

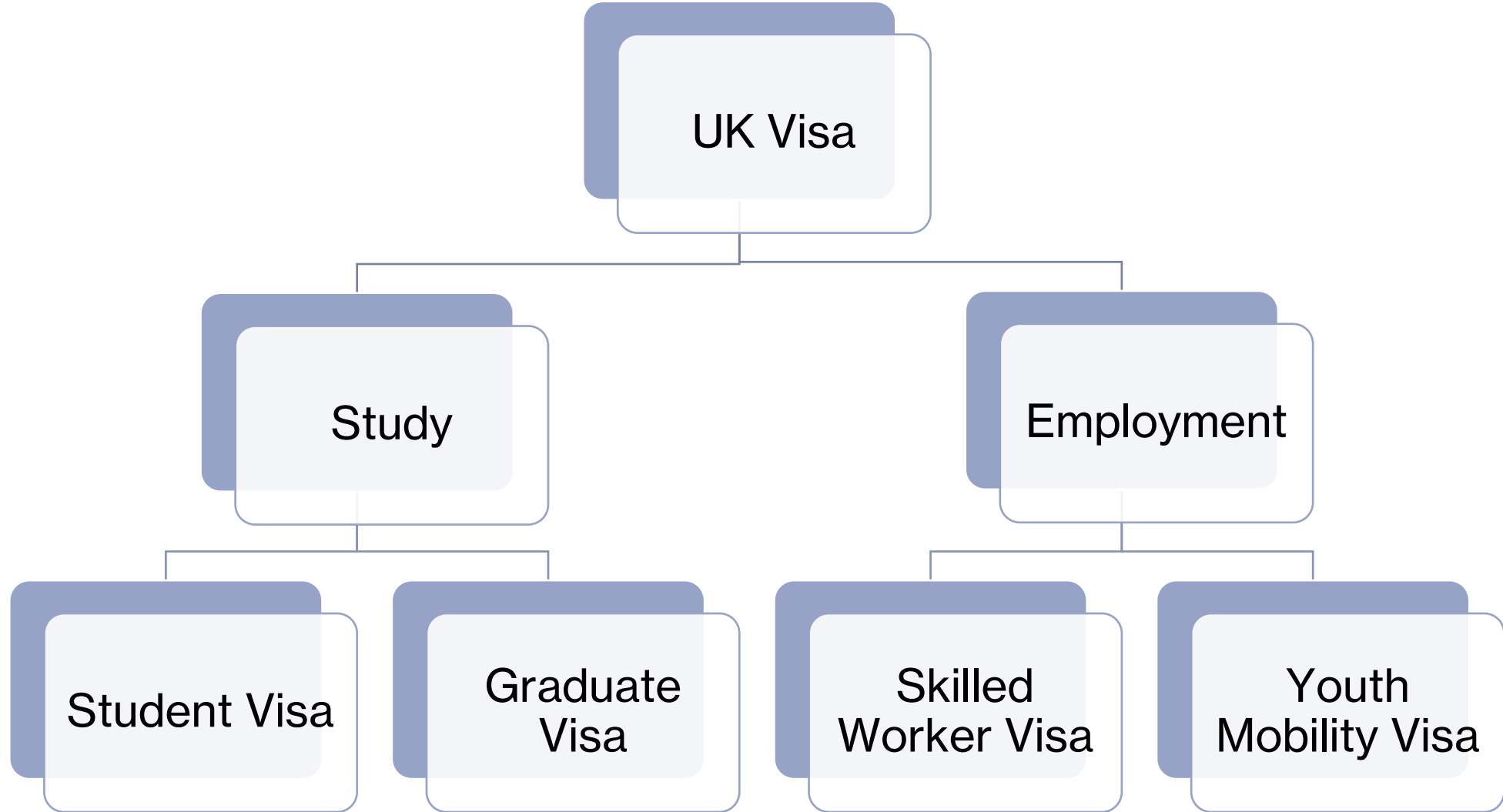


International Student Advice and Guidance

Student Route: Eligibility and UK Visa Requirements

Eligibility and UK Visa Requirements

UK Visa Types



Study in the UK on a Student Visa

Overview

You can apply for a Student visa to study in the UK if you're 16 or over and you:

- have been offered a place on a course by a licensed student sponsor
- have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course
- can speak, read, write and understand English

Applying from outside the UK

The earliest you can apply for a visa is 6 months before you start your course.

You'll usually get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks.

How long you can stay

How long you can stay depends on the length of your course and what study you've already completed in the UK.

If you're 18 or over and your course is at degree level, you can usually stay in the UK for up to 5 years. If it's below degree level, you can usually stay in the UK for up to 2 years.

Study in the UK on a Student Visa

When you can travel to the UK

You can arrive before your course starts. This can be either:

- up to 1 week before, if your course lasts 6 months or less
- up to 1 month before, if your course lasts more than 6 months

You must not travel to the UK before the start date given on your visa, no matter when your course starts.

Fees

It costs:

- £363 to apply for a Student visa from outside the UK

Healthcare surcharge

You'll also have to pay the healthcare surcharge as part of your application.

How much you pay depends on how long your visa lasts. Check how much you'll have to pay before you apply.

Your partner and children

You may be able to bring your partner and children ('dependants').

Study in the UK on a Student Visa

What you can and cannot do

You can:

- study
- work as a student union sabbatical officer

You may be able to work - how much depends on what you're studying and whether you're working in or out of term-time.

You cannot:

- claim public funds (benefits) and pensions
- work in certain jobs, for example as a professional sportsperson or sports coach
- be self-employed
- study at an academy or a local authority-funded school (also known as a maintained school)

Study in the UK on a Student Visa

Your course

You must have an unconditional offer of a place on a course with a licensed student sponsor.

To prove this, your education provider will send you a reference number (called a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)) once they've offered you a place on the course. You need a CAS before you can apply for your visa. You must apply for your visa within 6 months of receiving your CAS.

Courses you can study

You can do one of the following courses:

- a full-time course leading to a qualification that's below degree level (RQF level 3, 4 or 5) with at least 15 hours a week of organised daytime study
- a full-time course leading to a qualification that's degree level or above (RQF level 6, 7 or 8)
- a full-time course at degree level or above (RQF level 6,7 or 8) that's equivalent to a UK higher education course and is being delivered as part of a longer course overseas
- a part-time course leading to a qualification that's above degree level (RQF level 7 or above)
- a recognised foundation programme for postgraduate doctors or dentists
- an English language course at level B2 or above in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Money you need

You must have enough money to pay for your course and support yourself in the UK.

How much money you need depends on your circumstances and what you're applying for.

Course fee

You need enough money to pay for your course for 1 academic year (up to 9 months). The amount you need to pay will be on your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).

How much money you need depends on where you will be studying. You'll need either:

£1,334 per month (for up to 9 months) for courses in London

£1,023 per month (for up to 9 months) for courses outside London

If you're boarding at a residential independent school, you'll need to pay boarding fees instead.

You must have this money for at least 28 consecutive days. The end date of the 28-day period must be within 31 days of the date you apply for your visa.

Example: If you submit your application on 1 January 2021, you'd have to show that the funds were in your bank account for at least the 28-day period ending on 1 December.

Knowledge of English

You must prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply.

You can prove your knowledge of English by:

- passing a Secure English Language Test (SELT) from an approved provider
- having a GCSE, A level, Scottish National Qualification level 4 or 5, Scottish Higher or Advanced Higher in English, gained through study at a UK school that you began when you were under 18

Level of English

You must prove you can read, write, speak and understand English to a certain level on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) scale.

What you’re studying	Level
Degree level or above	Equivalent to CEFR level B2
Below degree level	CEFR level B1

Documents you'll need to apply

When you apply for your Student visa you must provide:

- a current passport or other valid travel documentation
- a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from your course provider

You may also need to provide:

- proof you have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course - this will vary depending on your circumstances
- a valid ATAS certificate if your course and nationality require it
- proof of parental or other legal guardian consent if you're under 18
- proof of your relationship to your parent or guardian if you're under 18
- your tuberculosis test results
- written consent for your application from your financial sponsor if you've received sponsorship for your course fees and living costs in the last 12 months

Apply

You must apply online for a Student visa.

Apply outside the UK

As part of your application, you'll need to prove your identity. How you do this depends on where you're from and what type of passport you have.

You'll do the following:

give your fingerprints and a photograph (biometric information) at a visa application centre

use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to scan your identity document - you'll also create or sign into your UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account

How long it takes to get a decision

You'll usually get a decision within 3 weeks.

After you apply

You'll be contacted if your application is complex and will take longer, for example because:

- your supporting documents need to be verified
- you need to attend an interview
- of your personal circumstances (for example if you have a criminal conviction)
- If you need to change something in your application after you've sent it contact UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).

After you get a decision

If your application is successful, you'll get either:

- a biometric residence permit - if you gave your biometric information at a visa application centre
- a digital immigration status which you can view and prove online - if you used the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app

Your Partner and Children – Dependants

Your partner and children ('dependants') may be able to apply to come to the UK or stay longer in the UK.

You must be one of the following:

- a government-sponsored student starting a course that lasts longer than 6 months
- a full-time student on a postgraduate level course (RQF level 7 or above) that lasts 9 months or longer

Your relationship

A dependant partner or child is one of the following:

- your husband, wife or civil partner
- your unmarried partner
- your child under 18 years old - including if they were born in the UK during your stay

You'll need to provide evidence of your relationship when you apply, for example:

- a marriage or civil partnership certificate for your partner
- a birth certificate for your child

Money they need to support themselves

Your partner and child must each have a certain amount of money available to them. This is in addition to the money you must have to support yourself.

How much money they need depends on where you will be studying. They must have either:

- £845 a month (for up to 9 months) for courses in London
- £680 a month (for up to 9 months) for courses outside London

Your Partner and Children – Dependants

Fees

Each person will need to pay:

- £490 for the visa
- the healthcare surcharge - check how much they'll have to pay

How to apply

Your partner and child must apply online. They must either:

- apply online as your partner inside the UK
- apply online as your child inside the UK

They'll need your application number - you get it when you apply. This number is called a Global Web Form (GWF) or a Unique Application Number (UAN). You'll find it on emails and letters from the Home Office about your application.

As part of their application, they'll be asked to make an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) service point to provide their biometric information (fingerprints and a photo).

They'll also need to submit their supporting documents. They can:

- upload them into the online service
- have them scanned at their UKVCAS appointment

Choosing University in the UK – Check UCAS website

Best Universities for Accountancy Courses

The ‘best’ university for accountancy might depend on a number of factors, such as:

- Student satisfaction
- Average graduate salaries and
- Specific module information.

[UCAS course search](#) offers all this comprehensive data and more to help you decide what’s right for you.

League tables are also a good reference point when choosing a university. Make sure you check the sources of league tables as they can be biased.

The Guardian, The Times and The Complete University Guide are some of the more impartial places to look.

Remember:

University league tables are just one source of information to help you decide on a university course. They can’t tell you whether a course is right for you.

Graduate Visa

Overview

A Graduate visa gives you permission to stay in the UK for at least 2 years after successfully completing a course in the UK. You must be in the UK when you apply.

Eligibility

You can apply for a Graduate visa if all of the following are true:

- you're in the UK
- your current visa is a [Student visa or Tier 4 \(General\) student visa](#)
- you studied a UK bachelor's degree, postgraduate degree or other eligible course for a minimum period of time with your Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa
- your education provider (such as your university or college) has told the Home Office you've successfully completed your course

How long you can stay

A Graduate visa lasts for 2 years. If you have a PHD or other doctoral qualification, it will last for 3 years. Your visa will start from the day your application is approved.

How to apply

You must [apply online](#).

[Your partner and children](#) can also apply to stay in the UK if they are eligible.

Graduate Visa

When to apply

You must apply before your Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa expires.

You can apply after your education provider (such as your university or college) has told the Home Office that you've successfully completed the course you took with your Student or Tier 4 (General) student visa. You do not have to wait until you've graduated or have been given a certificate.

How much it costs

When you apply for a Graduate visa, you'll need to:

- pay the £715 application fee
- pay the healthcare surcharge - this is usually £624 for each year you'll be in the UK

What you can and cannot do

With a Graduate visa you can:

- work in most jobs
- look for work
- be self-employed
- continue living in the UK with your partner and children, if they're eligible
- do voluntary work
- travel abroad and return to the UK

You cannot:

- apply for most benefits (public funds), or the State Pension
- work as a professional sportsperson

If your application is successful, you'll get a full list of what you can and cannot do with a Graduate visa.

Skilled Worker Visa

Overview

A Skilled Worker visa allows you to come to or stay in the UK to do an eligible job with an approved employer. This visa has replaced the Tier 2 (General) work visa.

Eligibility

Your job

To qualify for a Skilled Worker visa, you must:

- work for a UK employer that's been approved by the Home Office
- have a 'certificate of sponsorship' from your employer with information about the role you've been offered in the UK
- do a job that's on the list of eligible occupations
- be paid a minimum salary - how much depends on the type of work you do

Knowledge of English

You must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. You'll usually need to prove your knowledge of English when you apply.

How long you can stay

Your visa can last for up to 5 years before you need to extend it. You'll need to apply to extend or update your visa when it expires or if you change jobs or employer.

Skilled Worker Visa

If you want to stay longer in the UK

You can apply to extend your visa as many times as you like as long as you still meet the eligibility requirements. After 5 years, you may be able to apply to settle permanently in the UK (also known as 'indefinite leave to remain'). This gives you the right to live, work and study here for as long as you like, and apply for benefits if you're eligible.

Your job

You must meet all of the following requirements to be eligible for a Skilled Worker visa:

- your job is eligible for this visa
- you'll be working for a UK employer that's been approved by the Home Office
- you'll be paid at least the minimum salary for the type of work you'll be doing

The minimum salary for the type of work you'll be doing is whichever is the highest out of the following 3 options:

- £26,200 per year
- £10.75 per hour
- the 'going rate' for the type of work you'll be doing

Skilled Worker Visa

Approved UK employers

You must have a job offer from an approved UK employer before you apply for a Skilled Worker visa. Approved employers are also known as sponsors, because they are sponsoring you to come to or stay in the UK.

View the [list of approved UK employers](#).

If your employer is not currently approved, they can [apply for a sponsor licence](#) if they're eligible.

If you already have a job offer from an approved employer

Your employer - also known as your sponsor - will check that you meet the eligibility requirements. They'll give you a 'certificate of sponsorship' to prove this.

The certificate of sponsorship is an electronic record, not a physical document. It will have a reference number, which you'll need for your visa application.

You must apply for your visa within 3 months of getting your certificate of sponsorship.

Skilled Worker Visa

Level of English

You must prove you can read, write, speak and understand English to at least level B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) scale.

You can prove your knowledge of English by:

- passing a Secure English Language Test (SELT) from an approved provider
- having a GCSE, A level, Scottish National Qualification level 4 or 5, Scottish Higher or Advanced Higher in English, gained through study at a UK school that you began when you were under 18
- having a degree-level academic qualification that was taught in English - if you studied abroad, you'll need to apply through Ecctis (formerly UK NARIC) for confirmation that your qualification is equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD

Skilled Worker Visa

How much it costs

When you apply for a Skilled Worker visa, you'll need to have enough money to:

- pay the application fee - the standard fee ranges from £625 to £1,423 depending on your circumstances
- pay the healthcare surcharge - this is usually £624 per year
- support yourself when you arrive in the UK - you'll usually need to have at least £1,270 available (unless you're exempt)

You'll pay a lower application fee if your job is on the shortage occupation list.

If your job is on the shortage occupation list

You and your family will pay a lower application fee if your job is on the [shortage occupation list](#).

The fee for each person applying is:

- £479 if you're staying for up to 3 years
- £943 if you're staying for more than 3 years

The fee is the same whether you're applying from inside or outside the UK.

Money to support yourself

You must have at least £1,270 in your bank account to show you can support yourself in the UK.

Skilled Worker Visa

Documents you'll need to apply

When you apply you'll need to provide:

- your certificate of sponsorship reference number - your employer will give you this
- proof of your knowledge of English
- a valid passport or other document that shows your identity and nationality
- your job title and annual salary
- your job's occupation code
- the name of your employer and their sponsor licence number - this will be on your certificate of sponsorship

Your partner and children

Your partner and children can also apply to join you or stay in the UK as your 'dependants' if they're eligible. They'll need to complete separate applications.

Your relationship

A dependant partner or child is any of the following:

- your husband, wife, civil partner or unmarried partner
- your child under 18 - including if they were born in the UK during your stay
- your child over 18 if they're currently in the UK as your dependant

Skilled Worker Visa

Money they need to support themselves

Your partner and children must have a certain amount of money available to support themselves while they're in the UK.

You - or your partner or child - will need:

- £285 for your partner
- £315 for one child
- £200 for each additional child

Thank You

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