



UK STUDENT VISA

Frequently asked questions

April 2024



How long will my Student visa take?

The UK aims to process Student visa applications within 15 working days. The latest global decision waiting times can be found on [visa-processing-times-applications-outside-the-uk](#)

My university hasn't issued my Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) reference number yet; can I apply for my visa?

You must have your CAS reference number from your educational sponsor to be able to apply for a student visa. If you have not yet received your CAS, speak to your educational institution about what you need to do.

Will you give me a refund if you take too long to make a decision on my application?

Some applications can take longer to process if made during busy periods where there is global demand, or if it is a complex case. We are unable to offer refunds for visa fees once you have visited the Visa Application Centre (VAC) and submitted your biometrics. For more information on refunds, please visit [gov.uk/cancel-visa/get-refund](#)

When can I get a refund and how long does it take?

You can ask to cancel (withdraw) your Student visa application. You'll get a refund of the immigration health surcharge if you cancel before a decision has been made about your application.

You may get a refund of the application fee. This depends on what stage your application is at when you cancel. It can take up to 28 days to get your refund. For more information on refunds, please visit [gov.uk/cancel-visa/get-refund](#)

What happens if I have an urgent or compassionate reason to travel?

Where there are extremely compassionate or compelling circumstances, we may consider speeding up certain cases. However, the bar for this is very high and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Ensure you make these circumstances known at the visa application centre or by contacting [gov.uk/contact-ukvi](#)

I have already submitted my application at the VAC. Will I be able to get retrospective Priority or Super Priority visa for my Student visa application?

Once you have submitted your biometrics at the VAC you will not be able to change to Priority or Super Priority visa service.

Can I help with bank verifications if I provide a letter confirming contact details for my bank?

Yes, it can help if you provide a letter confirming contact details for your bank to assist with verifications. However, it's important to note that each case will be reviewed individually, and there's no guarantee of approval. We might not be able to use personal or local branch contact details, and documents will typically be verified with the financial institution's main office.

While not mandatory, providing further details about the source of funds, especially if the source isn't clear (like large deposits in a short time), can help prevent delaying the decision-making process.

Can I bring my partner and children with me?

Your partner, or children aged under 18, may be able to come to the UK providing you are:

- Studying for a course of study which the provider has confirmed is a PhD, other doctoral qualification, or a research-based higher degree
- Financially sponsored by the UK or an Overseas Government.

Undergraduate students are not normally permitted to bring dependants, and this has not changed. You must provide proof of your relationship and proof of finances to fund their maintenance. This is in addition to the proof of finances that you will show as part of your own application.

For further information visit: gov.uk/student-visa/family-members

What do you mean by a research-based higher degree?

A research-based higher degree means a postgraduate program comprising a research component (including a requirement to produce original work) that is larger than any accompanying taught component when measured by student effort.

Will there be a concession for disabled students to be able to bring carers?

There are currently no concessions for disabled students to bring carers and this will continue to be the case until further notice.

What changes are being made to the rules on switching visa route?

Students will no longer be able to switch out of the student route until they have completed their course. The only exception is for PHD students who will be permitted to switch into the Skilled Worker route after they have completed 24 months towards their PHD.

Why do I have to pay IHS?

You will need to pay a healthcare surcharge as part of your immigration application if you are applying for a stay of more than 6 months in the UK. This payment of the IHS entitles customers to access the NHS on broadly the same basis as a permanent UK resident for the duration of their visa, without the need to pay for treatment.

How much is the immigration health Surcharge (IHS) for students?

The cost of the IHS varies depending on the duration of the visa granted. It's important to note that the visa duration might exceed the length of your course. As of February 6th, 2024, the discounted rate for students, their dependants, and under 18s has increased from £470 to £776 per person per year. For more information, please visit; gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application

For any other queries, or further information on Student visa process, please visit:
gov.uk/student-visa



[Gov.uk/student-visa/apply](https://gov.uk/student-visa/apply)



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