**Guide to applying for a Student visa in your home country**

Updated 17 April 2024

**Most students starting a new course need to obtain their Student visa before coming to the UK. If you are already in the UK because you have already been studying a previous course either at Oxford or somewhere else, or are in the UK for a different purpose e.g for work, please look at our webpage,** [**Applying for a Student visa from within the UK**](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/during/extend) **to check if you have the option of making your application in the UK.**

This guide will help you complete the online Student visa application and includes specific points for Oxford students. Read it carefully along with th[e UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)’s](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student) [Student visa guidance](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa) pages. This guide is for you if Oxford is sponsoring you for a Student visa by assigning a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS), but not if you are coming for a [short course, or a distance learning or part-time course not requiring a Student visa](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/visitors).

**Important for you to know:**

* You **MUST**complete the visa application process through to being granted your Student visa before coming to the UK, this includes EU, EEA and Swiss nationals who get an online visa.
* You **CANNOT**come to the UK as a Visitor and apply for a Student visa or switch immigration status to Student in the UK.
* You**CANNOT** be enrolled onto your course if you need a Student visa but have arrived in the UK without one or before your Student visa starts. You would need to leave the UK and re-enter on or after the start date of your Student visa.

Most Student visa applications are decided in 15 working days starting from your biometrics appointment and not including passport return where relevant. If you need a faster decision the **priority visa service** (or super priority service) is available in most countries at additional cost. Check with [your visa application centre](https://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre) for availability.

September is the busiest time of the year for Student visa applications so we recommend you apply as early as you can once you have your CAS and preferably not later than mid-August. Allow extra time if you can for unexpected issues. The Home Office will not expedite your visa application because you have booked a flight.

Current Oxford students starting a new (second) course, or students currently studying in the UK at another institution and moving to Oxford should read section 2 below.

**If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national:**

Unless you have already lived in the UK and have been granted pre-settled or settled status under the EU settlement scheme, you will need to apply for a Student visa. This Guide includes information on the slightly different application procedure for European and Swiss passport holders. For some introductory information from the UK government see [The UK's points-based immigration system: An introduction for EU, EEA and Swiss students](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1015794/The_UK_s_points-based_immigration_system_-_An_introduction_for_EU_EEA_and_Swiss_students.pdf)

**If you have family members:**

The ability to bring family members to the UK on student dependant visas is now mainly restricted to research students and government sponsored students. Please read [our page](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family) to check whether your family members could apply.

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## Where, when and how to apply

You can apply in your country of nationality or if you live in a different country, you can apply there. You cannot normally apply in a country that you are only visiting.

You can only apply in the UK in limited circumstances, see our [Student visa webpages](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/during/extend?wssl=1) for further information.

You **cannot enter the UK as a Standard Visitor** or without a visa and then apply for your Student visa from within the UK.

You must have your CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) number from Oxford before you can apply for your Student visa[.](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/tier4?wssl=1) When you have met all your academic and financial conditions, your CAS statement will be prepared by your college (undergraduate or visiting students) or by your department (graduate or recognised students) and they will email you the draft CAS, check the details on the draft CAS very carefully and reply with any changes you need. Read our [webpage with useful FAQs](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/CAS%20) about how to check your CAS.

You will then receive your finalised ‘CAS statement’ by email which includes your CAS number and other information you need for your visa application. CAS statements are produced Monday to Friday, and you will receive an email at 6pm UK time if your college/department administrator has been able to submit the CAS request by 4pm on that day.

You cannot apply for your visa **earlier than six months** before your course start date as stated on your CAS statement. Your CAS number is valid to use to make a visa application for six months. If your CAS is more than six months old, contact your department or college to get a new one.

We recommend you prepare carefully then apply as early as you can to avoid delays particularly in the peak September period.  If you are planning any summer travel bear in mind that, unless you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national, you would need to submit your passport with the visa application to have the visa vignette affixed, so you could be without your passport for a period of time whilst the visa is being processed.

When you apply in your home country for a Student visa, you need to register for and complete an [online application](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply)[.](https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/apply-visa-type/tier4)

This guide refers to UKVI’s [Student visa information](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa)which explains the requirements for a Student visa. We recommend that you read this as well.

## Applicants who do not need to submit evidence of qualifications or finances

If the course you are coming for is at degree level or above, you do not need to provide evidence of qualifications for your visa application. This exemption is because Oxford is a sponsor which is a ‘Higher Education provider with a track record of compliance.

If you are a national of one of the countries below, your application will come under the ‘differential evidence requirement[’](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-h-tier-4-documentary-requirements) and you will not have to submit evidence of funding. If you have more than one nationality, you can benefit from the arrangement as long as one of your nationalities is on the list.

Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, The Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and USA.

You must make sure you do have the correct financial evidence ready in case you are asked for it later in the application process (there might be spot checks). Your application could be refused if you are not able to provide the specified documents within the specified time. [Read the UKVI guidance on finances for student applications for more information about the money you need](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-student-and-child-student-route-applicants) and how to prove it.

You will still need to provide any other required documents, for example an [ATAS certificate](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/ATAS) or [TB certificate](https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa/countries-where-you-need-a-tb-test-to-enter-the-uk) if applicable.

## Completing the online visa application form

### Personal details, family, travel history

**Starting the online application:** Here is the start-point for the [online application](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply-online)**–** click on the green ‘Start now’ button**.**

**Do you have a current EU, EEA or Swiss passport?**
If you have more than one nationality, you need to use the passport listed on your CAS statement for your visa application.

**EU, EEA or Swiss nationals only:**  you will now be directed to create an account for your application and then to confirm your identity using the ‘UK Immigration: ID Check’ app. If you are able to use this app you will not need to attend an appointment to give biometrics. You can read UKVI guidance on [using the ‘UK Immigration: ID Check’ app](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-uk-immigration-id-check-app) .

The application form requires you to list all the nationalities you currently hold or have ever held, and if you have a passport for an additional nationality you are asked to enter details of it.

**Select a country to provide your biometrics (non-EU, EEA or Swiss applicants only)**
Enter the name of the country where you are making your visa application, remembering that you must apply either in your country of nationality or you can apply in the country where you live if different. If there is no centre for providing biometrics in your country of application, you will be told where you need to go for biometrics. **Do not** select United Kingdom here. It is not possible to start your visa application in your home country and travel to the UK to give biometrics here.

**Follow the instructions to create a password for your application. UKVI will send an application link to your email address, and you can access your application through this link.**

**Helpful hints while you are working on your application**:

* If you want to change a section you have previously completed, click on ‘show and edit answers’ at the bottom of the screen
* you do not have to complete the application in one session, you can save it and return to it later
* You can download your draft application at any stage, by clicking the down arrow by your name in the top right-hand corner and selecting ‘Download PDF’
* You may not be required to answer all the questions covered in this guide. Some questions not relevant to your situation will not appear as you complete the application
* The questions in the application may appear in a different order to the information in this guide depending on your individual circumstances

**Passport/Travel Document**

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national you will normally receive your Student visa permission in electronic format only and will not receive a travel visa (vignette/sticker) affixed in your passport. There will be instructions on how to view and access your Student visa online through your UKVI account in the visa decision email you received once your Student visa is granted.

If you are a non-EU, EEA or Swiss national, you need to **have** **one blank page/side** in your passport/travel document for your travel visa (vignette/sticker) to be affixed in your passport. This travel visa will be valid for 90 days for your first travel to the UK under your Student visa.  If you are making summer travel plans remember you will be without your passport for a period during the visa application process.

Your passport needs to be valid at the time of the visa application and for your intended arrival in the UK. It is not necessary at the time of your visa application to have a passport that will be valid for your entire course duration. If you later get a new passport, you can update UKVI with the details.

**Sponsor**

*Do you have a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number?*

Enter this as given on your CAS statement being careful to make clear the difference between ‘0’s and ‘O’s and ‘1’s and ‘I’s. Although it is possible to fill in part of the application form before you receive your CAS number, be careful not to finalise and submit the application before you have your CAS.  For information about receiving a CAS see [Step 1 on our webpage](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/studentvisa)[.](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/tier4?wssl=1) To be valid, your CAS must not be more than six months old at the time you apply for your visa, and must have been issued for the course you are now applying for.

If you are reapplying after a visa refusal, you **must get** a new CAS. You cannot re-use a CAS that you were given for a previous visa.

**Name**

Write your name exactly as shown in your passport and CAS statement. Include middle/other names with your Given name(s).

If you only have one name, click on ‘*I do not have a current passport or travel document*’ then ‘*I do not have both a given and family name’* and then you can enter one name.  (Note the illogical questions sequence here which we assume in due course will be corrected)

For Singaporean and Malaysian passports, the name order may be slightly different in your passport to the name order on your CAS statement, this should not be a problem, enter your family name in the relevant section and all other names under Given name(s). We would recommend putting your preferred name first in the order of given names.

**Personal Information**

Your individual details, including your home address, which must be your address in your country of application, not a UK address.

**Passport details**

Use your passport ID page for this information. Remember that the passport you use for your visa application must be the same as the one detailed on your CAS statement and that you intend to use to travel to the UK.

If you have changed your passport since your CAS was issued, email student.visacompliance@admin.ox.ac.uk with your Student ID and a copy of your new passport so they can update the Home Office with your new passport details. For FAQs about your CAS number and passport validity period see the [Student visa webpages.](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/CAS)

**English Language**

This section will not appear if your nationality (or any of your nationalities if you have more than one) is on the list of [this Home Office webpage](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english) or you are a Canadian.

For the question, ‘We may have to talk to you about your application. Which language would you prefer to use?’, select ‘English’.

There are several options on the application form for meeting the English language requirement, you only need to answer ‘Yes’ for one of them. Once you have answered ‘Yes’ for an option you will not see any of the remaining options:

*a. Have you provided evidence of your English language ability in a previous application?*

This means have you had a UK visa before, for which you had to prove you met an English language requirement at the same level as you need to meet for this application, for example a Student visa or a Tier 4 visa for a degree course or a Skilled worker or Tier 2 visa. If in doubt, answer ‘No’ here.

*b. Do you have an English language or literature qualification from a UK school?*

Unless you went to school in the UK when you were under 18 and studied one of the listed qualifications, answer ‘No’

*c. Are you coming to the UK to study at a higher education provider with a track record of compliance?*

The university of Oxford is a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance, so answer ‘Yes’.  You will then see below question:

*Does your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) statement indicate that your English language ability was assessed by your institution or that you are a ‘gifted’ student?*

Check your CAS statement for confirmation that Oxford has assessed your English Language ability. You should see this wording:

“Reason SELT is not required: **Higher Education Institution (HEI) sponsor has made assessment**”

If so, answer ‘Yes’ to this question. You **do not need** to provide any English language test certificates or other evidence on which this assessment was based with your visa application.

*d. Are you attending a short-term study abroad programme in the UK as part of a university course in the USA?*

You can use this option if you are studying in the USA and your CAS states you will be coming for a study abroad programme.

*e. Are you applying to study a course on English as a foreign language?*

Answer ‘No’

*f. Do you have a degree equivalent to a UK Bachelor's degree which was taught in English?*

Check your CAS statement and do not use this option if your CAS statement confirms Oxford has assessed your English language ability, even if this assessment was based on your previous study taught in English. Instead, use option c.

*g. Have you passed an approved English language test in the last 2 years?*

Check your CAS statement and do not use this option if your CAS statement confirms Oxford has assessed your English language ability, even if this assessment was based on English language test results that you sent to us. Instead, use option c.

*h. Do you have a medical condition which prevents you taking the English language test?*

Check your CAS statement and do not use this option if your CAS statement confirms Oxford has assessed your English language ability. Instead, use option c.

**Information about your family and people financially dependent on you**

Although a separate application must be made for each [dependant coming to the UK with you](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/family-members#:~:text=Your%20partner%20and%20children%20(%27dependants,lasts%209%20months%20or%20longer) under the Student dependant visa, you are also required to give information on your own Student visa application about a partner or spouse or financially dependent family members whether they will accompany you to the UK or not.

**Information about your parents, and any family in the UK**

You will then need to enter information about your parents, and any close family members who live in the UK.

**Travelling information**

*Travelling as part of an organised group*

Answer ‘No’

*Travelling with another person*

If you expect to be travelling with somebody to the UK apart from your partner, spouse or dependant give details here. This might be for example a friend or family member travelling with you to the UK as a visitor to help you settle in.

**Do you know where you will be staying in the UK?**

If you have accommodation arranged in the UK, give the details here.  If you don’t know yet where you will be living, answer ‘No’ and go to the next question.

*Where do you plan to stay in the UK?*

Include details of where you are hoping to stay if not confirmed. If you will be in College or University accommodation but this has not been finalised, you can explain this and give the main College address as on the college website.

When you have arranged your accommodation after you arrived to the UK, you should update the UKVI with your address. You can do this online: [Report a change of address online | gov.uk](https://visa-address-update.service.gov.uk/) .

**UK Travel History**

*How many times have you been to the UK in the last 10 years?*

Enter the number of times you have been to the UK in the last 10 years, or an estimate if you are not sure.

You will only need to enter details of up to 3 trips, starting with the most recent.

If you have been in the UK in the last 10 years further questions will appear about medical treatment, any in-UK visa applications, whether you have a National Insurance number or a UK driving license and whether you received public funds.

**Medical Treatment**

If you have been to the UK in the last 10 years you will be asked for dates of any medical treatment received in the UK including visits to doctor’s surgery (known as a General Practitioner or GP). You need to include the address of where you were treated, the date and whether you had to pay for the treatment. Give information about any treatment as accurately as possible.

**UK leave to remain**

*Have you applied for leave to remain in the UK in the past 10 years?*

This means an in-UK visa application. Give details of any applications, including any refusals.

**National Insurance numbers and UK Driving Licence Number**

You will only have a [National Insurance number](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/during/work#:~:text=Obtaining%20a%20National%20Insurance%20Number%20and%20paying%20tax) if you applied for one, for example if you did any employment during a previous UK stay. Similarly, you will only have a UK driving licence if you have previously applied for a licence.

**Public funds**

This refers to a specific list of benefits or payments for UK residents on low income. This list does NOT include access to the NHS, education or funding for your study, or council tax exemption which are all okay to receive if you are eligible for them and do not need to be declared here. For information on what is defined as public funds see this [Home Office webpage](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-funds--2/public-funds).

**Other travel history**

*How many times have you visited the following places in the past 10 years?*

You are asked to record visits to a list of five countries (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA, Switzerland) plus the European Economic Area in the past 10 years. Select the correct number. Follow the instructions and give the information as accurately as you reasonably can.

*Have you been to any other countries in the past 10 years?*

The form continues to ask about travel to all other countries. Follow the instructions and give the information as accurately as you reasonably can.

Some applicants find that the form doesn’t seem to allow them to accurately record their complex travel history. If you are worried that you cannot provide exact details of all your travel, for example because you are frequent traveller and no longer have some of the dates, you could explain in the ‘additional information about your application’ section towards the end of the form that you have answered the travel questions to the best of your ability but that some of the details are approximate. This should be acceptable.

**Your planned travel information**

*Date you plan to arrive in the UK?*

Enter the date you plan to arrive, this must not be earlier than one month before the course start date on your CAS, or 7 days before your course start date if you are coming for a period of study or a course that is for not more than 6 months.

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national and you confirmed your identity using the UKVI ID Check APP at the start of your application, you will receive a decision email indicating the start and end date of your Student visa and the start date is usually one month before your course start date as given on your CAS statement.

If you are a non-EU, EEA or Swiss national, you will be given an initial visa (travel vignette/sticker in your passport) valid for 90 days to enter the UK. This vignette/sticker start date will be either 7 days before your intended travel date, or up to one month before your course start date as given on your CAS statement. You can use the travel vignette/sticker to come to the UK between its start date and end date. If it expires before you travel you will need to apply to replace it.

**Immigration History and problems**

You must provide the required information about any immigration problems for the UK and other countries and breaches of immigration law.

Previous immigration problems will not necessarily mean your current application will be refused, but failure to provide information about relevant history could be considered deception, which in itself could cause your application to be delayed or even refused.

Contact us if you are worried about anything in these sections.

**Convictions and other penalties, other history and security and employment questions**

You must answer this section accurately and give details wherever and however long ago any offence occurred.

Previous convictions will not necessarily lead to a visa refusal, particularly for non-custodial offences, but failure to disclose information that is requested here **is** likely to lead to a refusal.

The form continues with further security questions and then another section about war crimes, terrorist activities, ‘good character’ questions and certain forms of employment.

Contact us if you are worried about anything in these sections.

### Sponsor licence number and address

This section is asking for information from your CAS statement about your course details and about university of Oxford as your sponsoring institution.

The information you need for this section will also appear on your CAS statement:

*Sponsor Licence Number:* UED4UGNF1

*Sponsor’s address:*

University Offices

Wellington Square

*Town/city:* Oxford

*Postcode:* OX1 2JD

If you have accidently provided your college or department’s address for this question and are unable to amend your answer, this should not be a problem and you do not need to restart your application.

**Place of Study**

*What type of sponsor will you be studying with?*

Select ‘Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance’.

Note if you use the link to check the register of Student sponsors, Oxford appears on the full Excel table but not on the online view as this is only a sample.

**Primary site of study**

Answer ‘Yes’

**Did you apply for your course through UCAS**?

Answer ‘No’ unless you are coming for an undergraduate degree and applied for your course through UCAS.

UCAS is the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service used mostly by prospective students to apply for undergraduate courses at universities in the UK.

### ATAS (Academic Technology Approval Scheme) Certificate

Your CAS statement will state whether you need an [ATAS certificate](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/ATAS). You will also have been told if you need an ATAS certificate in your offer letter, and you don’t need to wait until your offer is unconditional to apply. You should apply for your ATAS certificate as early as you can, preferably before 15 May 2024, because you need to have received the certificate before you can complete your Student visa application.

See [step 2 on our pre-arrival page](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/studentvisa) and read our [ATAS FAQs and guide](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/ATAS) if you need to apply for ATAS.

### Future official financial sponsor

*Will you be receiving money from an official financial sponsor for your continuing studies?*

Answer ‘Yes’ if you will receive funding for your course from any of the following:

A university (including any funding through an Oxford department or a college);

The UK government;

The government of your home country or any other government;

An international company or organisation (a company/organisation with offices in more than one country)

If your funding comes from another source, for example, a private individual or a non-international organisation or company, you should answer ‘No’ for this question. Note that you can’t use a confirmation letter from anyone who is not an official financial sponsor as evidence of funding for your visa application, they would need to support your studies by transferring the money to you in advance and you would need to demonstrate the funds have been in your own bank account for 28 consecutive days before you apply for your Student visa.

If you will be funding your studies using a student loan, answer ‘No’ here, there will be a separate section where you can indicate you will be receiving a student loan.

*If you are being wholly sponsored by an official financial sponsor how will you prove this?*

This question will appear if you answered that you will be receiving money from an official financial sponsor. Being ‘wholly sponsored’ means the funding covers all the tuition fee stated on your CAS andat least £1,023 per month (up to a maximum of 9 months ie. £9,207) for living expenses.

Please note that details of scholarships, studentships or other financial sponsorship will not be listed on your CAS statement, and cannot be added to your CAS statement, so **do not choose** ‘My Student sponsor has confirmed this information on my CAS’.

If you are wholly sponsored, you will need to select ‘Letter of official financial sponsorship’ and submit your scholarship/sponsorship letter with your application, unless you are exempt from needing to submit the financial evidence (see section 2). The scholarship/sponsorship letter must meet certain requirements which are set out in this UKVI [‘Financial Evidence for Student and Child Student visa applicants'](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-student-and-child-student-route-applicants) guidance.

If you are not wholly sponsored, you will need to select ‘I am not being wholly sponsored’ and submit separate financial evidence documents with your application to demonstrate you have enough money to support your stay in the UK, unless you are exempt from needing to submit the financial evidence (see section 2).

### Course information

**Name of sponsor institution**

Write ‘University of Oxford’

**Course name**

Write the programme title exactly as shown on your CAS statement.

If you are a 1+1 or 1+3 student, the CAS and this visa application will only be for the first of your two courses, we cannot issue a CAS that cover both courses and you cannot apply for a Student visa to cover both courses. You will need to have another CAS and make another Student visa application for your second course after completing the first course.

**Qualification you will get**

Select the option where the **RQF** section of the code matches the RQF level given for ‘Course Level’ section on your CAS statement.

For example:

Undergraduate or visiting students (on CAS **RQF level 6**) select **RQF6/SCQF9/10**

Undergraduate Masters e.g. MEng, MChem, MBiochem, MPhys (on CAS **RQF level 7**) select **RQF7/SCQF** 11

Masters students or MScRes (on CAS **RQF level 7** or **RQF level 7-Research**) select **RQF7/SCQF 11**

DPhil (on CAS **RQF level 8-Research**) select **RQF8/SCQF12**

If you will be studying a research Masters or a DPhil, you will see RQF level 7 -Research, or RQF level 8 – Research. This indicates to the Home Office which courses can bring dependants, but at the time of updating this Guide this does not yet appear in the options on the application form, so select RQF7 for a Research masters or RQF8 for a DPhil.

DPhil students and Masters by research students may be able to bring dependants under the Student visa to the UK, see [this page](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family) on our website for further information.

*Are you going to be a student union sabbatical officer?*

Answer ‘No’ unless the visa application you are making now is for a student union sabbatical officer post. Sabbatical officers are students who take a post with the Oxford Student Union to work full-time during their studies or after completing e.g. as Vice President for Graduates at the Oxford Student Union.

**Course start date**

Use the ‘Course Start Date for visa application’ from your CAS statement.

If you are a continuing student applying for more time to complete a course, including returning to Oxford after suspension, check that your CAS statement explains your situation under the ‘evidence considered’ section.

**Course end date**

Use the ‘Expected End Date’ from your CAS statement.

See the [CAS FAQs webpage](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/CAS%20) for an explanation why the DPhil CAS is 4.5 years in length.

### Accommodation Payments

*Have you or your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) already paid any money to your sponsor for accommodation?*

You should only answer ‘Yes’ and state an amount paid in advance if you will be living in College or University accommodation and:

* your CAS states ‘Accommodation Provided: Yes’
* this amount is shown on your CAS statement as ‘Accommodation Fee Already Paid’ OR
* you have an official receipt for the amount paid

Even if you have paid a higher amount to College or the University for accommodation, you are only allowed to offset a maximum of £1,334 towards the amount you may need to show for living expenses.

If you have not arranged College or University accommodation answer ‘No’

If you are a Visiting student on a study abroad programme who is not required to pay any accommodation fees to Oxford, because your home institution is paying Oxford directly, answer ‘No’

### Course fees

*What are your course fees for your first year?*

Enter the ‘Total Fees’ figure from your CAS statement. Note that for courses longer than one year, this is your fees for the first year only.

*Have you or your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) already paid any of your course fees?*

Select ‘Yes’ here if you have paid anything towards your fees and this is either recorded on your CAS statement or for which you have an official receipt from the University or College, and enter the amount as shown on your CAS statement or receipt.

If you are a Visiting Student who is not required to pay any course fees direct to Oxford because your home institution is paying Oxford and you have £0 for ‘Total Fees’ on your CAS statement, answer ‘No’ to this question. You might have to include a letter from your home institution confirming the arrangement with your visa application.

Some continuing students are likely to have £0 for ‘Total Fees’ on the CAS statement, you should also answer ‘No’ to this question.

If you have paid some of your tuition fee since your CAS was issued, you can contact your college or department (Recognised students) for this to be updated on your CAS statement.

### Student Loan

*Are any of the funds required for this application in the form of a student loan?*

This means a student loan provided by a government or a government sponsored student loan company or an academic or educational loans scheme. The loan letter must meet certain requirements which are set out in this UKVI [‘Financial Evidence for Student and Child Student visa applicants'](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-student-and-child-student-route-applicants) guidance.

*Have you already received your student loan?*

Answer ‘No’ unless the loan money has already been transferred to your own account.

### Maintenance funds (fees and living costs)

*Are all of the maintenance funds required for this application in a bank account with your name on it?*

If the funding you are relying on is in your own account or a joint account where you are one of the account holders, answer ‘Yes’.

*Are you relying on money held in an account under your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) name?*

This question will appear if the funds you are relying on are not in your own account or a joint account where you are one of the account holders. If the funding you are relying on is in your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) bank account, answer ‘Yes’ to this question and answer the follow-up questions about whether you have permission to use this fund and official evidence you will use to prove your relationship with your parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Some students will be answering ‘No’ to both these questions because they will be funded through a scholarship or a student loan. If you are using bank statements for financial evidence, you must use statements from your own or a parent’s or legal guardian’s account. You cannot use statements from a business account.

If you have a partner who already has a visa for the UK or who will be applying at the same time with you, you can use funding from their bank account for financial evidence. You can’t use a partner’s bank statement if they are not going to be in the UK as your Student visa dependant during your studies.

### Additional Information

Add anything here that you think is relevant to your application, including if you feel you need to further explain or add to your answers for previous sections.

## Documents

You will now have to indicate that you are providing the documents listed. If your application comes under the ‘differential evidence requirement’ because of your nationality, you should not be asked to provide financial evidence with your visa application but this might be required later on for a spot check. If your course at Oxford is at degree level (RQF6) or above, you don’t need to provide qualification evidence at all.

You do not need to submit your offer letter or a copy of your CAS statement.

You may be able to submit required documents by uploading them before your visa appointment, although this varies by country so look at instructions you are given by your local visa application centre.

**Remember that unless you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national you will need to submit your passport** either with your application or later as instructed to get the travel visa (vignette/sticker) affixed to it so you will need to plan for this if you have travel plans**.**

**a. Documentary evidence to show funding**

1. If your nationality is listed in Section 2 (at the start of this document) you will not have to provide financial evidence but remember you must have the documents available in case the UKVI caseworker asks for them before the decision for a random check).

1. If you are not exempt based on the above conditions you **must** follow the requirements for evidence of funding as specified in the [Home Office guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-student-and-child-student-route-applicants) and get translations if necessary. These requirements to show evidence of funding for your visa application are separate from any requirements you may already have had to fulfil your college Financial Declaration – **do not** assume the same evidence will be adequate.

If you are showing evidence of money held in either your own or a parent/guardian’s bank account, you must be able to show that the required level of funding has been held in the account **for at least 28 consecutive days before** the date you submit your visa application form online (**not** the date of your biometrics appointment). The 28 days is calculated by counting back from the date of the closing balance on the most recent evidence you provide.

You can use more than one bank account to show the funding, but all statements need to show the funds have been in the accounts for at least 28 consecutive days before the date you submit your visa application form online, and you must maintain the required amount of funding in total across the same 28-day period.

Any documents must also be dated **within 31 days** of the **date you submit your application form online.**

If you will be funded by a US Federal Student Loan, ensure you have proof of the loan and notification from the University’s Student Fees and Funding office. Send this with your visa application unless your nationality is in the [list of nationals who don’t need to show financial evidence](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-student-and-child-student-route-applicants#exempt-countries). If you need further information about this, email us.loans@admin.ox.ac.uk. Remember that if the loan is partial you may need to provide other evidence to cover the shortfall.

**b. Documentary evidence of academic qualifications**

If you are coming to Oxford for degree level study (for example, undergraduate level, Masters, or DPhil), you do not need to provide evidence of qualifications. This is because Oxford is a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance.

If you are coming to Oxford as a visiting student, your CAS statement may state ‘*student has been assessed as competent by the home institution – we have not required to see any qualifications’* and you are not required to submit any academic qualifications evidence with your application.

If you are a continuing student your CAS statement may mention ‘satisfactory progress’ or ‘coming back from a break’ or to ‘complete an exam resit’ and you are not required to submit any academic qualifications evidence with your application.

**Note for Undergraduate Certificate in Theological Studies:**

As this course is below degree level you will need to submit the qualifications listed on your CAS statement unless you have a passport issued by one of the countries or territories listed in Section 2 at the start of this document.

## Declaration

You must then make a declaration that all the information is correct to the best of your knowledge. Note that **you will not be able to edit your application** after completing the declaration.

If you think you have made a mistake on your application form, or would like to update or amend your answers after you have confirmed this section, you could write a cover letter explaining the information you would like to update or amend on the application form, and upload this cover letter together with other required documents with your visa application. Alternatively, you could start a new application with the same CAS if you have not paid for your IHS.

If you **have** already paid for your application but think you’ve made a mistake, please contact us for advice if possible before considering cancelling the application.

## Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

You will be asked to re-enter your course start and end date again on the IHS website and answer some other questions.

For information about how the IHS is calculated and why you have to pay it at this stage, [see step 5 on our](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/studentvisa?wssl=1) [webpage.](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/tier4?wssl=1) Note that you will also need to pay IHS for the length of your visa and not the length of your course, meaning the charging period includes additional time on your Student visa added by the Home Office before your course start date and after the course end date, as specified on your CAS statement. IHS is payable in local currency and may be a bit more than you expected because of the charging formula used by UKVI.

If there is an error with the payment calculation you will be asked at a later stage to top up this payment before your visa is issued. If you are charged too much IHS you will be able to claim a refund.

## Arranging to collect your BRP (biometric residence permit) in the UK

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national and you were able to use the UKVI ID Check App to confirm your identity online at the start of the application, this section does not apply to you. You will be able to view and prove your Student visa status online through your UKVI Account once your Student visa is granted, and you will not receive a visa vignette or a BRP.

If you are a non-EU, EEA or Swiss national, you will need to choose where to collect your BRP:

**Choosing where to collect your BRP**

When prompted, choose where to collect your BRP (and BRPs for any Dependants) when you arrive in the UK.

Select collect the BRP at the **Oxford St Aldates Post Office** or another Post Office near where you will be staying if not in Oxford on arrival.

To collect the BRP at the Oxford Post Office select ‘Sponsor Address Postcode’ and enter **OX1 2JD**. To choose another location (Post Office) in the UK, you can enter your residential address and postcode where you will initially be staying.

Collect the BRP as soon as you can after arrival. You will need the BRP card to open bank accounts and to enrol.

Oxford does not offer a central or college collection option for BRP cards so you must collect the card at the Post Office.

As the Home Office are moving to a fully online visa system (eVisas) next year, your BRP will not have an expiry date beyond 31st December 2024 even if your Student visa permission is still valid after this date. This is not an error and you do not need to report it. When your visa is granted, you will receive a visa decision email which will display the correct expiry date of your Student visa permission rather than **31st December 2024** and an explanation of the difference in dates.

## Application payment

After you have paid your Immigration Health Surcharge and chosen your BRP collection location, you can pay the visa application fee and submit the online application form.

The application form will show you if there are any additional services available. Subject to availability, you might be able to select the Priority Service or Super Priority Service, providing you the option to pay a higher fee to obtain a faster decision on your application.

The date that you pay for and submit your application form online is defined as your ‘application date’. Remember that processing times for visa applications are calculated from the date of your biometrics appointment (for non-EU, EEA or Swiss nationals) and are based on working days (Monday to Friday except Bank Holidays) rather than calendar days.

## Biometric Appointment

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national you will not need an appointment for biometrics, instead you will have used the UKVI ID Check APP to provide a face-scan.

If you are a non- EU, EEA or Swiss national, you will be prompted to book an appointment to enrol biometric information at a Visa Application Centre (VAC). Please follow the instructions on the application.

If you are submitting your application from USA, you will need to select whether to provide your biometric information from an Application Support Centre (ASC) or from a VFS Premium Application Centre (VFS PAC). You will not be able to amend your choice after you have selected this. You will need to purchase a Premium Service if you choose to attend a VFS PAC. Here is a UKVI guide on [applying for your Student visa from USA](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/usa-apply-for-a-uk-visa/apply-for-a-uk-visa-in-the-usa).

##  After your visa is issued

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national and you confirmed your identity using the UKVI ID Check APP at the start of your application, you will receive a decision email indicating the start and end date of your Student visa and you can also find instructions on how to access your Student visa online through your UKVI account.

If you are a non-EU, EEA or Swiss national, you will receive a decision email indicating the start and end date of your Student visa and you can also find instructions on how to collect your BRP after arrival. You will also be given an initial visa (travel vignette/sticker in your passport) valid for 90 days to enter the UK. You can use the travel vignette/sticker to come to the UK between its start date and end date. If it expires before you travel you will need to apply to replace it.

If your visa application is refused, please send a copy of your refusal letter to student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk  and we will advise you further.

##  Further help

If you have any problems during your visa application not covered by this guide, email student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk for advice. Oxford has nearly 4000 new students applying for visas each year, please do read this guide and our webpages carefully before contacting us.

From June to October is our busiest time so it may take us four working days or more to reply. If it is urgent, we will try to reply as soon as possible.  Please wait for a response rather than sending multiple emails as this might causes longer waiting times.

Please include your **student number (same as your applicant number, usually 6 or 7 digits and as shown in your CAS email; not your UCAS number)** in your email if known, or full name (as used to apply to Oxford) if you do not know your student number. This will help us locate your student record and advise fully.

If your visa application is refused, please email us a copy of the refusal letter so we can advise you before a new CAS number is issued.

If you think you have made a mistake on your application after submission and payment, please do not cancel it until you have contacted us and received advice on how to proceed – often it is not necessary to start a new application

##  Some terminology

**ATAS:** Academic Technology Approval scheme, some postgraduate students in Science, Engineering and Medical subjects may need special clearance for their research project- your department will tell you if you need this or you can check on the [graduate admissions webpage](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/international-applicants/visas-and-immigration?wssl=1).

This also applies to 4-year undergraduate degrees in Physics and Materials and your college will provide you a template letter to apply for ATAS.

Nationals of some countries are exempt from the requirement. Read our [information and FAQs about ATAS](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/ATAS#content-tab).

**BRP:** Biometric residence permit, non-EU, EEA or Swiss students will be issued a 90-day travel visa (vignette/sticker) affixed in the passport to come to the UK; after arrival you will collect your BRP from the Post Office. EU, EEA and Swiss students will not have a travel visa or a BRP.  BRPs are issued with an end date of 31 December 2024 as they are being [replaced by online visas](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/online-immigration-status-evisa).

**CAS:** Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies number, issued by your College (undergraduate or visiting student) or Department (graduate or recognised student) for you to apply for a Student visa. Read [our page about your CAS](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/CAS). Your **CAS statement** is the email that contains your CAS number and details about your course and fees.

**Differential evidence requirement**: reduced evidence requirements for nationals of some countries, see section 2 of this guide.

**Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance:** Oxford as a Student visa sponsor is a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance. Because of this, when you apply for your visa, you are not required to provide any qualifications evidence if you are coming for a degree level course, and we are allowed to confirm you meet the English language requirements so you don’t need to do an English language test for your visa application.

**IHS:** Immigration Health Surcharge, you will have to pay this as part of your visa application so that you are eligible to use the NHS (National Health Service) in the UK. The charge is £776 per year of your Student visa (£388 for per of a year that is less than 6 months) and you will need to pay for the total number of years of your course plus any additional time added to your visa at the same time you submit your visa application.

**RQF:** Regulated Qualification framework, codes used to specify level of course. SCQF is the equivalent for Scottish qualifications.

**Partner organisation (VFS Global or TLS contact):** these are the commercial companies who administer the visa application process on behalf of the UKVI, but they do not make the decision on your visa application.

**Travel visa:** see vignette below

**UKVI:** UK Visas and Immigration, they make the decision on your visa application. UKVI is part of the Home Office

**UKCISA:** [UK Council for International Student Affairs](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/), they provide advice on visa applications and other areas throughout your student journey.

**VAC:** Visa Application Centre, you will have an appointment to enrol biometrics (fingerprints and face scan) there and submit documents if not already uploaded.

**Vignette (travel visa):** a sticker in your passport if you are a non-EU, EEA or Swiss national valid for 90 days which is your window for travelling to the UK where you will collect a BRP. If you are coming for not more than six months the sticker will be your visa for the whole of the period, and you will not collect a BRP.