



Meeting the Financial Requirements for a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa - June 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. The financial requirements for the Tier 4 visa are very strict and it is the main area where LSE students receive a refusal for their visa application.

How much money do I need to have?

You must be able to show the first year of your course fees as stated on your CAS plus living costs of £1,265 per month up to a maximum of nine months (£11,385). Established presence no longer exists so there is not a lower level amount of living costs for students who have already studied in the UK.

Can I deduct any money for accommodation payments?

You can deduct a maximum of £1,265 from your living costs for payments made towards LSE or University of London owned halls of residence only.

If you pay more than £1265 for accommodation, the excess cannot be used as evidence of funds for visa purposes.

If you are in private accommodation, no payments can be used as evidence of funds for visa purposes. Some halls allocated by Residential Services are privately owned. You cannot deduct money for payments made for accommodation in:

- Lilian Knowles
- Urbanest King's Cross
- Urbanest Westminster Bridge
- Anson and Carleton Road

The accommodation payment must either be an official receipt or it may be confirmed on your CAS:

- If you are a new student, accommodation fee payments will not be shown on your CAS.
- If you are a continuing student it may be possible to include payments made of up to £1265 on your CAS.
- If you require an official receipt as evidence of additional payments email [Residences Fees](#).

How long do I need to have held the money for?

You must have held the money for a 28 consecutive day period from the closing balance of your bank statements. Your closing balance must be no older than 31 days from the day you apply for your visa (the day you submit your online application form or pay for your application). If your bank statements are dated after the date you apply for your visa, your visa application will be refused. You can calculate if you have held the money for 28 days using timeanddate.com. You should retain these funds in your bank throughout your application.

Will my tuition fees payments be shown on my CAS?

LSE are able to add any tuition fees payments you have made to your CAS. However, if you have made a payment and it is not showing on your CAS, you should wait until you receive an updated CAS before submitting your application. If you state on your application form that you have paid fees and it is not reflected on your CAS, your application may be refused.

Whose bank accounts can I use in my application?

You can only use personal bank accounts belonging to:

- You; or
- Your parents; or
- A legal guardian as recognised by a court of law.

If you are using your parents'/legal guardian's accounts, you must also provide:

- A letter confirming their relationship to you and that they are happy to sponsor your studies
- Your original birth certificate/court document confirming they are your legal guardian.

A joint account will be accepted if you are named on the statements.

Accounts belonging to anyone else, e.g. a brother or sister will not be accepted and your application may be refused.

What type of accounts can I use as evidence of my funds?

The money must be held in cash funds that are instantly accessible to you. You cannot use business accounts, shares, bonds, overdrafts, credit cards or pensions as evidence of funds, regardless of notice periods.

Any documents not in English or Welsh must be officially translated.

UKVI does not accept documents from some financial institutions in some countries. You can check the list [here](#).

What happens if I have an LSE scholarship?

A scholarship awarded by the LSE, will be stated on your CAS. It will be included in the course fees paid to date section of your CAS. If the amount shown is greater than your course fees, the difference can be used to show you living costs. For example:

Course fees: £17,500

Course fees paid to date: £25,000

The £7,500 overpayment can be used as evidence of your maintenance. This will be stated on your CAS. If your scholarship does not cover the full amount of your tuition fees and living costs, you must show the remaining amount in your bank account.

Only students who are receiving an LSE scholarship can benefit from an overpayment counting towards living costs. All other students will be refunded any overpayment. You will not be able to use this as evidence.

I have an Official Financial Sponsor. What evidence do I need?

An official financial sponsor can be the UK government, your home government, the British Council, an international organisation/company or a university/independent school. You will need to provide an original letter confirming your sponsorship and the details of how much money is provided towards your course fees and living costs.

I previously had an Official Financial Sponsor but they are no longer sponsoring me. Do I need additional evidence?

Yes. If you had official financial sponsorship which ended within the last 12 months, you will need to obtain a letter of consent from that sponsor which states that they have no objection to you applying for another UK visa. If your sponsor will not give you permission, or if you apply without the letter, your visa application is likely to be refused.



Can I use a loan as evidence of my funds?

You can only use a loan as evidence if it is provided by your national government, state or regional government, a government sponsored student loan company or be part of an academic or educational loans scheme. For example, US Federal Loans are an accepted form of loans.

If you intend to use a personal loan to fund your studies, you must put the money into your bank account and hold it for the required 28 consecutive day period before applying.

Can I use multiple accounts as evidence?

Yes, you can. UKVI will use the closing balance of the account that favours you the most to calculate the 28 consecutive day period.

You can use our maintenance and 28 day period calculator to check if you have enough money in all of your accounts for the required time.

Are Certificates of Deposit accepted?

UKVI will accept a Certificate of Deposit as evidence of your funds. However, it must meet the following requirements:

- ❖ The certificate must have been issued within 31 days of the date of application;
- ❖ At least 28 days must have passed between the date of deposit and the date of issue of the certificate;
- ❖ There must be no wording which indicates the funds are frozen or inaccessible.

Further guidance

- [UKCISA guidance – immigration on arrival in the UK](#)
- [UKVI Tier 4 Policy Guidance](#)
- [Maintenance and 28 day period calculator](#) – right hand link on the web page

Who do I contact for help? For further immigration advice [contact the ISVAT team online](#). If you have questions about your CAS, contact the team who issued your CAS.