

Information for students applying for a Student visa under differentiation (low risk)

To find out whether you are able to apply for your visa under differentiation, you will need to see if your nationality is listed [in paragraph 22.1 in Appendix ST](#) of the Immigration rules. Students who are nationals of the countries listed **do not** have to submit their financial documentation and qualifications with their visa application.

However, we would *recommend* that you make sure you have these additional documents available if possible as they could be requested at a later date. We believe the chance of this is **very small** but it is good to be prepared if you can be.

Documents needed:

- **Passport** (current and any previous) or other valid travel documentation
- **Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number**
For visa applications for **new courses**, your CAS will be issued by the [International Admissions](#) team. For students making an application to extend their visa for a **course they are already studying**, you will need to contact [MyUniHub](#) and complete a CAS request form. You will need the unique CAS number on the CAS to include in your online application form.
- **Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate (if applicable)**
Certain postgraduate courses within science, engineering or technology disciplines may need to apply for an ATAS Certificate. You will need this Certificate for your visa to be granted and to enable you to enrol. Your offer letter/CAS from the University will state if you need to do this. If it is not listed on your offer you should not need one. Further information on ATAS and how to apply if necessary can be found via the ATAS tab at the bottom of the [Student Visa page](#).
- **TB test** (if applicable)
Applicants from some countries, who are coming to the UK for more than 6 months, will need to take a TB test before applying for their visa. You can find a full list of guidance and UKVI approved clinics on the [Gov.UK website](#)
- **Credit or debit card** to pay the Visa application fee and Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) payment as part of the online application process
- **Relationship documents** *if* you are applying with [dependants](#), you may need to submit proof of relationship (such as Marriage or Birth Certificates)

Finances

Although you will not have to demonstrate your **fees and living** costs upfront. You will still need the funds for the following:

Visa fees and Immigration Health Surcharge

You will need to have these fees available for **online payment at point of application**.

- A list of all UKVI fees can be found on the [Gov.UK website](#). Currently a standard overseas application costs £348 and an application made in the UK costs £475.

- **The IHS is payable on all Student applications and allows the payer access to free National Health Services in the UK.** The cost is £470 per **year of leave granted**. Periods of less than 6 months are charged at half the annual rate (£235). For further information on the IHS and to work out the fee that you can expect to pay, please see the IHS information below.
- You will have to pay the above fee as part of the online application process using a Mastercard or Visa debit or credit card- so make sure that the money is available for payment via that method

Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

Student Route applicants who are applying for more than six months leave are subject to a compulsory additional charge as part of the application process, known as an 'immigration health surcharge'.

The application and payment process for the immigration health surcharge is embedded into the visa application form. Applicants will need to pay the IHS in order to complete their application. Having IHS means that you should not usually need additional healthcare insurance.

How much will I pay?

It is important to remember that you pay for the **length of leave granted and not the length of your course**. In order to be safe, you should add a month on to the front of your course (as you can enter the UK up to one month before) and then remember to add the additional months granted by UKVI as standard onto the end of a given visa. The additional time will be 2 months for courses between 6 and 12 months in length and 4 months for courses of longer than 12 months. Any 'part months' will be rounded up and charges will be made per 6 month blocks.

Some examples are given below:

3 year undergraduate degree starts September and ends June. Cost of IHS will be £1645. Time granted on the visa will actually be August year 1 until October year 3 (as 4 additional months will be added to the visa by UKVI) totalling 3 years and 2 months. IHS charge is 3 years at £470 + 2 months at £235 = £1645

A top up degree starts February and ends August. Cost of IHS will be £470. Time granted on the visa will be January year 1 until October year 1 (as 2 additional months will be added to the visa by UKVI) totalling 10 months. IHS charge is 10 months at £470.

Masters degree starts September year 1 and ends September year 2. Cost of IHS will be £705 Time granted on the visa will be August year 1 until January year 3 (as 4 additional months will be added to the visa by UKVI) totalling 1 year and 5 months. IHS charge is 1 year at £470 + 5 months at £235 = £705

We hope this information is useful to you. Please see our comprehensive information on [Making a Student visa application overseas](#) or [Extending your Student visa from inside the UK](#) for further information relating to the visa application process.