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PATHWAYS



# Extending your UK Student visa: What you need to know

[kaplanpathways.com/visa-advice](https://kaplanpathways.com/visa-advice)

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## Applying in the UK

Student visa holders may be able to apply in the UK. Short-term student or visitor visa holders cannot. Other students should check with the college. In order to apply for Student permission to stay, under the points-based system, you are required to receive 70 points:

- 50 points for the CAS statement which the college will give you.
- 10 points for the financial requirement.
- 10 points for English Language requirement

## If I am on a Student visa, can I apply in the UK?

Yes, if you match all of the following criteria:

- Your current visa allows you to apply in the UK (please note short-term Student or Visitor visa holders cannot apply in the UK).
- You have successfully completed your previous course or you are applying for an extension to repeat a term or retake an exam.
- You are progressing to a higher level course (from Foundation Certificate to International Year One or to university) or you are applying for an extension to repeat a term or retake an exam.
- You still have time left on your visa.
- Your next course starts within 28 days of your visa expiring.

If you match the above criteria, you can choose whether to apply in the UK or go home. Please contact us to check whether it is better to go home or not.

## What documents and information do I need to provide?

- Your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number.
- Your Secure English Language Test (SELT) reference number or evidence that you are exempt
- Valid passport
- Your current visa, Biometric Residence Permit (BRP), or online immigration status
- Bank statement / bank letter or financial guarantee
- The academic qualification listed on your CAS - if you are progressing to university this will be your Kaplan transcript

If you are under 18, you also need to provide these additional documents:

- A letter of consent to travel signed by both of your parents (or one parent if they have sole custody).
- A birth certificate, legal adoption paper, or any other equivalent document, as proof of your relationship to your parents or legal guardians.

## What is a CAS statement?

Your CAS statement (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) is the document that certifies your study plans in the UK. The statement confirms that we want to sponsor you to study in the UK, what course(s) you will study, and the tuition fees. On your CAS statement, you will find a unique reference number (your CAS number), which you will need when you apply for your Student visa.

The earliest you can apply for Student permission to stay is 3 months before your new course starts. You will not usually receive your CAS before this time. College staff will contact you to talk about getting a new CAS.

**Please note:** your CAS statement is an electronic document that we will send to you via email. You will not receive a paper copy.

## English language requirement

### If you are applying to study at a Kaplan International Pathway college:

Unless you are exempt, you will need to provide a UKVI-approved Secure English language Test (SELT). The test must have been taken in the last 2 years and show you have a minimum of B1 level in all skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening). If you have met the English language requirement for a previous Student visa application then you will not need to provide a new SELT.

### If you are progressing to university:

Most of our partner universities accept the Kaplan English Language Exit Test as proof of your English language level. Therefore you can provide your Kaplan transcript with your university visa application and will not require a SELT. If your university does require you to provide a SELT, this will be detailed in your university CAS statement.

There are also some other exceptions which are outlined at: [gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english). Please check with your college or university to see if you are required to provide a SELT certificate with your application.

## Visa and immigration rules change regularly!\*

Check the UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) website: [www.gov.uk/student-visa](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa)

\*It is the sole responsibility of the student to arrange all applicable travel permits or visas and to have a valid passport and leave to remain for the whole period of study. In no way shall Kaplan International Pathways be responsible or liable to the student in respect to or in connection with the required travel permit or visa (including rejected and refused applications).

## Financial Requirement

- You will need to show evidence that you have enough money to cover any outstanding tuition fees and living costs.
- Your CAS will confirm your total fees and how much you have paid so far. If you have paid additional fees which are not shown on the CAS, you should provide a fee payment receipt with your application.
- All students will need to show monthly living costs for the duration of their course, up to a maximum of 9 months. Even if your course is longer than 9 months, you do not need to show more than 9 months' maintenance. College staff can help you calculate how much if you're not sure.

### Living costs:

- £1,023 per month if you study OUTSIDE London.
- £1,334 per month if you study INSIDE London.

Accommodation fees paid directly to your college or university can also be deducted from your maintenance requirements, up to a maximum of £1,334.

For applications made from 2 January 2025, the monthly living costs requirement will increase to £1,136 outside London and £1,483 in London. The amount that can be deducted for accommodation payments will increase to £1,483.

### Example 1:

You have completed a 2-term Foundation Certificate. You will now study a 2-term International Year One (IYO) outside London, starting in September and finishing in June. The fees for the IYO are £11,400 and you have paid £5,000.

**Tuition fees:** £11,400 - £5,000 = £6,400  
**Living costs:** £1,023 x 9 months = £9,207  
**Total money required:** £15,607

### Example 2:

You have completed your IYO in July and will now progress to a 3-year degree outside London through UPS (University Placement Service). Your degree course starts in September and your visa expires in October. The fees for the degree are £12,000 per year and you have paid a £2,000 deposit.

**Tuition fees:** £12,000 - £2,000 = £10,000  
**Living costs:** £1,023 x 9 months = £9,207 (even though the degree is 3 years, you only show 9 months)  
**Total money required:** £19,207

If you are applying for Student permission to stay in the UK and you have already been in the UK for more than 12 months, you will not need to show financial evidence with your application.

## Funding method 1: Self-funded

**You must provide a bank statement or bank letter that meets specific requirements set out by the Home Office. The bank statement must:**

- show the bank's name and logo.
- be on official stationery or an electronic record.
- show the account holder's full name and account details (account number and address).
- show the date of the closing balance.
- show the balance of the account.
- show the currency (if it is not in the national currency of the country where the bank is located).
- show funds held in cash and that they are immediately available (not frozen). Stocks and shares, investment accounts or credit cards are not acceptable.
- show that the required balance has been held continuously for 28 days:
  - keep the minimum required balance in your account until after you submit your visa application.
  - the balance must not go below the required amount, even by 1 pence! at least that amount must be in the account on the date of the closing balance (the last transaction date).
- have a closing balance date which is no more than 31 days before the date of your application:
  - UKVI will take the last transaction as the closing balance date unless the closing balance date is specified elsewhere.

**UKVI may contact your bank to verify your funds, so make sure your bank statement has a direct contact number and let your bank know you are applying for a UK visa.**

**You may also use money held by a parent or legal guardian. In addition to a bank statement or bank letter, you must also provide the following:**

- A birth certificate or equivalent document naming the account holder as your parent, or an official document naming the account holder as your legal guardian.
- a signed letter from the account holder giving you permission to use their money for your studies.

You can use a UK or overseas bank statement for your application. A UK bank statement might be easier for the Home Office to understand and verify.

**Please note:** If the currency is not GBP, please use [oanda.com/currency/converter](https://www.oanda.com/currency/converter) to check that the amount held is enough when converted to GBP. We recommend you allow £500 extra in case of major currency fluctuations.

## Funding method 2: Government sponsored

**You must provide a financial guarantee letter on official letter-headed paper, issued for your current period of study. It should be stamped, and show:**

- your name.
- the name and contact details of your official financial sponsor.
- the date of the letter — if not recent, you should consider asking for an updated one.
- the length of your sponsorship.
- the amount of money the sponsor is giving to you, or it should say that your sponsor will pay for all your fees and living costs.
- if your financial sponsor is not covering all your fees and living costs, you will need to provide a bank statement to show the remaining amount.

### Differential evidence requirement.

Certain countries are subject to differential evidence requirements. This means that when you submit your visa application, you do not need to provide financial evidence or academic qualifications. You will still need to provide mandatory documents such as your passport, previous visas and BRPs, TB certificates and U18 documents (where applicable).

You will still have to prepare all these documents, as UKVI reserve the right to request these documents at any time during the processing of applications. If you are unable to provide them, or the documents are not suitable, then you will be refused. To avoid refusal, your academic agent or the visa counsellor will check all documents for students.

### Nationals of the following countries are subject to the differential evidence requirement.

- |                      |                          |                 |                            |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| • Australia          | • Denmark                | • Latvia        | • Romania                  |
| • Austria            | • The Dominican Republic | • Liechtenstein | • Serbia                   |
| • Bahrain            | • Estonia                | • Lithuania     | • Singapore                |
| • Barbados           | • Finland                | • Luxembourg    | • Slovakia                 |
| • Belgium            | • France                 | • Malaysia      | • Slovenia                 |
| • Botswana           | • Germany                | • Malta         | • South Korea              |
| • Brazil             | • Greece                 | • Mauritius     | • Spain                    |
| • Brunei             | • Hungary                | • Mexico        | • Sweden                   |
| • Bulgaria           | • Iceland                | • Netherlands   | • Switzerland              |
| • Cambodia           | • Indonesia              | • New Zealand   | • Thailand                 |
| • Canada             | • Ireland                | • Norway        | • Tunisia                  |
| • Chile              | • Italy                  | • Oman          | • United Arab Emirates     |
| • China              | • Japan                  | • Peru          | • United States of America |
| • Croatia            | • Kazakhstan             | • Poland        |                            |
| • Republic of Cyprus | • Kuwait                 | • Portugal      |                            |
| • Czech Republic     |                          | • Qatar         |                            |

British National (Overseas), Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan passport holders are also subject to different documentary requirements if applying from the relevant territory or from within the UK. For more information, visit: [gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/appendix-st-student](https://gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/appendix-st-student)

## CAS

You must have a valid CAS number from your college or university, and it must be written correctly on your visa application form. Make sure you read the full CAS statement and check the details carefully. Pay particular attention to your passport number, ensuring it matches your current passport. You should contact us immediately if the CAS statement contains any errors.

### The CAS shows:

- name of study
- name of study
- SELT score (or details of exemption)
- date of birth
- level of course
- tuition fees cost
- gender
- course start date
- tuition fees paid
- nationality
- course end date
- accommodation fees paid
- country of birth
- your academic documents

## Academic qualifications

You must provide certificates and / or transcripts that match the ones written on your CAS statement. This might be your Kaplan transcript or it could be your transcript from your home country.

**If any of your documents are not in English, you must provide formal translations.**

### The translations must show the following:

- confirmation that the translation is accurate.
- the translator's (or company's) name, and credentials.
- the translator's contact details (including the company details).
- date of the translation.
- signature of the translator / translation official.

## How to extend your visa in the UK

You will first need to complete an online application before attending a UKVCAS centre ([ukvcas.co.uk](http://ukvcas.co.uk)) where you will have your passport and any required documents scanned. You may need to pay for your appointment and you will need to pay extra if you would like a faster decision. In some cases, UKVI will invite you to use an app instead of attending an appointment. The app is free to use.

Service	Processing time	Processing fee	Instructions
Standard	up to 8 weeks	£490	Pay for the Standard service and book an appointment at your local VCAS centre.
Priority	5 working days	£990	Pay for the Priority service and book an appointment at your local VCAS centre.
Super Priority	1 day	£1490	Pay for the Super Priority service and book an appointment at your local VCAS centre.

Fees correct at the time of publishing - check [gov.uk/visa-fees](http://gov.uk/visa-fees) for latest fees.

## Appointment fees

After you submit your online application you need to book an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) centre. Some appointments are free, but you may need to pay for certain times and locations. Visit [ukvcas.co.uk](http://ukvcas.co.uk) for more information. In some cases, UKVI might invite you to complete your application on a smartphone app instead of attending an appointment. This app is free to use.

The date you pay for your application is the date of application, so make sure you complete this step before your current visa expires.

Submit your application online by registering at: [www.gov.uk/student-visa/extend-your-visa](http://www.gov.uk/student-visa/extend-your-visa)

## Immigration health surcharge

As well as paying the visa application fees, you will also be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge. For more details please visit: [gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application](http://gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application)

## What happens after I apply?

If you submitted your online application while your visa was still valid, even if it has now expired, you are legally allowed to stay in the UK and study until your application is decided. You will be treated as having a valid visa.

You must attend an appointment at a UKVCAS centre in the UK (unless you were able to complete your application using the smartphone app) with your passport, current BRP and any other required documents. At the appointment, your documents will be scanned and sent to UKVI before being returned to you. You will also have your biometrics (fingerprints and photo) taken.

If you do not attend your appointment, your application will be rejected as invalid and you will need to leave the UK if your previous visa has expired.

You must not leave the UK while your application is in progress. If you do, your application will automatically be withdrawn.

## e-Visas

As of 31 October 2024, UKVI no longer issues Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs). If you extend your Student permission in the UK you will be asked to register for a UKVI account to access an online status called an e-Visa. You can share this e-Visa with your college or university. More information is available here: [gov.uk/guidance/online-immigration-status-evisa](http://gov.uk/guidance/online-immigration-status-evisa)

## Frequently Asked Questions...

### **My university is telling me to go home, but I think I can apply in the UK – who should I contact?**

Please email [kaplanups@kaplan.com](mailto:kaplanups@kaplan.com) to check with them – you may not need to go home!

### **When should I apply?**

You should try to submit your application online at least 1 month before your visa expires. You must ensure that you have paid for the application online before your visa expires.

### **How much will it cost?**

The standard service costs £490, the priority service costs £990 and the super priority service costs £1290.

### **How do I pay the application fee?**

You will be asked to pay when you have completed the online application form. You can pay with a debit or credit card.

### **How should I send my application to UKVI?**

Submit your online application, then attend an appointment at your local UKVCAS centre with your passport, BRP and any other required documents. In some cases you can complete your application on UKVI's smartphone app and you will not need to attend an appointment.

### **How long will my application take?**

You should allow up to 3 months for the standard service but if you pay extra it can take a few days. Do not book any travel outside the UK until you have received your new BRP or online status.

### **Will I need to have an interview?**

You may be sent an email requesting you to come for an interview. If you receive this email, please tell the college immediately.

### **I've lost my BRP, should I get a new one before I apply for my new visa?**

UKVI no longer issue replacement BRPs. Instead, you will need to register for a UKVI account in order to access your e-Visa. Register here: [gov.uk/get-access-evisa](https://www.gov.uk/get-access-evisa)

### **I have finished studying – my next course starts in 2 months, but my visa expires before then and I will need a new visa. Can I apply in the UK?**

Only if you apply before your visa expiry date, and your new course will start within 28 days of this date.

### **I have finished studying – my next course starts in a few months, but my visa will not expire before then. Can I stay in the UK?**

You can stay in the UK as long as you have a valid visa, but you can only apply for an extension if the new course will start within 28 days of your visa expiry.

### **Can I start my new course on my old visa, before I get my new visa?**

You must submit your online application and book an appointment at the local UKVCAS centre. Most colleges and universities will allow you to enrol with proof that you have submitted and paid for your online application.



@ kaplanups@kaplan.com

+44 (0)20 7045 4925

✉ Kaplan International Pathways  
Palace House  
3 Cathedral Street  
London  
SE1 9DE

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