



STUDENT IMMIGRATION ADVICE AND COMPLIANCE

Immigration: The journey starts here

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www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/international



Immigration

How to use this fact sheet

This Fact Sheet provides information regarding visa immigration procedures and regulations in the UK. Further information can be obtained from the Student Hub and from Student Immigration Advice and Compliance.

www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub

Do I need a visa to study in the UK?

If you are not an EEA/Swiss national or a British national and you are coming to the UK to study for more than 6 months you must obtain a student visa (entry clearance) before you travel.

If you are coming to study for less than 6 months you can come to the UK on a Short Term Study Visa. Please note that the Short Term Study Visa conditions do not permit working in the UK and can not be extended beyond 6 months. For more information about student visitor visas please see www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa

How do I apply for a student visa?

Major changes have been made to the immigration rules for international students. It is very important that you prepare the documents for your student visa application well in advance. To apply for a UK Tier 4 (General) student visa in your home country you need to visit www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/apply and follow the guidance.

To apply for your visa online, go to the 'Apply' section at the website link above.

Can my family/partner come and live with me in the UK while I am studying?

Check whether dependants can join you in the UK at www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/family-members.

What do I need to provide when I apply for a student visa?

The UK student visa is part of the points-based immigration system and in order to obtain a student visa you need to show that you have obtained 40 points. 30 points are claimed by providing a valid CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) from the institution you wish to study at; the remaining 10 points are obtained by proving that you have sufficient finances in place.

The Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) must be provided by a licensed sponsor on UK Visas & Immigration's Tier 4 register of sponsors. Leeds Beckett University is a licensed sponsor and if you meet the entry requirements for your course and you accept our offer, we will issue the CAS for you.

The CAS remains valid for 6 months from the date of issue, so it is important that you apply for your visa within this time. You can apply for your visa up to 3 months before the proposed date of travel, and you can travel to the UK up to 1 month before the start of your course if your course is 6 months or more. When you apply for your visa you can ask for it to be post-dated up to three months if you do not plan to travel immediately.

The finances you need to pass the points-based assessment are in the table below.

Please note that the current maintenance funds are £1015 per month.

For courses in London this figure is currently £1265 per month.

Once you have submitted your on-line application you will be required to provide the following documents. To check current visa fees, please go to www.gov.uk/visa-fees

You will need to provide:

- a current passport or travel document;
- CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) from a licensed sponsor;
- documents to show you have the right finances (maintenance) available;
- documents used by your sponsors when they accepted you on to the course;
- the University receipt confirming minimum 50% of fees have been paid
- your biometric details if you are applying from outside the United Kingdom.

Length of course	Maintenance (funds) needed
12 months or less	Course fees + £1015 for each month of the course
More than 12 months	First year of fees + £9135 to cover the first year in the United Kingdom

Credibility Interviews

Credibility Interviews take place at the visa application centre at the same time as your biometric information is taken. The UK Visas & Immigration intends to interview most Tier 4 student applicants before granting them immigration permission to come to the UK. If you apply for a Tier 4 visa, you might be sent an email asking you to attend an interview as part of the application process. You should check your email (including the 'junk' folder) regularly as your application is likely to be refused if you are asked to attend an interview and you do not do so without providing a reasonable explanation.

A UK Visas & Immigration member of staff will ask you about your course, where you want to study and your reasons for studying in the UK. They may ask further questions if they have any cause for concern. It is really important that you know about the content of your course and why you have chosen the course and the University. The interviews are intended to speed up the visa application process. The report of the interview will be sent to the Entry Clearance Officer who makes the decision on your Tier 4 application. The Entry Clearance Officer must be satisfied that you are a genuine student, and that your English language ability is at the correct level, otherwise you might be called for a further interview

and/or your entry clearance application may be refused.

How long can I apply to stay for?

If you are studying at degree level or above, you can stay for the full duration of your course. If you are studying below degree level, you will be allowed to stay for up to two years. You will also be allowed 4 months vacation time if your course is at least 12 months long. If you need to extend your visa to stay in the UK to complete your studies, or to take up further studies, the Student Immigration Advice and Compliance team at Leeds Beckett University can help you.

Immigration Health Surcharge

The UK Government introduced the immigration health surcharge on 6 April 2015 and it must be paid by nationals who apply to come to the UK to work, study or join family for a period of more than six months. Find further information at:

www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application

Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)

The Home Office have introduced a new system regarding the issue of your visa. You will first receive a special visa sticker (vignette) in your passport which allows you to travel to the UK once and then collect your Biometric Residence Permit.

Under a new practice, when you make your Tier 4 visa application overseas you

will have to state what town you are going to stay in when you first arrive in the UK. You will be given a short-term entry clearance in your passport that gives you 30 days in which to travel to the UK. You will also be given a letter which tells you where to collect your BRP.

Once you have arrived in the UK you will need to go to the designated Post Office near the town identified, to collect your BRP which shows your permission to be in the UK for the rest of your course (plus a short amount of time afterwards). You should collect your BRP very soon after arriving, as it is likely to be needed for many purposes.

Find more details at

www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits

Can I work?

If you are in the UK with a Tier 4 Student visa (NOT a short term study visa) you may be able to work part-time (no more than 20 hours a week) during term-time while studying and full-time during vacations.

- up to 20 hours a week if you are studying at degree level or above
- up to 10 hours a week if you are studying any other type of course.

Can I bring my family?

Since April 2011, the rules state:

- For a student to sponsor a dependant, the student will have to be on a

postgraduate course (NQF7 and above) at a university which is of more than 12 months' duration or a Government Sponsored Student

- Dependants will usually be permitted to work.

Leeds Beckett University's obligations whilst they are sponsoring you under the Points-Based System

If a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from Leeds Beckett University is used to successfully obtain a Tier 4 Student visa, Leeds Beckett University is then considered to be your sponsor (for immigration not financial purposes). All sponsors must keep the following records or documents, and make them available to UK Visas and Immigration officials on request:

- a copy of your passport, identity card for foreign nationals or United Kingdom immigration status document (you should keep the original)
- your contact details

Sponsors also have a duty to report to UK Visas and Immigration if a student does not enrol on the course within the enrolment period, if the student's attendance on the course is not satisfactory, or if a student withdraws from study.

Your obligations whilst you are being sponsored by Leeds Beckett University under the Points-Based System

You must inform Leeds Beckett University if you:

- Obtain a Tier 4 Student visa using a CAS from Leeds Beckett University and then do not enrol on your course as expected.

Once you are enrolled at Leeds Beckett University you must inform the university if you:

- Leave your course (for any reason)
- Temporarily suspend your studies (for any reason)
- Change your immigration status
- Change your address
- Change your course
- Transfer to a different institution

You must also allow the university to take copies of your passport/visa/UK Biometric Residence Permit and hold these on file.

Immigration Advice in the UK

If you have any immigration queries or problems once you arrive in the UK, please contact Student Immigration Advice and Compliance. **We are the only department in the University authorised by the Office of the Immigration Services Commission to provide immigration advice to students.**

- *Never rely on immigration advice from someone who is not authorised to give immigration advice (even a well-meaning friend!)*
- You must not breach the conditions of your Tier 4 Student visa or allow your visa to expire. You must remain in full-time study and you must not work more than you are allowed (see above). You must not suspend studies or switch to part-time study without first seeking advice from Student Immigration Advice and Compliance.
- If you do breach any conditions of your visa, this could incur serious consequences including detention, fines or possible removal from the UK.

Contacts

Student Immigration Advice and Compliance

Tel: 0113 812 5735

Email: SIAC@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Important note

Immigration law is subject to change. Please make sure that you have the most up-to-date advice by checking the following websites:

www.gov.uk/visas-immigration

www.ukcisa.org.uk

www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application

Student Immigration Advice and Compliance

We are here to provide Immigration support for you throughout your stay at our University.

We will help you to settle in and adjust although we realise that this may be difficult at first!

We hope you will find that our University has a friendly and supportive atmosphere, and our Adviser is available to talk to you in confidence, regarding immigration issues.

International Student Drop-in sessions take place in the Rose Bowl, City Campus. Please email SIAC@leedsbeckett.ac.uk for details.



The information produced in this leaflet is intended as a guide for international students and is given in good faith. Care has been taken in compiling the information; however, the University accepts no legal responsibility for its accuracy.

www.oisc.org.uk

Designated officer authorised to provide immigration advice and services by an order made under section 84 (4) (d) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and regulated by the Immigration Services Commissioner.

Karen Griffith

Student Immigration Advice and Compliance

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