



St George's
University of London

Applying for a Student visa from within the UK

Frequently asked questions 2023/24



When can I apply for a Student visa from within the UK?

There are UK Visa & Immigration (UKVI) requirements you must meet if you have a current UK visa and want to apply for 'permission to stay' in the UK as a student. For example, you must meet the rules on academic progression and ensure that any time limits on study do not affect your application. These requirements are complex, so it is important that you [contact us](#) to check your eligibility.

The earliest you can apply for a Student visa is 3 months before your course starts. You must apply before your current visa expires and your new course must begin within 28 days of your current visa expiring.

If you are a continuing SGUL student, then you cannot apply earlier than 3 months before the expiry date of your current visa.

If your UK visa is not a Student visa, you must [check whether you are permitted to switch](#) to a Student visa from within the UK. If you are in the UK as a visitor, then you cannot switch to a Student visa whilst you are here.

If you are not eligible or are unable to apply before the expiry of your current visa, you must return to your home country and apply for a new Student visa from there.

What documents do I need to prepare?

- Passport
- Visa
- CAS
- Financial evidence (see below)
- Translation of any document not in English
- English language evidence
- ATAS Certificate (if required this will be noted on your CAS)

Do I need to provide financial evidence with my application?

If you are a 'low risk national' or have been living in the UK for 12 months or more with valid Student leave at the time of applying, then you do not need to submit financial evidence with your application.

If the above does not apply, you will need to provide financial evidence which shows that you have enough money to cover your course fees (as noted on your CAS), plus £12,006 for living costs (which is calculated at £1,334 per month for 9 months). You will need to show the money has been **held for a least 28 days** before the date you submit the online visa application form.

Please note, if you have, in the 12 months before the date of application, been awarded a scholarship or sponsorship by a government or international scholarship agency, you must provide their **written consent** to the new Student application.

For more information about the financial requirements, please refer to our [SGUL Student Route Visa Guide](#).

How do I apply?

Go to www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply and complete the online Student Visa application form. Scroll down the page and click on the green 'Start now' button.

As part of the process, you will be required to prove your identity, and instructed how to do this. You'll either be asked to:

- use the [UK Immigration ID Check](#) app to scan your identity document, or
- book a visa appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point.

If you cannot use the app as your phone is not compatible, or you do not have a Biometric passport, select the link option in blue on the screen saying "I do not have a phone that can use the app" – you will need to attend a UKVCAS centre to give your Biometrics instead.

How much does it cost?

You must pay the visa application fee which is £490 and the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) which is calculated at £470 per year of the visa. Please note, [the amount of IHS you pay](#) depends on the length of the visa you're given and not the length of the course.

There is an additional fee of £500 if you use the priority service, or £1290 for the super priority service.

Do I need to attend a visa appointment to verify my identity?

Proving your identity is a requirement of the Student visa application. How you verify your identity depends on where you're from and what type of passport you have.

You'll find out if you need to go to book a visa appointment or use the smartphone ID app when you start your application.

If you are advised that you must attend an appointment, you will need to present your passport to confirm your identity. We recommend that you take all of your supporting documents with you to the appointment, just in case there have been any issues when you uploaded them.

Can the International Advising Team check my visa application before I submit this?

Yes, this is optional, but we highly recommend that you use our free visa checking service before submitting your online application. You must prepare your draft application (up to the 'Declaration' section) and all other supporting documents, then email us at student.immigration@sgul.ac.uk.

Please note, although we will rigorously check your visa application and inform you if anything is incorrect or missing, we cannot guarantee that your visa application will be successful.

What do I need to do once I submit the online visa application form?

You need to:

- Upload your required documents
- Complete all the tasks on the phone ID app or download your document checklist and bring the required documents to your visa appointment.

Be careful to finalise submission of your application after uploading any documents. When you are sure you have uploaded all necessary documents or that you do not need to upload documents, make sure you reach a page with a green 'confirm and upload' button and click on this to complete the submission of your application.

Please note that your application submission date will remain the date that your application fee and IHS payment is confirmed, even if you upload documents at a later date.

How long will it take to receive a decision?

Decisions are usually made within 8 weeks, but you may be able to [pay to get a faster decision](#).

What if my current visa runs out before I receive the visa decision for my new application?

Provided you applied for your new visa before your current visa expired (i.e. you made an 'in-time' visa application), you can legally stay in the UK while you wait for the visa decision. This provision is known as having section 3C leave and this applies even if the expiry date of your visa has passed whilst you wait for your new application to be decided.

Please see the [3C Leave Guidance](#) for more information.

Can I travel whilst my application is being processed?

You must not travel outside the UK whilst your application is pending as if you do, your application will be automatically withdrawn.

Before you travel outside the UK, you must ensure that you have received a decision on your application and have also received your BRP by post or have access to prove your immigration status digitally.

Will I receive a new biometric residence permit or a digital eVisa?

If you applied using the UK Immigration: ID check app, you should receive your visa in the form of a digital eVisa. You will be given instructions on how to [view and prove](#) your digital status for purposes such as study, work and renting accommodation.

If you are not granted a digital eVisa, you will be issued with a biometric residence permit (BRP). You can expect to receive your BRP usually within 7 to 10 working days after receiving the decision e-mail. This is posted by courier to the address in the UK that you entered onto your visa application form.

What if there is an error with my BRP?

- Errors in length of visa or visa conditions- [apply online for administrative review](#) within 14 days of (the £80 fee is refunded if UKVI agree there was an error)
- All other errors: [report online](#) within 10 days of receipt of the BRP – corrections are free.

What happens if my visa application is refused?

If you are in the UK and your application has been refused, you have a maximum of 14 days to apply for an administrative review. You will be given instructions in your decision letter on how to apply for an administrative review. If you submit an administrative review for your application, it will be considered by a different case worker. If the refusal was incorrect the decision should be overturned, and your visa will be granted.

You need to [apply online](#) and it will cost £80 but this will be refunded if the decision to refuse your application is overturned.

If you do not have valid grounds to apply for an administrative review, you will have to make a new immigration application from overseas. The International Advising Team will advise you on what steps to take.

Can I enrol/start my course after I submit the Student visa application?

You need to submit proof of an in-time visa application to student.immigration@sgul.ac.uk prior to the start of the programme.

You are required to inform the International Advising Team of the outcome of your Student visa application and provide a copy of your new BRP or the share code to check your digital eVisa, so that we can update your student immigration record.

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St George's, University of London
Cranmer Terrace | Tooting | London | SW17 0RE
student.immigration@sgul.ac.uk

