

Transferring course and your Student visa

You are required to have a transfer form signed by a Student Visa Adviser to confirm that you have had immigration advice before starting your new course. This is because:

- transferring course could affect your Student/Tier 4 visa and you may be required to apply for a new Student visa before starting the new course. For some course transfers this visa application must be made in your home country – see below
- if you start the new course and the transfer is not allowed on your current Student/Tier 4 visa this is a breach of your immigration study condition
- if you start the new course and stop attending your original course you may find it is too late to return to your original course.

Transfer forms can be signed via email student-visa-advice@bristol.ac.uk

You will only be allowed to transfer course with your current Student/Tier 4 visa if:

1. Your current visa is long enough to complete the new course AND
2. Your new course is at degree level or above AND
3. Your new course is not at a lower level (than the course you want to transfer from) AND
4. Your new course is the same area of study (as the course you want to transfer from) AND
5. You can complete the new course within the UKVI time limits on how long you can study in the UK for. The adviser will check this for you. Please see the [UKVI Student Visa Policy Guidance](#) for further details about the time limits

If you do not meet all the above requirements, you must apply for a new Student visa before starting the new course. This requirement does not apply if you are adding a study abroad or work placement year to your course – you can apply for a new visa before or after the additional year. For some transfers you will be required to apply in your home country.

You can apply for a new Student visa in the UK if:

1. Your transfer is an upgrade on an integrated course, e.g. integrated BEng to MEng courses or integrated MPhil to PhD OR
2. You are adding a study abroad or work placement year to your course.

You must return to your home country and apply for a new Student visa if you cannot meet the requirements above. The following are examples of transfers requiring a visa application made in your home country:

1. You transfer to a new course and your current visa is not long enough to cover this (unless you are upgrading as part of an integrated course, or you are adding a study abroad or work placement year to your course)
2. You are transferring to a new course that is in a different area of study from your original course.

Downgrading Students information –

If you downgrade courses, e.g. MEng to BEng/MSci to BSci/PhD to MRes/PhD to MPhil. You no longer have to apply for a new visa at the point of transfer, but instead may complete the lower-level Programme on your current visa.

Please visit our website for more information: [Transferring your course | Directory of Professional Services | University of Bristol](#)

Course transfers can take place at the following times:

- Mid-academic year – if you meet the transfer requirements and are allowed to transfer course with your current Student/Tier 4 visa OR
- Mid-academic year – if you are transferring to a course where you can apply for a new Student visa within the UK. However, you will only be able to transfer to the new course when you apply for the new Student visa OR
- End of the academic year – if you are required to apply for a new Student visa from your home country. The advisers will state on your transfer form that the transfer should be processed at the end of the academic year so you can travel home during the summer vacation and apply for a new visa before starting the new course without disrupting your studies.

Applying for your new visa

If you need a new visa, you will need a new CAS. Please email us to arrange for a CAS Eligibility Form to be completed. An adviser will also explain the visa requirements to you. Please see our website for information regarding [how to apply for a Student visa](#) and what supporting documents are required.