

How to demonstrate funds using an Education Loan

A Loan Letter:

- from a regulated financial institution
- provided by your national government, state or regional government, a government sponsored student loan company or is part of an academic or educational loans scheme

The documents should

- Be in the student's name
- Be dated no more than 6 months before the date of application
- Show the amount of money available as a loan
- Show the financial institutions name and logo
- Show the money is available to you before you travel to the UK

Official Sponsors

You can receive official financial sponsorship from:

- Her Majesty's Government
- your home government
- the British Council
- any international organisation
- international company
- University
- a UK independent school

Tuberculosis Test

You must have a tuberculosis (TB) test if you are coming to the UK for more than 6 months

You must be tested at a clinic approved by the Home Office

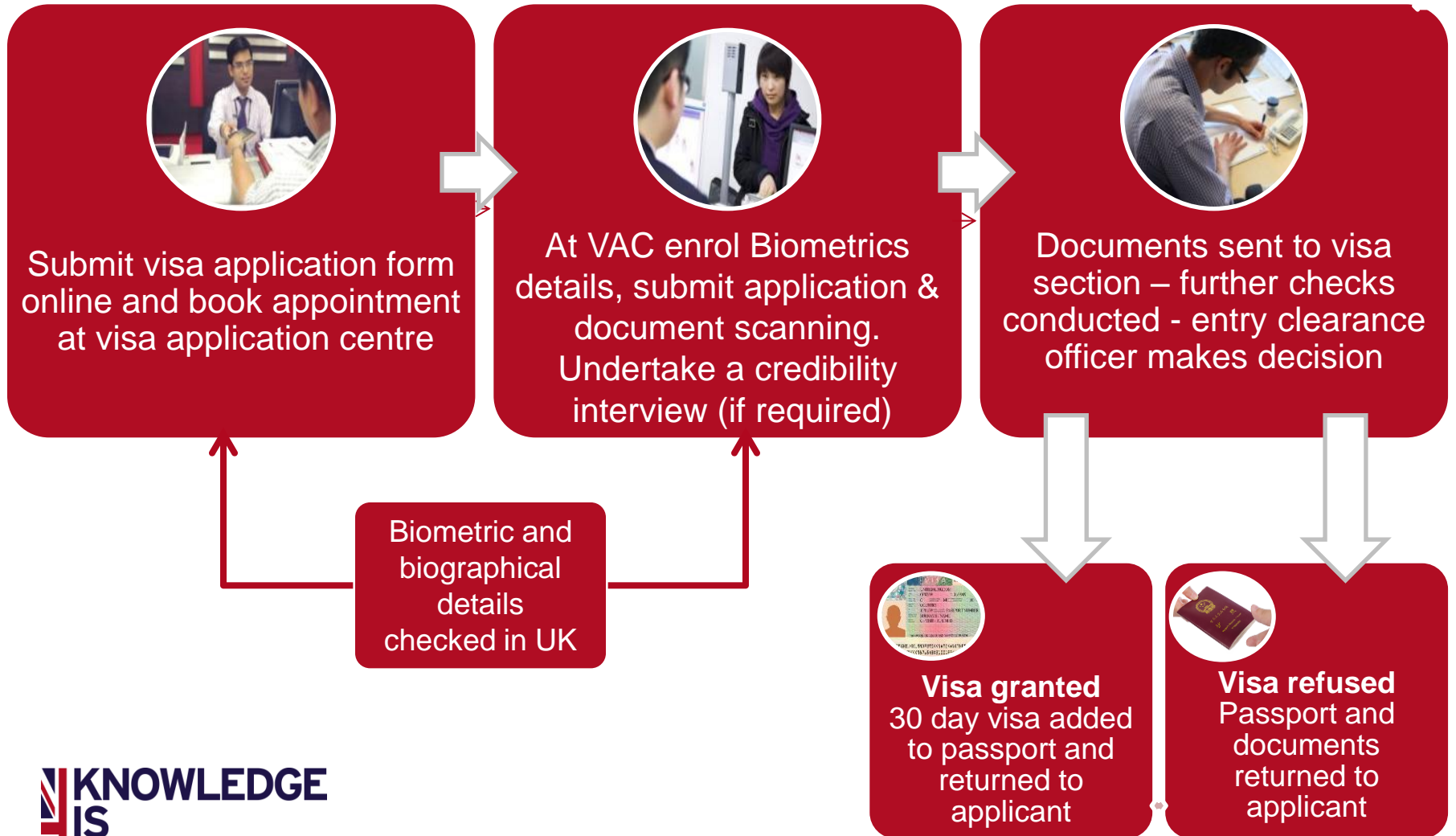
Include the certificate with your visa application

ATAS Certificate

You will need an ATAS certificate if you intend to undertake studies in designated science and technical subjects

Check the ATAS guidance on the GOV.UK website

Visa application process



Health Surcharge

- All non-EEA nationals, coming to live in the UK for more than six months are required to pay a 'health surcharge' in order to gain access to the UK's world class National Health Service (NHS)
- The health surcharge is £150 per year for students and is payable at the same time as you pay your visa fees, for the full length of the visa
- You'll still need to pay for certain types of services, such as prescriptions, dental treatment & eye tests
- You should take your biometric residence permit with you when you access healthcare

Student Interviews

Most students will be interviewed at the Visa Application Centre

The interview checks you can speak English to the required standard, and that you are a genuine student

Some students may be invited for a secondary interview.

Interviews may cover:

- The course you have applied for
- Reasons for choosing to study in the UK
- How you will fund your studies
- Your previous studies and future work aspirations
- Your family circumstances



User Paid Services



Priority Service moves your application to the front of the queue
We aim to process a decision within 5 working days



The **Keep My Passport When Applying Service** makes it easier for travellers to apply for 2 visas at the same time, by returning an applicant's passport once they have applied for their visa



Premium Lounges offer customers a separate lounge and a faster service to submit documents and biometrics. Customers also receive a courier service and SMS service free of charge

Common reasons student visas are refused

- Not including the correct supporting documents or submitting documents without translations
- Forgetting to include original education certificates
- Not holding funds for a consecutive 28 day period before the date of application, or submitting a balance certificate that shows funds on one day
- Not holding the funds in an account in which you or your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) are named, or not providing evidence of the relationship between you and your parents/guardian
- Failing to disclose full travel or immigration history
- Forgetting to get a TB test done

Will I be able to work while studying in the UK?

All students including those studying at colleges can undertake work placements that are an integral and assessed part of their course of study

Degree level and above

- Students at an HEI can work 20hrs a week in term time and full time in the holidays

Below degree level

- Students at an HEI can work 10hrs a week in term time and full time in the holidays

Private Provider or FE College

- No work is permitted at any level

Can I bring my family with me?

The following students are able to bring their partners and children to the UK:

- Postgraduate students at higher education institutions on courses of 12 months or more
- Government sponsored students on courses lasting longer than 6 months

Each dependant must have a certain amount of money available to them this is in addition to the money you must have to support yourself

They'll also have to pay the healthcare surcharge as part of their application

Options to stay on in the UK after your studies

Tier 2 work visa

- Secure a graduate level job, which pays £20,800 or more to stay for a further 3 years with the option to extend.

Tier 5 internship

- Secure an internship on a Government Authorised Exchange scheme, relating to your course, to stay for a further 12 months

Doctorate Extension Scheme

- Allows completing students to stay for 12 months to gain work experience or set up as an entrepreneur

Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur

- If you have a business idea and an endorsement from DIT or your HEI, you could switch onto the Graduate Entrepreneur route

Can my family visit me?

You can apply for a Standard Visitor visa if you want to visit the UK

There are visit visas that last 2, 5 or 10 years. You can stay for a maximum of 6 months on each visit.

Visit Visas can be post-dated by up to three months. Apply in the off peak period to benefit from faster turnaround times and quieter Visa Application Centres

<https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa>

Top Tips

- **Start preparing** your student visa application **well in advance**
- Make sure funds in your bank account or that of a parent or legal guardian are held for **at least 28 consecutive days**.
- Apply for your visa as soon **as you receive your CAS**.
- **Check your course start date** before completing your visa application.
- Remember to take **all relevant documentation** to your appointment
- **Don't be nervous about your video interview**.
- Be **honest about your immigration history** when completing your application form
- Remember to get a TB test done and **submit the medical certificate**



**KNOWLEDGE
IS
GREAT**
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND