



HM Government

The UK's points-based
immigration system
**An introduction
for EU students**

The UK's points-based immigration system: An introduction for EU students

The UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020 and from 1 January 2021, the UK will implement a points-based immigration system (PBS).

This means from 1 January 2021, if you do not already live in the UK or have rights under the Withdrawal Agreement, you will need to meet specific requirements and apply through the PBS to study in the UK. You will also need to pass relevant checks, including UK criminality checks. You can continue to visit the UK for up to 6 months, without applying for a visa and may participate in a wide range of activities, including tourism, visiting family and friends, short term study and business-related activities, such as events and conferences.

Irish citizens' status will continue to be protected as part of Common Travel Area arrangements and therefore will not require permission to come to the UK, except in a very limited number of circumstances, and will not be eligible to apply under the new points-based immigration system. Find out more on [**GOV.UK**](https://www.gov.uk).

The UK has a world-leading education sector and will continue to welcome the talented and high potential students to universities, further education and English language colleges, and independent schools. There will be no limit on the number of international students who can come to the UK to study, and the UK will seek to increase the number of international students in higher education.

We are also making it easier for the best international graduates to secure skilled jobs in the UK and contribute to the UK's economic growth with our new Graduate visa. It will allow international students who have completed undergraduate and master's degrees in the UK to stay for two years and those who have completed a PhD to stay for three years.



EU citizens already living in the UK

Please note that 'EU citizens' referred to in this guidance can be read to include EU, EEA and Swiss citizens.

If you're an EU citizen living in the UK by 31 December 2020, you and your family can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. The deadline for applying is 30 June 2021.

To find out more about the EU Settlement Scheme and apply, visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

Student visa

If you are 16 or over, you may be eligible to apply for a Student visa to study in the UK at a registered sponsoring institution. The full register of sponsoring institutions will be published online on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

You will need to complete an application, pay an application fee, and have a current passport or other valid travel document.



Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a Student visa, you need to be able to score 70 points. Points are non-tradeable, which means you will need to meet all the requirements. You will be awarded points for meeting the requirements of the route as set out in the table below:

Points type	Requirements to be met	Number of points
Study	Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) requirement Course requirement Approved Qualification requirement Level of Study requirement Place of Study requirement	50
Financial	Financial requirement	10
English language	English language requirement	10

The listed requirements set out in the table above mean that to successfully apply for a Student visa, you must demonstrate that:

- you have an unconditional offer from an approved sponsoring institution. When you apply for a Student visa, you will need to provide your reference number from the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) which is provided by your education provider once they've offered you an unconditional place on a course
- you are taking a course that leads to an approved qualification at an appropriate level of study
- you have any relevant academic qualifications needed to undertake the course
- you genuinely intend to study in the UK
- you can financially support yourself during your studies in the UK
- you can speak, read, write and understand English to the required standard for the level of course you intend to study.

In addition to this, you will need to demonstrate the following if you are under 18:

- proof of parental or other legal guardian(s) consent and their relationship to you
- suitable care arrangements are in place for you in the UK.



Applying for a Student visa

You will be able to apply for a Student visa up to 6 months before your intended course starts in 2021.

Most people will be able to complete their application, including identity verification, using a smartphone app. Some applicants may need to attend a Visa Application Centre, if they are unable to access the app, or if they do not have a biometric passport. More details on the application process will be available on [GOV.UK](#) at a later date.



Fees

A student application costs £348. You must pay the same amount for any dependants.

You will need to pay the Immigration Healthcare Surcharge as part of your application. Paying the Immigration Health Surcharge gives you access to the UK's National Health Service (NHS). As a student, you will receive a 25% discount on the Immigration Health Surcharge.





Dependants

If you are studying at master's level or above on a course lasting 9 months or more, or you are a UK Government sponsored student on a course lasting 6 months or more, you are entitled to bring dependants when you apply to study in the UK. A dependant may include:

- your spouse
- your unmarried partner with whom you have a subsisting relationship
- your child under 18 years old.

A separate application must be made for dependants. The same fees and Immigration Health surcharge will apply.



Booking your travel

We advise you not to confirm any travel arrangements until your application to study in the UK has been approved. Our processing times vary according to the type of application and may take longer during busy periods.

When making your journey to the UK, you will need to travel with the same document you made your application with.



Working while studying in the UK

Depending on the level of study and your sponsoring institution, you may be able to take up part time work in the UK alongside your studies.





After your studies

If you successfully complete a degree at undergraduate level or above in the UK, you will be able to apply for a Graduate visa to stay and work or look for work for a maximum period of 2 years (3 years for PhD students) after completing your studies.

This visa route will open in summer 2021 to international students who have completed a course at a higher education provider, with a track record of compliance with the UK Government's immigration requirements.

You will also be able to move into different visa routes if you have a suitable job offer from a sponsor and can meet the requirements of a route.



Child Student visa

There will be a separate visa route for child students. You may be eligible to apply for a Child Student visa if you are aged between 4-17 years old and can demonstrate:

- proof of parental or other legal guardian(s) consent and their relationship to you
- suitable care arrangements are in place for you in the UK
- you are at least 4 years old and under 18 years old and studying at an independent school
- you genuinely intend to study in the UK, if you are 16 years or older
- you meet academic ability and maintenance requirements
- you have an unconditional offer from an approved sponsoring institution. When you apply for a Child Student visa, you will need to provide your reference number from the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) which is provided by your education provider once they've offered you an unconditional place on a course.

Final details on the points-based immigration system will be published later this year.

For more information on the points-based immigration system and to sign up for email alerts, visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

