

FACTSHEET: THE STUDENT ROUTE

**SMITH
STONE
WALTERS**

Immigration Practice

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

On 5 October 2020, the Tier 4 (General) student route closed and was replaced by the Student visa route.

This new and improved immigration route is open to both EU and non-EU nationals who have been offered a place on a course by a licensed student sponsor.

Forming part of the UK's points-based immigration system, applicants must score the requisite 70 points by demonstrating that they have an offer to study at an approved educational institution (50 points), they can speak English (10 points) and they are able to support themselves financially throughout their studies in the UK (10 points).

This guide provides an overview of the Student route and the application process, and addresses some frequently asked questions.

WHO CAN APPLY?

To be eligible to apply for a Student visa, you must:

- Have an unconditional offer of a place on a course with a licenced student sponsor
- Have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course
- Prove that you can speak, read, write and understand English
- Have consent from your parents if you are 16 or 17.

You will also need to meet the [financial requirement](#) and the [English language requirement](#) when you apply for a Student visa.

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY?

How long you can stay depends on the length of your course and what study you have 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.

WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT DO

On a Student visa, you can:

- Study
- Work as a Student Union Sabbatical Officer
- You may be able to work in some circumstances

You cannot:

- Claim public funds, including benefits or pensions
- Work in certain jobs, such as a professional sportsperson, sports coach or entertainer.
- Fill a full-time, permanent vacancy, unless certain conditions apply
- Be self-employed or engage in business activity

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost to apply for a Student visa is:

- £348 if you are applying from outside the UK
- £475 if you are applying to extend or switch to this visa from inside the UK

You will need to pay the same visa application fee for any dependant applicants that will be accompanying you to the UK. You will also need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS).





HOW TO APPLY

Once your education provider has offered you a place on the course, they will send you a reference number called a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). You will need this reference number in order to apply. You must apply for your visa within 6 months of receiving your CAS.

Applications for Student visas are submitted online via the gov.uk website. As part of the application process, you will need to prove your identity either by attending a Visa Application Centre (VAC) or by using the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to scan your identity document.

AFTER YOU APPLY

You will usually receive a decision within 3 weeks if you are applying from outside the UK, or within 8 weeks if you are applying to extend or switch to this visa from inside the UK.

If your application is successful, you will receive either:

- A Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) 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.

Please contact Smith Stone Walters for more information regarding Student visas.

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