



Frequently asked questions about traveling during and after your studies - June 2016

This guidance is based on frequently asked questions and the recent experiences of LSE students. It is not a definitive guide but is intended to make you think before you travel overseas about the difficulties that you may encounter, particularly if you choose to travel after your course has ended.



Travelling during your studies

What do I do if I need to travel overseas?

If your Tier 4 visa is still valid, you can travel into and out of the UK as often as you like while you are on your course, as long as it does not affect your studies. When you ask to re-enter the UK, a Border Force Officer (BFO) may check that you are currently registered and studying at LSE. You should carry a recent certificate of registration in your hand luggage. You can print a certificate of registration at the Student Services Centre.

Do I need to inform the university of my travel?

If you need to travel during term time and you will miss classes, you will need to inform your academic department. If you have to leave the UK in an emergency, you should contact your department from overseas.

How do I find out if I need a visa to travel?

Contact that country's embassy in the UK for information about immigration about whether you need a visa and how to apply. See the information on Schengen visas if you do not have an EEA passport and will be traveling in Europe.

Schengen Visa for European travel

Certain nationalities need a Schengen visa to travel in Europe. The Schengen visa is a single visa for travel in countries in Europe who have signed on to the Schengen agreement. The UK is not in the Schengen zone.

What countries are in the Schengen space?

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

There are different types of Schengen visa! Which one will I need?

Most students travelling within the Schengen space as tourists or to attend conferences need a short stay / travel visa for a visit of up to three months within any six-month period in all Schengen countries.

Where and how do I apply?

For a trip to several different countries, apply at the embassy of the country where you will spend the most time. If you are staying an equal amount of time in each country, apply for a Schengen visa at the embassy of the first country that you plan to visit. Different countries have different rules for applying so to find out if you need a Schengen visa and how to apply, look on the embassy website of the country where you plan to travel.

What documents will I need to provide?

Most countries ask for:

- *passport & UK visa
- *application fee
- *evidence of travel plans & accommodation
- *travel / medical insurance
- *evidence of your studies in the UK (visa & certificate of registration).

You should check the exact requirements with the Embassy of the country you are applying to, as the requirements can vary slightly by country.



Quick links

- [UKCISA Travel in Europe information](#)
- [Foreign Embassies in the UK: contact details](#)
- [US State Department guide for visitors](#)

How do I get a certificate of registration?

You can print a certificate of registration at the Student Services Centre or from LSE for You. Some countries ask for specific information on the letter so check this on the embassy web pages before requesting a letter.

In addition to a recent certificate of registration, do I need to carry other documentation when I return to the UK?

It is always a good idea to carry current evidence of funding for your studies. This could include recent bank statements or receipts for tuition or rent payments.

I have a valid visa / BRP. Why do I need to show additional documentation?

It is a condition of your Tier 4 visa that you have funding to maintain yourself in the UK during your studies. Border Force Officers may therefore ask to see evidence of funding anytime you enter the UK on your Tier 4 visa.

Travelling after your studies

Can I return to the UK on my Tier 4 visa after my programme has ended?

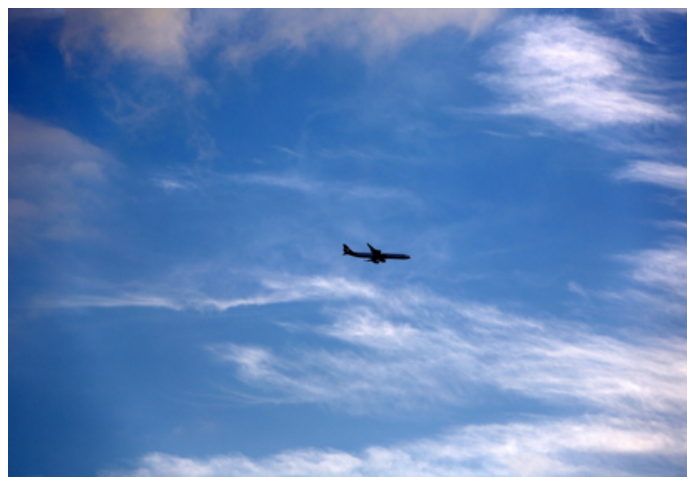
We advise you to avoid travelling out of the UK and planning to re-enter on your Tier 4 visa during the extra time on your visa after the official course end date on your CAS.

While the visa has not expired, the main purpose of your Tier 4 visa (studying at LSE) has ended. Every time you enter the UK, a Border Force Official (BFO) is required to check that you have the correct visa for your purpose. A BFO will be able to see that the official programme end date on your CAS has passed and may correctly refuse to allow you to re-enter the UK on a Tier 4 visa because your circumstances have changed.

What are the risks if I decide to travel and to re-enter the UK after I have finished my studies?

If you do decide to travel and to re-enter the UK, you could be refused entry. If you are a 'non-visa national' you may be granted entry as a Standard Visitor. Even if you are a non-visa national (you can enter as a visitor at the airport without applying for a visa in advance), it is a risk to try to re-enter the UK as a visitor immediately after the expiry date of your Tier 4 visa. A BFO may have concerns that you are not a genuine visitor.

A Standard Visitor cannot work and cannot switch to any other status in the UK. If you are planning an immigration application in the UK, for example a Tier 4 extension or a switch to Tier 2, you would not be able to do this in the UK if you are admitted as a Standard Visitor.



What if I just want to come back for graduation?

A BFO may accept that you are indeed returning for reasons connected to your studies, for example if you have not yet received your exam results or you are returning to attend your graduation ceremony. Many students have re-entered successfully on their Tier 4 visa. However, this is at your own risk and you must be honest about your intentions in the UK at the border. We advise you to carry a graduation letter as evidence of the purpose of your return.

[Request a letter for graduation from the Registry](#)

Can I return to the UK on my Tier 4 if I have been reported to the UKVI?

If the Registry have reported to the UKVI that LSE is no longer sponsoring you under Tier 4 (e.g. you have deferred assessments) you should not plan to attempt to re-enter the UK on your Tier 4 visa. A Border Force Officer will be able to see the report that the LSE is no longer sponsoring your Tier 4 visa and will be aware that you have no studies at the LSE at that time.

Further guidance

- [UKCISA guidance – immigration on arrival in the UK](#)
- [What to do if your passport / BRP is lost or stolen outside the UK](#)

Who do I contact for help? For further advice on the immigration rules [contact the ISVAT team online](#).