



SPECIAL EDITION: APPLYING FOR YOUR VISA

You are receiving this **special visa newsletter** because our records indicate that you may require a student visa to study in the UK. If you hold an EU, EEA, or Swiss passport, and will be travelling to the UK on this passport, you will not require a visa and you may disregard this bulletin.

Before you submit your visa application, please ensure you familiarise yourself with guidance from our International Student Visa Advice Team (ISVAT) [here](#).

Did you receive our previous newsletters? If not, please find a copy [here](#).

SEEKING ADVICE

The International Student Visa Advice Team (ISVAT) are legally qualified to advise you on immigration rules and applying for your student visa. You can contact them using this [web-form](#).

Both the Undergraduate Admissions Office and your academic department are legally prohibited from providing you with visa advice and therefore we would urge you to contact ISVAT where necessary.

We strongly advise that you familiarise yourself with the following guidance:

[Information for Undergraduate Students—How to get a CAS](#)

[How to avoid receiving a refusal](#)

TIER 4 VISAS

If you do not hold an EU/EEA/Swiss passport, you will require immigration permission to allow you to study in the UK. For undergraduate offer holders, you will require a Tier 4 visa to study in the UK.

This visa is designed for full-time programmes of study, which are longer than 6 months in duration. In order to be able to apply for your Tier 4 visa, you must have been issued with a **Confirmation of Acceptance for Study (CAS)** by the LSE Undergraduate Admissions Office.



QUICK LINKS:

[Info for Offer Holders](#)

[Term Dates 2017/18](#)

[Financial Support](#)

[Fees and Student Finance](#)

[Accommodation](#)

[Disability and Wellbeing](#)

[Email an Alum](#)

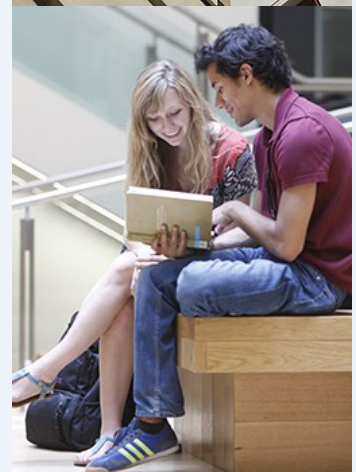
[LSE Blogs](#)

[LSE Careers](#)

[FAQs](#)

[LSE and Brexit](#)

[Consumer Rights](#)



STUDENTS ALREADY IN THE UK

If you are currently in the UK on a visitor visa, a short-term study visa or certain other immigration categories, you cannot make your Tier 4 student visa application from within the UK.

If you are already in the UK, please [contact](#) ISVAT for more guidance on whether you are able to apply from within the UK.

If you are already in the UK as a student studying at a different institution, you must apply for a new Tier 4 student visa in order to be able to study at LSE. Without this, you will not be able to register at LSE, nor start your programme. Please check the [guidance](#) from ISVAT on applying from within the UK.



RECEIVING YOUR CAS

We can only issue a CAS to students who have met the following criteria:

- You hold an **unconditional** offer
- You have **firmlly** accepted your offer
- You have **confirmed your passport details** by responding to our pre-CAS email
- You have completed and submitted your **Financial Undertaking Form** via LSE for You

You will receive your CAS number, along with a CAS statement, via email. The CAS itself is a unique reference number which confirms that LSE will be your Tier 4 sponsor. You must then use this number in your Tier 4 student visa application form.

We will be issuing CAS numbers in batches starting in June and will do this on a weekly basis throughout summer. This process will be much more efficient and speedy if any corrections are made in advance of the CAS being issued, so please make sure you read your pre-CAS email carefully and check the information is correct.

TOP RESOURCES:

[LSE International Visa Advice Team \(ISVAT\)](#)

[UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\)](#)

[British Council](#)

[UK Visas and Immigration \(UKVI\)](#)



ADVICE WEBINAR:

ISVAT are running two webinars on applying for a Tier 4 visa from overseas. The webinar will cover frequently asked questions and common mistakes in the application process. To join, simply click the link below on your preferred date and time:

[Tuesday 6 June](#) (11am London time)
[Wednesday 21 June](#) (4pm London time)

You can join up to 15 minutes before it starts. If you will be joining on a mobile device, you'll need to download the free webinar app beforehand for [Apple](#) or [Android](#).

AFTER RECEIVING YOUR CAS



Once you have received your CAS, please check the details carefully as errors could lead to your student visa application being refused:

- **Personal details:** Please check these match your passport exactly. If you get a new passport after you have been issued with your CAS, please email the Undergraduate Admissions Office immediately on ug.admissions@lse.ac.uk with details of your new passport before submitting your visa application.
- **Information regarding your LSE offer:** Please check your CAS to confirm that the full title of your programme is correct. You should always use the course start date quoted in your CAS statement when completing your visa application.
- **Sponsor Licence Number (SLN):** LSE's SLN is 1RRV3MMEX
- **Evidence reviewed:** You will need to provide evidence of the qualifications listed in your CAS statement. Please ensure that the qualification on your CAS statement matches those stated on your official transcript/certificates.

TIME LIMIT ON DEGREE LEVEL STUDIES



The UKVI places a limit on the time that a student can spend studying in the UK on a Tier 4 student visa. For undergraduate students, the limit is five years at degree level or above.

We check that you are not affected by this limit before issuing you with a CAS, but if you believe that this will affect you, please email Undergraduate Admissions on ug.admissions@lse.ac.uk

Further information on the time limit, and exemptions, can be found on the [UKVI website](#).

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS



The majority of visa refusals occur because of avoidable mistakes with financial documents. You should read the information on ISVAT's [webpages](#) very carefully in preparation of your student visa application. It is not difficult to apply for a Tier 4 visa, but it is easy to make simple mistakes which can lead to your visa being refused.

At the visa application stage, you will need to provide evidence that you have the finances in place to cover your tuition and maintenance costs. This should be in the form of official bank statements, scholarship letters and/or receipts.

You will need to hold the finances in place for a consecutive **28 day period** finishing on the date of the closing balance. There must be no more than 31 days between your date of application and the closing balance of your bank statement. Details of money paid by you or your home institution towards your LSE tuition fees will be listed on your CAS.

Please make sure that you read the [online guidance](#) in detail and make sure you meet all of the criteria for this section of your visa application.

CREDIBILITY INTERVIEWS



For many students, a credibility interview will be part of the Tier 4 application process. More information can be found [here](#).

Students who are required to attend an interview may experience delays to their visa application. We therefore advise students to submit their visa application as soon as possible, but no more than three months before your programme starts. You must also be mindful of the UKVI's financial requirements and time frames.

If you have had problems with your UK immigration history in the past, please [contact](#) ISVAT for advice before submitting your application.

IMMIGRATION HEALTH SURCHARGE



The UK Government has introduced an additional charge for many temporary visitors, including students, to cover potential costs incurred by the National Health Service (NHS).

You must pay a set amount for each year that you will be in the UK. It is not an optional charge and failure to pay at all or to pay the correct amount can lead to your visa being refused.

If you're making an immigration application online, you pay the healthcare surcharge as part of the application process. If you're making an immigration application at a premium service centre, you should pay the surcharge when you book an appointment.

Details about the immigration health charge and how to calculate it can be found on the Home Office [website](#).

For full guidance on how to make your visa application, including payment of the Immigration Health Surcharge, please see the relevant pages of the ISVAT [website](#).

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS

We are permitted to use our own methods to assess a student's English ability.

If we have set you an English condition as part of your offer, you must meet this before you can get your CAS. **This condition is just as important as the academic component of your offer.** The deadline for supplying confirmation of your English language qualification is **1 August 2017.**

You can find a full list of acceptable English language qualifications and the required grades [here](#).



WHO TO CONTACT FOR HELP:

For advice on the immigration rules and the visa application:

- [Check the ISVAT guidance online](#)
- [Contact the ISVAT team online](#)

For queries relating to your CAS:

- Contact the LSE Undergraduate Admissions Office: ug.admissions@lse.ac.uk

REMEMBER... PLAN AHEAD

Please remember that visa processing times can vary greatly depending on where you make your visa application. It is important to give yourself enough time for your visa application.

To check recent visa processing times in your country, you can use the online tool [here](#).

Please be aware, this tool does not provide a guaranteed processing time, only a general indication of the current average waiting time for your country.