

Graduate Route

Student Advice and Support
Service

Introduction

- SASS provides free advice
- See our online [visa guide](#) for more detail
- Contact for individual queries:
- advice@lboro.ac.uk



Basics

- Successful Student (including Tier 4) visa holders can apply after degree has been awarded
- Flexible right to work for 2 or 3 years
- Not a sponsored visa (unlike Student or other work visas) – individual application
- Time limited opportunity to apply
- Must apply in the UK
- Can only use Graduate Route once – also not eligible if previously used DES

Who can apply

- Must have completed degree with Student visa
- All tuition fees must have been cleared
- Generally study should have been in the UK
- Student Enquiries must have reported eligibility to UKVI and confirmed this to you by email
- If funded for fees and living costs by a government or international scholarship agency – consent required

Who can apply - Student visa

- Must have completed at least 12 months of study in the UK with a Student visa*
- *UKVI Covid-19 policy also allows remote study taken after January 2020
- Other visa types are not eligible eg studying as a visitor or dependant
- 'Exceptional assurance'

Who can apply – degree award

- Degree must have been awarded but you don't have to wait for any graduation ceremony
- Taught degrees are awarded by programme board
- Programme boards meet several weeks after course end date – School can confirm timing
- Student Enquiries aim to report eligibility to UKVI within a week of programme board

When to apply

- Generally a Student visa would cover an extra 4 months beyond the course end date
- Any Graduate Route application should be submitted in the UK after eligibility has been confirmed and before current Student visa expires

Complicating issues

- Finishing studies later than expected, eg reassessments, leave of absence, deadline extension
- Finishing studies earlier than expected eg dropping placement
- Travel – need to be in the UK for the application process. Advisable to make travel plans after you have your Graduate visa.

Preparing for your application - evidence

- If you are eligible to apply:
 - You will need the CAS number confirmed in your eligibility email
 - You will **not** need proof of money, qualifications, English language or ATAS
 - If you were funded for fees and living costs by government or scholarship agency you will need a letter of consent
 - You will need to prove your identity
 - Be ready to pay the application fees

The application process

- Apply online
- Use the UK Immigration ID Check app if:
 - iPhone 7 or later or android + NFC
 - Biometric passport (if EU/EEA/Swiss) or BRP
 - No children in the application
- Pay visa fee and IHS
- Online application status and new BRP for ‘visa nationals’

The application process

- If you can't use the ID check app:
 - Apply online
 - Pay visa fee and IHS
 - Have to attend an appointment to give biometrics at UKVCAS office
 - Permission is granted as a BRP

How much will it cost?

- Application fee £715
- Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)
 - £624 per year of visa
 - £1,248 for 2 years eg undergraduate or masters
 - £1,872 for 3 years if PhD
- Payments are made online to complete application
- UKVCAS appointment fee if applicable

Application pending

- Standard service – up to 8 weeks
- Remain in the UK throughout the process until new permission (and any BRP) received
- Current Student permission and conditions continue as long as you have applied before visa expiry

Application decision

- UKVI email notice of decision
- New permission for 2 or 3 years from date of decision
- If used 'ID check' app - status is updated online. Use the online 'eVisa' to view and prove status. Visa nationals are also issued a BRP for travel purposes
- Applications via UKVCAS – applicants will be a issued BRP to prove status and travel

Visa conditions

- Flexible right to work or look for work, start a business, no requirement to be in continuous employment
- No work as a professional sportsperson or coach
- Allows re-entry to the UK – remains valid while you are away
- No study that could be done with a Student visa
- Police registration (if relevant)

Beyond Graduate Route

- Not possible to extend Graduate Route permission
- Possible to switch into other visa categories eg skilled worker
- Graduate Route does not count towards the 5 years working visa route to settlement
- Graduate Route can count towards the 10 year 'long residence' route to settlement

Dependants

- Must already hold permission as a Student dependant eg spouse/partner, child but..
- ..children born in the UK later can be added as dependants
- Otherwise no provision to add new dependants
- Can apply at the same time or after the graduate
- Dependants will pay visa fees and IHS on the same basis as the graduate applicant

Q & A



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<https://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/isas/>

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