



## Visa Guidance for students applying to study in the UK under Tier 4

Those wishing to apply to study in the United Kingdom as a Tier 4 student, apply under the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) Points Based System. Potential students will have to satisfy the requirements of the Immigration Rules and Student applicants also need to gain 70 points which are awarded as follows:

50 points	will be awarded for studying an acceptable course with an approved education provider, who will issue a CAS Statement
10 points	will be awarded for having sufficient maintenance/ funding for your course of study
10 points	will be awarded for having satisfied the English Language Requirements (Not applicable for Child Students)

Visas are linked to the institution students intend to study at, as well as the course they will be undertaking. There are two types of student categories in Tier 4:

Student for those coming to the UK for post 16 education.

Child Student for those aged between 4 to 17. Those aged under 16 may only be educated at independent fee paying schools.

- Students aged 18 or above will apply as Student
- Those aged 17 or under studying GCSE courses apply as Child Student.
- Those aged 16 or 17 studying A levels may apply as Student or Child Student, however the College recommends this group apply as Child Student.

NCUK Students must apply as Student or via Standard Visitor Visa – the latter is only available for those on the Fast Track January to June course.

Once accepted onto a course of study Cambridge Tutors College will issue a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Study) which will need to be presented along with all the required documents in order to obtain a visa. The College will check the visa application carefully before submission to help ensure the application will not be refused for avoidable errors.

### English Language Requirements

If you are applying as a Child Student you are exempt from the English Language Requirements.

For Student Applications at CTC, students are required to have achieved a minimum English Language ability at level B1 and this must be confirmed, as well as details of how this has been assessed, on the CAS statement.

The UKVI has Secure English Language Tests (SELT) for this group of students. This requirement can be satisfied by showing:

- You are from a majority English-speaking country, as listed on the UKVI website, **OR**
- Have studied GCSE English Language or Literature in the UK as a Child Student **OR**
- Have passed an English Language test with an approved test provider for Tier 4 and has achieved at least CEFR level B1 (see CTC requirements below) in all four components (reading, writing, speaking and listening)

Applicants can only take a SELT with one of the following providers:

- If in the UK  
IELTS SELT Consortium / LanguageCert / Pearson / Trinity College London
- If outside of the UK  
IELTS SELT Consortium / LanguageCert / Pearson / PSI Services (UK) Ltd

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prove-your-english-language-abilities-with-a-secure-english-language-test-selt>

If an IELTS SELT is used as part of the visa application, students do not need to provide the SELT certificate but must quote the SELT Unique Reference Number (URN) in their application. This must match the SELT URN quoted in the CAS under *Evidence used to obtain offer* field. *Please ensure you take the correct SELT IELTS test - 'Academic IELTS for UKVI visa purposes'*

The minimum English language requirement for entry into CTC's A-level course is IELTS 5.5 for pure science subjects and mathematics and IELTS 6.0 for essay-based subjects (e.g. Economics, History etc.).

However, the College will consider applications from students with lower levels of English, provided that:-

1) They can show formal evidence of having attained at least overall band 5 in IELTS with no less than 4.5 in any component **OR**

they can show formal evidence of an equivalent recognised qualification

**AND**

2) They agree to attend a pre-sessional English language course arranged by the College of sufficient duration to enable them to meet the above-mentioned IELTS requirements of 5.5 or 6.0 before the start of their studies at CTC

### **Financial Documents**

Students who do not have official financial sponsorship, must have a minimum amount of cash in a bank or building society account. The account can be in the name of the student or their parents or legal guardians or it may be a joint account with someone else but in this instance, may only be used if the name of the student is included in the account as well. If applying using a bank account in parents' or guardians' names, students must show that they have their permission to use this money, as well as provide:

Their original birth certificate\*, or a notarised copy, showing the name of the parent or parents whose bank account is being used for this immigration application

*(If the student is adopted or has a legal guardian they will require the equivalent of this document\*)*

The UKVI have also released a list of organisations they will not accept financial documentation from, please check the following:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-p-lists-of-financial-institutions>

### **Financial Requirements**

The money needed to be shown will be course fees for the first year of study and living costs for up to a maximum of nine months. The amount needed will depend upon the course and the accommodation arrangements. The money must be held in a cash account. Shares, bonds, pension funds and similar savings accounts will not be accepted. Potential students must show that the money has been held for at least 28 days prior to the date of the application. It is important that financial evidence is no more than 31 days old at the date of application.

If you are applying as a **Student / Child Student and will be** residing in CTC accommodation, the CAS will state the total amount required as "boarding fees." These boarding fees (tuition fees plus accommodation costs) should be paid to CTC who will pay the cost of accommodation on their behalf. Any Child Student residing outside the CTC homestay system will have to show that they have the course fees for the first year plus acceptable care arrangements. They will also need to check the UKVI website for details of the required funds as these will vary according to their individual circumstances

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/976139/student-route-casework-guidance-v3.0-ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/976139/student-route-casework-guidance-v3.0-ext.pdf)

For those applying as **Student**, not residing within the CTC Accommodation, they will need to show they have the first year of fees plus £12006 (in Croydon) to cover nine months living costs. The CAS will list these amounts separately i.e. course fees and accommodation costs.

Students who are undertaking any pre-sessional course will also need to show they have the funds available to meet the costs of this course. Students taking a pre-sessional course at one of our English Language partnership institutions will only be able to apply for a single visa to cover both courses if they qualify for a Child Student visa.

"Low Risk" Applications for CTC Students: Students from a specified list of "low risk" nationalities are not required to produce evidence of their funds as part of the visa application process, as long as they are applying in their country of nationality or in the UK. However, applicants are asked to confirm that the specified funds are available and also have the documentation prepared should the Embassy request this information. (Countries on this list are currently *Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, The Dominican Republic,*

Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, New Zealand, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America

Applicants should check the UKVI website before applying as this list may change at short notice.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/976139/student-route-casework-guidance-v3.0-ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/976139/student-route-casework-guidance-v3.0-ext.pdf)

### **British National (Overseas) visa**

If you are from Hong Kong and are a [British national \(overseas\)](#) you and your family members can apply for a British National (Overseas) visa. This is known as a BNO visa. It allows you to live, work and study in the UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

You can apply for a BNO visa if you're:

- a [British national \(overseas\)](#)
- 18 or older
- Your permanent home must be:
- in Hong Kong, if you're applying from outside the UK
- in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man or Hong Kong if you're applying in the UK

### **Translated Documents**

Please follow the UKVI instructions carefully regarding any translations, the original translation must contain the following information from the translator: that it is an accurate translation of the original document, the date of the translation, the translators full name and signature and the translators contact details.

### **Students Under 18 Years of Age**

Extra provisions apply to all those under 18 whether they apply as Child Student or Student. This means that the student will have to supply written support from their parents or guardians for their study in the United Kingdom as well as their consent for their course, independent travel, reception, care and accommodation arrangements which have been made for them.

To help comply with this requirement, for those residing in CTC accommodation, we can supply a draft letter which parents may use as guidance. Any students under 18 years of age not residing in CTC accommodation will need to satisfy the full maintenance requirements and should consult the UKVI visa guidance

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/976139/student-route-casework-guidance-v3.0-ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/976139/student-route-casework-guidance-v3.0-ext.pdf)

### **Credibility Interviews for Those Aged Over 16 Years**

All Tier 4 Students aged 16 and over, whether applying as a Child Student or Student are required to undertake an interview to show that they are a genuine student. This interview can be conducted in person or on the telephone. If, as a result of this interview, the UKVI is not satisfied that the applicant is a genuine student or cannot speak English to the required standard, the application will be refused. Failure to attend an interview without reasonable explanation can also result in a visa refusal.

### **Immigration Health Surcharge**

Applicants for visas longer than 6 months' pay an Immigration Health Surcharge, which is based on the length of your course and visa. You will then be able to use the National Health Service (NHS) although you will still need to pay for certain types of services, [e.g. prescriptions, dental treatment and eye tests.](#)

Check to see if you have to pay

<https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/who-needs-pay>

The cost is currently £ 470 per year, as a student the exact amount you have to pay depends on how much leave you are granted. You pay the healthcare surcharge in the same currency as your visa application fee.

You can [calculate how much you'll have to pay](#) before you apply, you will pay half of the yearly amount if your application includes part of a year that is less than 6 months or you will pay for a whole year if your application includes part of a year that is more than 6 months.

You must make the payment before you submit or send your visa or immigration application

<https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/pay>

You will be sent an email with an IHS reference number. This will also be shown on screen when you have paid. You will need to write this on the cover of your visa application if you are applying online from outside the UK, the cover sheet if applying online from inside the UK, or on the application form if applying by post. You need this reference even if you're [exempt from paying the healthcare surcharge](#).

Finish your application form and pay your visa or immigration application fee.

### **Biometric Resident Permit**

From June 2015, the visa (vignette) in passports was replaced by a short term entry vignette allowing entry to the UK, students would then need to collect their long term visa, called a Biometric Resident Permit (BRP) within 30 days of their arrival in the UK. CTC is able to have the BRP sent straight to the College, but this will only be done if the alternative collection location code of **3SC632** is entered into the Alternative Location field in the BRP Collection Page on the Visa4UK online form as part of the visa application. After entering the code the Assigned Collection Location of: Cambridge Tutors College, C/O Tier 4 Team – P Brown, Water Tower Hill, Croydon CR0 5SX should be displayed. Students are required to provide a 30 day travel window as part of the visa application. If you fail to travel within the 30 days, you will need to apply for a new short term visa to enter the UK.

### **What to submit for your visa**

All students planning to come to the UK for study should refer to the above links as well as:

[www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/770523/T4\\_Migrant\\_Guidance\\_JAN\\_2019\\_11.01.2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770523/T4_Migrant_Guidance_JAN_2019_11.01.2019.pdf)

CTC Students will need to submit:

**Student Applications :** <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply?step-by-step-nav=cafcc40a-c1ff-4997-adb4-2fef47af194d>

CAS Document

Proof of maintenance/funds (a letter from your parent or guardian will be necessary if using their bank account)

Passport and passport size photograph

Follow the guidance carefully

Correct fee

Proof of payment of the Immigration Health Surcharge

If under 18 - additional consent letter from parents agreeing to the course of study as well as to independent travel, reception and care arrangements, plus evidence of the relationship between the applicant and the persons providing consent

Evidence Satisfy English language requirements

Educational documents as per CAS

TB Certificate if needed

<https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa>

**Child Student Applicants** as above except no English Language Requirement

<https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa>

Follow the guidance carefully

If aged under 16 – no further documents are required

**Entering the UK including latest Coronavirus Information and Guidance and the use of eGates**

<https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control/at-border-control>

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Immigration-on-arrival#layer-3645>

**IMPORTANT: Information regarding international short term students (under 6 months)**

The UK Government has recently expanded the use of eGates to eligible nationals from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and the United States of America.

As a result of this change, please ensure if you are coming to the UK for short term study (less than 6 months) ask to see an officer on arrival rather than use the eGates, as you will need your passport stamped on arrival.

It is important that you retain some form of evidence of your date of arrival in the UK if you use the eGates in this way such as an e-ticket or paper or electronic boarding pass. This will help you to remember the exact duration of your six month stay and also you will be required to produce this evidence for the institution that you will be studying at.

### **Other Types of UK Visa for Study**

Check which type of Visa you need;

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa?step-by-step-nav=4ab05a9b-a933-4bb1-ae61-b9ab903b8805>

### **Short Term Study Visa (STSV)**

For those aged 16 plus studying English Language courses between 6 to 11 months in duration

<https://www.gov.uk/visa-to-study-english>

### **Standard Visitor Visa**

For courses under 6 months in duration

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

*These notes are for guidance only and not an authoritative statement of the law. These notes should be read in conjunction with official UKVI guidance which can be updated without notice. An up to date copy of these notes is also available on the CTC website and should also be consulted. These notes incorporate UKVI guidance reflecting changes effective from 1 February 2023* PMB