Tier 4 Student Visas

Applying for Tier 4 student visas in the UK
FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

How much will a student visa cost?
Please see the UKBA website for the current application fee; [http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students/visa-fees/#n](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students/visa-fees/#n)

How long will it take to process my application?
Postal applications take between 3-14 weeks after biometrics, in-person applications take approximately 10 days.

How long will I be granted a student visa for?
You will be granted a student visa for the full length of your course and at the end of your course you will be given extra time to finalise your affairs and leave the UK, or apply to extend your stay as a student or switch into another category.

Courses of 12 months or more
- If you are studying a course at degree level or above for 12 months or more e.g. BA, BSc, MSc, MA or PhD you can expect an additional 4 months after the end of your course.

Courses of less than 12 months
- If you are studying a course at degree level or above for 6 months or more, but less than 12 months, you can expect an additional 2 months after the end of your course.
- If you are studying a course at degree level or above for less than 6 months you can expect an additional 7 days after the end of your course.

Pre-sessional courses
- If you are studying a pre-sessional course of less than 6 months you can expect an additional month after the end of your course.

Study Abroad
- If you are studying a 'study abroad' programme for 6 months or more, but less than 12 months, you can expect an additional 2 months after the end of your course.
- If you are studying a 'study abroad' programme for less than 6 months you can expect an additional 7 days after the end of your course.

However, if you have official sponsorship and your sponsor limits the time you may study in the UK the student visa will be given for the same length of time.

Can I apply for an extension of my student visa to resit an examination or repeat my studies?
You may be able to apply for an extension to your student visa to resit examinations or repeat any part of your course, however, there are certain restrictions to this. You should speak to your Faculty Office, if they can issue a CAS then you can make an extension to your student visa. If they are unable to issue you with a CAS to support your studies you will be expected to return home. In this case please contact the International Advice and Support office for assistance.

My current visa expires more than one month before my new course starts, can I extend my visa?
No, if your visa expires more than one month before the start date of your proposed course, you will be expected to return overseas and apply for a new visa from outside the UK. Your new application must be made in the country where you made your original student application. If you apply from within the UK your application will be refused.

This information is for guidance purposes only and does not intend to be a full representation of the immigration rules. For full details please see the UK Border Agency (UKBA) website; [http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students/) and see paras 245ZT to 245ZZD of the immigration rules for requirements of the general student category; [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/) These guidelines are always subject to change, so please ensure that you download relevant guidance/application forms at the time of applying.

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