

## Applying for a visa

**Unless you hold a valid EU passport you will be required to obtain a visa. In previous years students who have arrived without a visa have been deported.**

General Course students must apply for the General Student visa (The Student Visitor visa and the Tourist visa are not valid for General Course students). A student visa cannot be issued on arrival to the UK. **You must apply for a visa before you arrive in the UK** from your nearest British diplomatic post (Embassy or High Commission).

You can apply for a General Student visa up to three months before the General Course starts. You should therefore aim to apply as early as possible within this three month period once you have received your Visa Letter from LSE.

### **A step by step guide to applying for a General Student visa:**

1. LSE provides you with a Visa Letter once you hold an unconditional offer. The Visa Letter is the letter of sponsorship for your programme of study. The Visa Letter sets out basic information about you, data about the General Course, any amounts paid toward tuition fees or accommodation to date, and crucially the letter stipulates which key document (typically the most recent transcript from your home institution) the School reviewed in making the decision to grant you an offer.
2. You complete a UK Government visa application form (either on paper or online) and book an appointment to provide (in person) your biometric data to the local visa processing centre. You can find contact details of your nearest diplomatic post and details of the application process at [www.fco.gov.uk/en](http://www.fco.gov.uk/en).
3. You send a copy of your visa application with the required documents (as specified on the visa application form), which will include your passport; LSE Visa Letter; evidence (official transcript containing your recent grades) of the qualification listed on your Visa Letter and financial documents to the local visa processing centre. The UK Border Agency have set a minimum amount of money they require students to have access to for funding their stay in the UK. For students studying at LSE or elsewhere in London the maintenance level has been set at £800 a month up to a maximum of £7,200 a year. You must provide evidence that you have money to cover maintenance costs for the full year of your studies plus funds to cover the first year of your tuition fees.
4. You attend your biometric appointment and provide your biometric data.
5. Once your biometric data has been provided your visa application will be assessed by the local UK Government Entry Clearance Officer (ECO).
6. The ECO will return the documents to you either with the decision on your visa application or with a request for you to attend an appointment.

Further information about applying for a General Student visa can be found at:  
[www.lse.ac.uk/VisasAndImmigration/VisaInformationForOfferholders.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/VisasAndImmigration/VisaInformationForOfferholders.htm)  
[www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/)  
[www.ukcisa.org.uk/](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/)