



Registering on a Full Time Programme with a Visa – August 2016

This guidance is based on frequently asked questions. It is not intended to be used on its own and you should always refer to the guidance on the [ISVAT](#) web pages and the [New Student Programme Registration](#) pages.

I applied for my Tier 4 visa outside the UK. What evidence of my immigration permission do I need to show at registration?

If you applied for your Tier 4 visa outside the UK, you should bring:

- The decision letter from the UKVI for your visa application;
- Your passport with the temporary vignette;
- Your [Biometric Residence Permit \(BRP\)](#).

Do I have to collect my BRP before registering?

You should try to collect your BRP from the Post Office before your date of registration. Not only will it make the registration process at LSE much quicker for you, but you will be able to open a bank account, prove your right to rent, register with a doctor and register with the Police (if required) much quicker. The start of your studies will be much smoother if you have all of your immigration documents available.

What happens if I don't collect my BRP before registering?

If you don't collect your BRP before registering, you will not have full registration status at the School and will need to come back to register fully when you do receive your BRP. We recommend that you collect your BRP as soon as possible after arrival to the UK. Non-collection of your BRP before the expiry of your vignette can affect your ability to attend your programme.

I have a Tier 4 visa for another institution. Can I start my new programme at LSE before applying for a new Tier 4 visa?

No. You can only register for your programme using a valid Tier 4 visa for LSE or if you can provide evidence that you have applied for a new Tier 4 visa, using your LSE CAS, before your current Tier 4 expired.

I have a Tier 4 application in progress outside the UK. Can I register with evidence of this?

No. We can only register you with evidence that you have a Tier 4 application in progress in the UK. If you have applied for a Tier 4 visa outside the UK and do not have a decision by the date you need to register, please contact [ISVAT](#) for advice.

My previous visa was not a Tier 4 visa. Can I register with an application in progress in the UK?

No. If your previous visa was under a different immigration route e.g. Tier 2 you must have your visa in place before registering. The UKVI will only allow you to start a programme with an application in progress if your previous visa was a Tier 4 visa and the rules allowed you to apply in the UK.

What documents can I use to prove I have a Tier 4 application in progress?

If you are planning to register when you have a Tier 4 application in progress, you will need to provide:

- A copy of the photo page of your passport;
- A copy of your previous visa (vignette for the full length of the course or BRP);
- Evidence that you submitted your new Tier 4 visa before your current visa expired. This can be the coversheet which shows the date of submission or a letter from the UKVI, such as a biometrics invitation letter.

I already have a Tier 4 visa for LSE from my previous programme. Can I use this to register for my new programme?

If your previous Tier 4 visa for LSE is still valid, you will be able to register for your new programme using this visa. However, you will need to make a new Tier 4 application within six weeks of registration or the expiry date of your visa, whichever is sooner.

Can I register for a full-time degree programme using a Short-term Student visa?

No. You cannot register for a full-time degree programme using a Short-term Student visa.

I have a non-Tier 4 visa which permits me to study in the UK. Will I be able to register?

Yes, depending on when your current immigration permission expires. You may be referred to speak to the International Student Visa Advice Team during registration if there are any questions about your immigration permission.

Can I register for a full-time programme using a Tier 2 visa?

Yes, but there are additional documents that you will be required to provide to the registration team. As well as your passport and vignette/BRP, you will need to provide evidence from your employer that they are aware you are undertaking a full-time degree programme.

The intention of the Tier 2 visa is to work in the UK. Whilst study is permitted, it should not affect your employment.

I am a dependant of a Points Based System migrant e.g. Tier 4. Do I need to provide additional documentation at registration?

Yes, you will need to provide evidence that the person you are dependent on is still in the UK and that you are living together. The immigration rules state that to be eligible for the dependant visa you must be living together. Subject to your circumstances, we may be unable to register you, if you are not living with the person you are dependent on.

I am a diplomat and am exempt from immigration control. Do I need to prove that I am based in the UK?

Yes. Diplomats are only exempt from immigration control if they are based in the UK. You will need to provide evidence of your diplomatic placement at registration.

I'm the family member of an EU/EEA national. How can I prove that they are accessing their right of free movement?

If you hold an EEA Family Permit/Residence Permit, you are only able to study on this if the EEA/EU national is accessing their right of free movement in the UK. You will need to provide evidence at registration that you are living with the EU/EEA national in the UK to be able to register.

I have Indefinite Leave to Remain, but the expiry date of my BRP is during my programme. Is this a problem?

No, you will be able to register. However, the Registry will ask you to provide up-to-date evidence of your Indefinite Leave to Remain, once you have received it.

I'm waiting for evidence of my EU/EEA nationality but have entered the UK on a different passport as a tourist. Can I register for my programme?

No. If you cannot prove that you have entered as an EU national and have entered as a tourist whilst waiting for your documentation, you will not be able to register for your programme.

If you plan to use your EU/EEA nationality to study then you will need to have the documentation in place before registration.

Why do you need to make all of these checks at registration?

As Tier 4 Sponsor Licence holders, LSE is required to check every student's ability to study in the UK. We do this for all students, including UK and EU/EEA nationals.

What happens if my immigration status is unclear at registration?

If you have a Tier 4 (General) visa for LSE and have collected a BRP which shows the full length of your programme, registration will be quicker and more straightforward. This is why we advise that you collect your BRP before registering.

If you have a non-Tier 4 visa, a Tier 4 application for LSE in progress or do not have your BRP yet, you are likely to be referred to a specialist at registration. The specialist team handles the wide variety of immigration permissions and immigration applications that we see each year at LSE. If you are required to speak to a specialist, it is to ensure we are registering you correctly based on your immigration status. It may take slightly longer, but will not delay you too much.

Sometimes a specialist may need to refer you to the International Student Visa Advice Team (ISVAT). This may be because you are unable to be registered and you need advice on the options available to you.

If you are referred to ISVAT, you will be given an appointment time to attend. If it is an urgent case, the member of staff registering you may ask ISVAT to speak to you immediately. In this case, ISVAT will come to speak to you in person. The person registering you will assess whether you need an appointment or need urgent assistance based on your circumstances.

If you are unable to register due to your immigration status, you *must not* attend teaching because it is against the law. Your department will be advised that that you are not permitted to attend teaching.

Whilst this may seem restrictive, the main thing to remember is that these processes protect you whilst studying with us at the LSE.

Who do I contact for help?

For further immigration advice [contact the ISVAT team online](#).

Further information on [Tier 4 compliance](#) can be found on our web pages.

Information on [Welcome Week](#) can be found on our web pages.