

Tier 4 (General) Student Visa: LFS Process for Students

1. Introduction

If you are an international (non EEA) student coming to the UK for a full-time degree course lasting six months or more, you will need a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa.

The UK Government requires international students to be sponsored by a licensed sponsor such as The London Film School.

Once you have received an unconditional offer, we will contact you about the requirements and steps that need to be completed before we can issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) which you will need in order to apply for your Student Visa.

Please note that this document is not a substitute for the documentation and guidance provided by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).

2. Associated Websites and Documents

- Tier 4 (General) student visa
<https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/overview>
- Guidance on application for UK visa as Tier 4 student
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student>
- Application for UK visa under Tier 4 (General): form VAF9 Appendix 8
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-uk-visa-under-tier-4-general-form-vaf9-appendix-8>
- Immigration Rules Appendix H: Tier 4 documentary requirements
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-rules-appendix-h>

Other important documents are linked to from within the aforementioned documents.

3. Before We Issue Your CAS

3.1. General Stipulations

Before we issue your CAS, we require proof that you are eligible to apply for a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa.

Broadly speaking, UKVI states that you can apply for a Student Visa if:

- You're 16 or over;
- Have been offered a place on a course;
- Can speak, read, write and understand English;
- Have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course - this will vary depending on your circumstances;
- Are from a country that's not in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland;
- Meet the other eligibility requirements.

Please ensure you check UKVI's website for more detailed and up-to-date information:
<https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/overview>

International students will not be sent a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) which is necessary to apply for a visa, until they have received and accepted their unconditional offer and paid their deposit.

3.2. Knowledge of English

UK Visas and Immigration, part of the Home Office, requires The London Film School (LFS) to check if an applicant's English language ability is at CEFR level B2. Please note that LFS will be unable to assign a CAS until applicants have provided evidence of one of the following:

- That they are from a majority English-speaking country ([click here for an up-to-date list of countries](#)); or
- That they have completed an academic qualification at least equivalent to a UK Bachelors degree taught in a majority English-speaking country; or
- That they have passed an English language test from the list of approved tests for Tier 4 that is still within its validity date, and has achieved at least CEFR level B2 in all four components (reading, writing, speaking and listening) unless exempted from sitting a component by a test provider on the basis of your disability. A list of approved tests and providers can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-applying-for-uk-visa-approved-english-language-tests>
- Applicants should note that only 'IELTS for UKVI', a government approved Secure English Language Test (SELT), can be used in support of a visa application. More information can be found here:
<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/ielts-ukvi/what-ielts-ukvi>

Most applicants would be expected to provide proof of proficiency in English in the form an IELTS Test Report with an overall score of 6.0 and a minimum of 5.5 in each component.

3.3. Money You Will Need

UK Visas and Immigration requires you to have a minimum level of funds to cover both your course fees and living costs.

You will need £1,265 per month (up to a maximum of 9 months), i.e. a total of £11,385. Since The London Film School does not offer accommodation, none of this money should be paid to us in advance.

In your self-assessment form, you will need to include the fees for the first year of the course. Those are included in our offer letter and it is important that you use the exact amount in your form. Before we can issue you CAS, you are required to pay the first term's fees as per the offer letter. This should also be included in your self-assessment form.

You must be able to demonstrate that you have had the total amount, minus any money already paid to us, in your (or your parent or legal guardian's) bank account for 28 days ending no more than 1 month prior to the date of your application.

If you are in receipt of financial sponsorship, you can provide an official headed letter of confirmation bearing the organisation's official stamp as evidence of money you have. Please note that there are restrictions on what organisations can be considered official sponsors.

You should also note that rules may vary depending on your nationality as outlined in UKVI's Tier 4 guidance.

Please check the Tier 4 Sponsor Guidance carefully for more detailed information. This includes information on Official Financial Sponsorship and its impact on your application.

4. LFS Document Check

Prior to issuing a CAS, a member of staff from The London Film School will check key documents needed for your Tier 4 visa application.

This includes:

- Proof of funding (see section 3.3)
 - *Please note that we will request proof in the same format as required by UKVI.*
- A tuberculosis test if you are a resident in any of the listed countries (<https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa/overview>)
- Certified copies of your education certificates

Any documents which are not in English must be accompanied by a full translations as per UK Visas and Immigration guidance:

“The original translation must contain confirmation from the translator/translation company that it is an accurate translation of the original document, the date of the translation, the translator/an authorised official of the translation company’s full name and signature, and the translator/translation company’s contact details.”

5. Overseas Currencies

As per UKVI's guidance, you are expected to show your closing balance in Pounds Sterling. For any currency conversions, UKVI will use the official exchange rate OANDA website, which can be found at www.oanda.com/convert/classic. We will conduct our checks using the same website.

6. Reference Points

Home Office. (2015, May 19). *Application for UK visa under Tier 4 (General): form VAF9 appendix 8*. Retrieved June 08, 2015, from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-uk-visa-under-tier-4-general-form-vaf9-appendix-8>

Home Office. (2015, April 15). *Guidance on application for UK visa as Tier 4 student*. Retrieved June 08, 2015, from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student>

7. Version Control

| Version Number | Changes | Author, Title | Date |
|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 0.1 | - | Philip Ramge, Academic Registrar | 08/06/2015 |
| 0.2 | Comments from Shirley Streete-Bharath, Head of Operations added; Associated Documents added; details on overseas currencies added; | Philip Ramge, Academic Registrar | 23/06/2015 |
| 1.0 | Approved by Academic Registrar | Philip Ramge, Academic Registrar | 23/06/2015 |
| 1.1 | Section 3.3: maintenance funds requirements updated | Philip Ramge, Academic Registrar | 08/01/2016 |
| 1.2 | Section 3.2: expanded details on SELT requirements | Philip Ramge, Academic Registrar | 13/09/2016 |