



THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Offer Holder News

May 2021

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Dear {!Contact.FirstName},

Welcome to our Visa Special newsletter. You are receiving this as an overseas student.

If you have missed any of our previous admissions newsletters, you can find them [here](#). Over the next few months we will continue to send you updates via these newsletters to help you prepare for your arrival at LSE.

This month's newsletter was written by LSE's International Student Visa Advice Team (ISVAT). It is long and includes a lot of detailed guidance. For most students the visa process runs smoothly, but preparation is key, please read the following information carefully.

Kind regards,

Graduate Admissions Office

EU/EEA and Swiss Students

If you are an EU/EEA (European Union/European Economics Area) or Swiss student who was not eligible to apply for the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) to retain your rights in the UK post-Brexit, you will now require a Student Visa to study in the UK. It is not possible to study your degree using a Standard Visitor visa, otherwise known as a tourist visa.

If you are an EU/EEA or Swiss student who was resident in the UK prior to the UK's departure from the EU on the 31 December 2020, it is vital that you apply for the EU Settlement Scheme before the 30 June 2021. If you do not apply to the scheme by this date, you will need a Student visa to study at LSE and will have restrictions on working during and after studies.

You can find more information for EU/EEA and Swiss students on the following web page: [EU/EEA nationals](#)

Quick links

- [Graduate Admissions](#)
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News from around LSE

See the links below for some of our featured content from this month:

News

[Political beliefs shape whether we notice social inequality](#)

LSE Events

[What is to be Done About Fake News in Politics?](#)

Wednesday 12 May 2021
5:00pm to 6:30pm

*Hosted by the
Department of Law*

The problem of fake news and other contentious online content is one of



Student Visas

You will require immigration permission to allow you to study in the UK. For the majority of our graduate offer holders the visa required will be a **Student visa**. *Do not apply for the Graduate Route to join your studies because you are studying at Graduate level. This is a two-year work permit only available after you have completed your degree. It is not intended for studies.*

Most students apply for a Student visa to study a full-time programme at LSE. If you already have a visa or immigration permission for the UK, check whether you can use it to study your programme on the following [page](#). You should note that if you are interested in applying for the Graduate Route, at the end of your studies, and already have another form of immigration permission for the UK, you should [seek advice](#) on whether to switch into the Student Route before your programme commences.

You cannot apply for a Student visa to study at LSE until you have a **Confirmation of Acceptance for Study (CAS)** issued by LSE, but you need not wait for your CAS to start **preparing** to submit your visa application.

LSE does not support applications under the Student Route for [part-time study](#). If you have been accepted on a part-time programme and are reliant on a Student visa to study in the UK, please discuss your options with [Graduate Admissions](#). [Part-time MSc students](#) should not plan to use the Standard Visitor visa due to the requirement to attend more frequently and the length of the programme. Frequent and successive visits are not permitted on the Standard Visitor visa.

Students already in the UK

You cannot apply for a Student visa in the UK, if you have entered the UK on a Standard Visitor visa. Your visa application should be refused and you will be unable to enrol on your degree programme. You will need to leave the UK and apply for your Student visa from a country where you are eligible to submit a Student visa application. You will be unable to join your programme at LSE until you have the correct immigration permission in place.

If you are currently in the UK there are some circumstances in which you can apply for your visa from within the UK. You must check whether this applies to you. Please contact the [LSE International Student Visa Advice Team \(ISVAT\)](#) to find out if you can apply from inside the UK, especially if you will not have completed your previous UK degree programme before you are due

our most pressing challenges - it is widely believed to have played a major role in the election of President Donald Trump, the outcome of the Brexit Referendum, and in general threatens the healthy functioning of news media in modern democracy.

Podcast of the month:

[LSEiQ Podcast: Are algorithms too powerful?](#)



LSE Blogs:

[An afternoon in London](#)

Don't forget to follow our social media channels!



to start at LSE. You are not able to study a degree programme at LSE whilst holding a visa for another institution.

As of the time of writing, there are concessions currently in place for visa holders who are not usually able to apply for the Student visa in the UK, due to the COVID-19 situation. However, you should contact ISVAT for advice before relying on these concessions as they may be removed at short notice by the UKVI.

Can I study my degree programme on a Graduate Route Visa?

The immigration rules do not allow you to study a degree programme on a Graduate Route visa. Therefore, you will need a Student visa to join your programme. You can only apply for the Graduate Route once, so if you know you wish to undertake further studies, you should seek advice on your options before applying for the Graduate Route. For example, if you apply for and are granted a Graduate Route visa after your undergraduate studies, but plan to do a Masters degree you will not be able to study on your Graduate Route visa and you will have used your only opportunity to apply for this visa route.

Where to seek advice

Your academic department and Graduate Admissions are not qualified to provide you with detailed immigration advice. Our International Student Visa Advice Team (ISVAT) are legally qualified to advise you on the immigration rules. Visit the [ISVAT web pages](#) for information and contact details.



Receiving your CAS

We can only issue a CAS to students who:

- hold an **unconditional** offer
- have [accepted](#) their offer
- have returned the [Financial Undertaking form](#)
- have provided **official proof of their English results**, or have had their English Language condition passed by Graduate Admissions

You will receive your CAS number via email. The CAS itself is a unique reference number which confirms that LSE will be your Student visa sponsor. You will need to use this number in the Student visa application form. You do not need a copy of your offer letter or a hard copy of your CAS as part of your visa application.

Graduate Admissions will start the process of issuing CASs in small batches from 10 May onwards. Before we issue you with your CAS, we will send you an email (known as a Pre-CAS) which lists the information that we will send to UK Visas and Immigration to generate your CAS. Please ensure that lse.ac.uk is added to your email safe list. **Please read through the Pre-CAS email carefully and respond to inform us if changes need to be made, including the necessary evidence.** It is quicker to make changes before the CAS is issued and changes cannot be made once you have used your CAS in a visa application. It is very important that the information on your CAS matches the documents you are using in your visa application e.g. passport details.

You do not need to request a CAS – we aim to begin working on your CAS within five working days of you having met the eligibility criteria but processing times vary and we would ask you to remain patient, especially in the current circumstances. There is a significant number of CAS to be processed for those who have already met the eligibility criteria and these will take us a short while to get through before we are processing within five working days. Please be assured that we appreciate the urgency of issuing your CAS and will do so as soon as possible.

The best way for you to get your CAS is to make sure that any documents requested in your offer email and listed on the application tracker have all been sent to us, and you respond to any questions from the CAS team in a timely manner. Please do not contact us to ask when you will receive your pre-CAS or CAS as it will not be possible to respond with an accurate answer. The best way to keep track of our progress is through our [current processing times](#) page which will indicate how long it may take to process your documents and issue your pre-CAS/CAS.

Further information on CAS numbers can be found in LSE's [CAS issuing policy](#).

ATAS

All international students who require a visa and plan to study a programme that requires ATAS clearance must obtain an ATAS certificate regardless of which visa they have. At the LSE, very few students require ATAS and this is at Postgraduate Research level.

You will be informed if your course requires ATAS clearance as part of your offer.

After receiving your CAS

Once you receive your CAS, please check these details carefully as **errors could lead to your visa application being refused**:

- **Personal details:** Please check that this information matches your passport exactly. If you get a new passport after you have been issued your CAS statement, please update Graduate Admissions with the details of your new passport and wait until we update your CAS before submitting your visa application. We will notify you once the updates have been made.
- **Information regarding your LSE offer:** Please check your offer letter to confirm that the full title of your programme is correct. **You should always use the programme start date quoted in your CAS statement** when completing your visa application (the offer letter may show a slightly different date due to the way we organise registration).
- **Sponsor Licence Number (SLN):** LSE's SLN is 1RRV3MMEX

- **Evidence reviewed:** LSE will list the qualification used to assess your suitability for your programme on your CAS. However, you are no longer required to submit this as evidence as part of your visa application. You can also find details of your English Language Assessment in this section of the CAS. LSE is a Higher Education Provider with a Track Record of Compliance. This means we can use our own methods of assessment for English language. You can find out how your English language has been assessed for your application by checking the detail in this section of the CAS.



FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

You should read the information on the International Student Visa Advice Team (ISVAT) [web page](#) very carefully. It is not difficult to apply for a Student visa, but it is easy to make simple mistakes which can lead to your visa being refused. In our experience, **most refusals occur because of avoidable mistakes with financial documents.**

At the visa application stage you will need to provide evidence (in the form of official bank statements, educational loans, scholarship letters and/or accommodation payment receipts) that you have the finances in place to cover your tuition and maintenance costs.

If you are using a bank account, you need to show that you have held the following funds in an accepted account for a consecutive 28 day period from the closing balance of the bank statement:

- **Tuition fees for your programme as stated on your CAS; plus**
- **£1,334 per month living costs up to a maximum of nine months (£12,006)**

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 and provided to the UKVI (UK Visas and Immigration).

We advise against paying your accommodation in full to use as evidence, as you can only claim a maximum of £1,334 and only for LSE halls of residence (not including Urbanest halls or Lilian Knowles). Payments made towards accommodation will not be shown on the CAS and you will need to obtain a receipt as evidence of payments made

Some students applying in the UK may not be required to show any evidence of their finances if they have held a valid visa for 12 months by the date of application. Check with ISVAT to see if this applies to you.

Please make sure that you read the [online guidance](#) in detail, and make sure you meet all the criteria for this section of your visa application. There is specific guidance which is relevant to your level of study. Please ensure you are reading the correct guides to avoid errors. You need to read **both** the guide to applying and the guide to completing the online application form.

Credibility interviews

For some students, a credibility interview will be part of the Student visa application process, for example if the UKVI have concerns about your academic progress. More information on this 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 6 months before your programme starts if applying from outside the UK, 3 months before if applying from inside the UK).

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

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 may be in the UK, plus the additional time you will receive on your visa. The surcharge is currently £470 per year plus the additional time. As an example, a 12 month Masters student would be required to pay £705 because they receive a visa of 17 months.

It is payable in full at the point of application and is not an optional charge and failure to pay or pay the correct amount can lead to your visa being refused. It cannot be waived if you have medical insurance which will cover your stay in the UK

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

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

English Language tests

If we have set you an English condition, you must meet this before you will get your CAS. If you are coming to LSE to study a degree level programme, we will accept the tests stated on our [entry requirements page](#).

Evidence of Qualifications

LSE will list the qualifications used to assess your academic suitability for your programme on your CAS. However, you will not be required to submit these as part of your application.

PLAN AHEAD

Residents of some countries are required to take undertake Tuberculosis testing in an approved UKVI clinic before submitting their application. TB tests are valid for at least six months and is based on residency in the

country you are applying from not your nationality. Check if you need to take a TB test [here](#).

The earliest you can apply is:

- six months in advance of your official programme start date as stated on your CAS for overseas applications; or
- three months in advance of your official programme start date as stated on your CAS for applications made in the UK.

We advise against planning to travel whilst your application is in progress. You must submit your passport for applications made overseas and any travel outside the UK whilst an extension application is progress may lead to your application being withdrawn by the UKVI.

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

Most visa application centres are now open but please do check the centre in your own country to make sure this is the case.

Check your visa and Biometric Residence Permit for errors

It is very important that you check your visa in your passport when you receive it for errors and get these amended before travelling. Once in the UK, you will receive a Biometric Residence Permit. You must check this upon collection and report any errors within 10 working days of collecting it. You can find out more in ISVAT's [info sheet](#).

Working on a Student Visa and the Graduate Route

If you are interested in working during your studies on a Student visa, there are some conditions in place that you must adhere to. You can find more information on working on a visa for LSE and details of the Graduate Route work visa [here](#). Not all students will be eligible for the Graduate Route so it is important to understand your options before obtaining your visa as it may not be possible to change this once your visa is granted and you are in the UK.

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**London School of Economics
and Political Science**

Houghton Street

London WC2A 2AE

www.lse.ac.uk

+44 (0)20 7955 6613

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