Guide to applying for a Student visa in your home country
Updated June 2021

Coronavirus and your Student visa application:
We know that you may have concerns about the Coronavirus pandemic, and we want to support you through the visa application process, and answer your questions. Please see the University webpages about coronavirus for new students.

Visa application centres have now mainly reopened, and you can check the status as follows:
- **TLS contact**: if you’re in Europe, Africa and parts of the Middle East
- **VFS global**: for all other countries

You **MUST** complete your application and obtain your Student visa before coming to the UK.
You **CANNOT** come to the UK as a visitor and switch visa status.
We **CANNOT** enrol you if you need a Student visa and only have visitor permission so you would not be able to start study.

These are Home Office requirements that students and the University must follow.

If because of coronavirus you cannot get a visa in time, or cannot travel because of flight restrictions, contact your department/college and Student Immigration to arrange help including support for remote study if appropriate.

Note for EU, EEA and Swiss nationals:
If you were living in the UK before the end of 2020 check whether you can apply under the EU Settlement Scheme to keep your rights to live in the UK without needing to make a visa application. The deadline to apply for the scheme is 30 June 2021. For further information see: Apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (settled and pre-settled status): Who should apply - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

If this does not apply to you, you will need to apply for a Student visa. This guide includes information for you including where your application procedure will differ from that for other nationals. For some introductory information from the UK government see The UK’s points-based immigration system: An introduction for EU students (publishing.service.gov.uk) and The UK’s points based immigration system: Application guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)

This guide will help you complete the online visa application and includes specific points for Oxford students. Read it carefully along with the detailed Student visa guidance issued by UK Visas and Immigration. This guide is for you if Oxford is sponsoring you and assigning you a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS), but not if you are coming for a short course that does not need a CAS, a distance learning or part-time course.

You will also find a terminology guide at the end in section 20.
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1. Where, when and how to apply

You can apply in your country of nationality or if you legally 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 for further information. You cannot enter the UK as a visitor or without a visa and then apply for your student visa.

You must have your CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) from Oxford before you can apply. For information about your CAS, see our Student visa webpage. You will receive an email while your CAS is being prepared; check the details carefully and reply with any changes you need. You will receive another email with your CAS number and other information you will need for completing the online application form: this is your ‘CAS statement’. Read our webpage with useful FAQs about how to check your CAS.

You cannot apply for your visa earlier than six months before your course start date as stated on your CAS. 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.

When you apply in your home country for a Student visa you need to register for and complete an online application.

This Guide refers to UK Visas and Immigration’s detailed Student visa guidance which sets out the exact requirements for a Student application. You will need to read this as well and follow the instructions very carefully.
2. Applicants who don’t 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 the qualifications listed on your CAS as the basis of your course offer. The Home Office now relies on Higher Education Providers with a track record of compliance, such as Oxford, to assess your academic ability and the visa caseworker does not need to see evidence of your qualifications.

If you are a national of one of the countries below your application will come under the ‘differential evidence requirement’ and 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 [SAR or British National (Overseas) passport], Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao SAR, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan (holding Taiwanese passport which includes identification card number), 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.

You will still need to provide any other required documents for example an ATAS or TB certificate where relevant.

3. Completing the online visa application form- personal details, family, travel history

Starting the online application: Here is the start-point for the online application – click on the green start now button

The first question (a) is for EU, EEA, Swiss nationals; if you are not a national of one of those countries answer no and then proceed to (b)

a) Country of nationality: 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 for your visa application.

EU, EEA or Swiss nationals only: you will now be directed to confirm your identity using a phone app and to create an account for your application. You will not need to attend an appointment to give biometrics. This UK government pamphlet might be helpful: The UK’s points based immigration system: Application guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)

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.
b) Confirm your visa type
Select ‘Student’

Select a country to provide your biometrics (non EEA/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.

You then need to confirm you can get to a biometric enrolment location in your country.

Follow instructions to confirm a password for your application. UKVI will send a link to your email address.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helpful hints while you are working on your application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ If you want to change a section you have previously completed, click on ‘show and edit answers’ at the bottom of the screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ 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’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ 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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ The questions in the application may appear in a different order to the information in this guide depending on your individual circumstances</td>
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Passport/Travel Document
If you are not an EEA/Swiss national, you need to **have one blank page/side** in your passport/travel document for your travel visa.

Your passport needs to be valid at the time of 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. This is because you will be issued a 90-day travel visa vignette/sticker in your passport and then you will collect a BRP (biometric residence permit) card on arrival in the UK which will be valid for your course duration and some additional time. This BRP card does not need changing or updating when you renew your passport in the future.

If you are an EEA or Swiss national you will receive your Student visa permission in electronic format only.

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!)

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

**Sponsor**

**CAS reference 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. If you do not have a CAS number, you cannot proceed with your application. For information about receiving a CAS see [Step 1 on our webpage](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/studentvisa). To be valid, your CAS must not be more than six months old at the time you apply for your visa.

If you are reapplying after a visa refusal, you **must get** a new CAS

**Personal Information**
Your individual details, including your home 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 and that you intend to use to travel to the UK.

**English Language**
This section will not appear if your nationality (or any additional nationality you have) is on the list of on this [Home Office webpage](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/studentvisa) or you are Canadian.

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 or 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?**
Oxford is a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance, so answer ‘yes’. Check your CAS 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 the second question here. You **do not need** to provide any 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

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e. Are you applying to study a course on English as a foreign language?
Answer no, unless your CAS is only for a standalone short pre-sessional English course.

f. Do you have a degree equivalent to a UK Bachelor’s degree which was taught in English?
Check your CAS and do not use this option if your CAS 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 and do not use this option if your CAS 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 and do not use this option if your CAS 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, you are also required to give information on your own application about a partner or spouse or financially dependent family members whether they will accompany you 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, state 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.

UK Travel History
How many times have you been to the UK in the last 10 years?
Choose a number and give the details for up to 3 visits.

If you have been in the UK in the last 10 years some questions will appear about your time in the UK including medical treatment, whether you have a National Insurance number or a driving license, whether you have received public funds or made a leave to remain (visa) application while in the UK.

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Medical Treatment
If you have been to the UK in the last 10 years you will be asked to include details and dates of any medical treatment received in the UK including visits to doctor’s surgery (known as a General Practitioner or GP) and whether you had to pay. Give information about any treatment as accurately as possible. Having used the UK’s National Health Service when eligible to do so for example because you held a long-term visa and/or paid the Immigration Health Surcharge with the visa application will not be a problem for this visa application.

National insurance number
You will only have a National Insurance number if you applied for one for example if you did any employment during a previous UK stay.

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 ok to receive if you are eligible for them and do not need to be declared here. For information on public funds see this Home Office webpage.

UK visa or leave to remain applications
A ‘leave to remain application’ is an in-UK visa application. Give details of any applications, including for a refusal.

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. Follow the instructions and give the information as accurately as you can, we appreciate this can be a bit difficult if you are a frequent traveller.

Have you been to any other countries in the past 10 years?
The form continues to ask about travel to all other countries.
Again, try to answer this to the best of your ability.

Your planned travel information
Date you plan to arrive in the UK?
Enter the date you plan to arrive, but this must not be more than a maximum of one month before your course start date as given on your CAS. You will be given an initial visa (travel vignette/sticker in your passport) valid for 90 days to enter the UK (UKVI may start issuing vignettes with 30 days validity as the pandemic eases). This vignette/sticker start date will be either 7 days before your intended travel date, or one month before your course start date, whichever is later. 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 breach of UK immigration law
It is very important that you give the required information about any immigration problems for the UK and other countries and breaches of immigration law. Contact us if you are worried about these sections, failure to declare this information would be considered deception.

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**Convictions and other penalties, and further security questions including employment**

It is very important that you answer this section accurately and give details wherever and however long ago any offence occurred. The form continues with further security questions and then another section about war crimes, terrorist activities, ‘good character’ questions and certain forms of employment.

Note: 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.

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

**4. Sponsor licence number and address**

This section is asking for information from your CAS about your course, the title, level, etc. The information you need for this section will appear on your CAS Statement:

* Sponsor Licence Number UED4UGNF1
* Sponsor’s address
  University Offices
  Wellington Square
  Town/city: Oxford
  Postcode: OX1 2JD

*Place of Study*
Oxford is a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance

*Primary site of study*
Answer ‘Yes’

*Did you apply for your course through UCAS?*
Answer ‘no’ unless you are coming for an undergraduate degree.
UCAS is the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service used mostly by prospective students to apply for undergraduate courses at universities in the UK.

**5. ATAS (Academic Technology Approval Scheme) Certificate**

Your CAS will state whether you need an ATAS certificate, although it is not necessary to wait for your CAS to be issued or your offer to become unconditional to apply for ATAS and the earlier you apply the more time it will save you in the summer.

You don’t need an ATAS certificate if you are a national of any of the following countries, including if you have more than one nationality and at least one of your nationalities is on this list:

- Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland or the United States of America.
For information about ATAS see [Step 2 on our webpage](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/studentvisa). If you have a question about whether you need an ATAS certificate, contact your college (undergraduates: 4-year Physics and Materials courses only) or your Department (graduates) or see the [graduate admissions webpages](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/studentvisa) and make sure you get the required information from your college or department.

If you do require an ATAS certificate, you must get it before you submit your visa application – this could take 30 working days or more. You will receive your ATAS certificate by email only – you may need to print and scan it.

### 6. 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 the study you are coming for from the UK government, your home Government, a university (including any funding through an Oxford department or from a college) or an international company or organisation.

“Wholly sponsored” means funding for your course or at least your first year if longer than a year to cover all your fees and at least £1,023 per month (up to a maximum of 9 months’ worth of maintenance, £9,207) for living expenses.

If your funding comes from another source for example a private individual or a non-international organisation or company, answer ‘no’ here and note that you can’t use confirmation from them as evidence of funding for your visa application, they would need to transfer the money to you in advance and you would need to demonstrate it had been in your own bank account for 28 days before you apply.

If you will be funding your studies using a student loan, answer ‘No’ here.

Please note that your CAS will not contain details of financial sponsorship so *do not choose* ‘My Student sponsor has confirmed this information on my CAS’. If you are not exempt from needing to submit the evidence (see section 2) you will need to submit your scholarship letter.

### 7. Course information

**Name of sponsor institution**

Enter ‘University of Oxford’

**Course name**

Enter the Programme Title exactly as shown on your CAS.

If you are a 1+1 or 1+3 student the CAS will only be for the first of your two courses, we cannot issue a CAS, and you cannot apply for a visa to cover both.

**Qualification you will get**

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

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For example:
Undergraduate or visiting students (on CAS RQF 6) select RQF6/SCQF9/10
Undergraduate Masters e.g. MEng, MChem, MBiochem, MPhys (on CAS RQF 7) select RQF7/SCQF 11
Masters students or MScRes (on CAS RQF7) select RQF7/SCQF 11
DPhil (on CAS RQF8) select RQF8/SCQF12

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.

Course start date
Use the date given on your CAS, ‘Course Start Date for visa application’.

If you are a continuing student applying for more time to complete a course, including returning to Oxford after suspension, check that your CAS and that it explains your situation.

Course end date
Use the ‘Expected End Date’ from your CAS statement
See the CAS FAQs webpage for an explanation why the DPhil CAS is 4.5 years in length

8. Accommodation Payments

Have you or your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) already paid any money to your sponsor for accommodation?
UKVI expect you to have at least £1,023 a month for living expenses including accommodation and you might have to send evidence to prove this. The maximum amount you will need to show is for 9 months (£9,207) even if your course is longer. Some money paid in advance for accommodation can be taken into account, reducing the figure you need to show.

You should only state an amount paid in advance if it is for College or University accommodation and:
• this amount is shown on your CAS statement as ‘Accommodation Fee Already Paid’ or
• you have an official receipt for the amount paid and
• your CAS also states Accommodation Provided ‘Yes’

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 maintenance.

If you are not in 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

9. 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 or for which you have an official receipt from the University or College, and enter the amount as shown on your CAS 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 £0.00 for ‘Total Fees’ on your CAS, state No to this question. You might have to include with your visa application a letter from your home institution confirming the arrangement.

Some continuing students are likely to have £0.00 for ‘Total Fees’ on the CAS. You must also answer No

10. 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. See Financial evidence for Student and Child Student route applicants - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

11. 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?
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 evidence you must use your own or a parent’s or legal guardian’s.

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

12. Additional Information

Add anything here that you think is relevant to your application, particularly where you were unable to answer one of the application questions in the field provided.

13. Documents

You will now have to indicate that you are providing the documents listed. If your application comes under the ‘differentiation arrangements’ because of your nationality, you should not be asked to provide financial evidence and if your course at Oxford is at degree-level or above you do not need to provide qualifications evidence.
You do not need to submit your offer letter or a copy of your CAS.

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. Note that unless you are applying as an EEA/Swiss national you will always have to submit your physical passport at some stage.

a. Documentary evidence to show funding

i. If your nationality is listed in Section 2 above you will not have to provide funding evidence but remember you must have the documents available, as in ii. below to provide if UK Visas and Immigration asks for them later (there may be spot checks).

ii. 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 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 comply with 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 account, you must be able to show that the required level of funding has been held for 28 consecutive days prior to application; any documents must also be dated within 31 days of the date you submit and pay for the application. The 28 days is calculated from the date of the last transaction in the last dated bank statement.

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 you come are in the list of nationals who don’t need to show financial evidence.

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. The Home Office allows Oxford as a Higher Education Provider (HEP) to assess your academic ability and your CAS will state what the assessment was based on.

If you are coming to Oxford as a visiting student, your CAS 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 evidence with your application.

If you are a continuing student your CAS may mention ‘satisfactory progress’ or ‘coming back from a break’ or to ‘complete an exam resit’.

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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 unless you have a passport issued by one of the countries or territories listed in Section 2.

14. 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.

15. Immigration Health Surcharge

For information about how the IHS is calculated and why you have to pay it at this stage, see step 5 on our webpage. Note that you will also need to pay for the additional two or four months that is added to your course end date to calculate your visa expiry date.

Note that you will **not be able to edit** your visa application after clicking through to the IHS website. You will be asked to re-enter your course start and end date again on the IHS website and answer some other questions.

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.

16. Application payment

After you have paid you will be prompted to arrange an appointment for giving your biometrics (fingerprint and face scan) which must be done before your application can be processed, and also to select where to collect your BRP after arrival in the UK. If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national you will provide biometric details using a phone app.

The date that you finalise your finalise, pay for and submit your application online is your ‘application date’. However, processing times are calculated from the date of your biometrics appointment where applicable.

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17. Arranging to collect your BRP (biometric residence permit) in the UK
(This section does not apply to you if you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national as you will not receive a BRP but a link to an online portal which confirms your visa status)

Choosing where to collect your BRP

When prompted, choose where to collect your BRP (and BRPs for any Dependents) when you arrive in the UK. Collect it as soon as you can after arrival but note that if you need to isolate due to the pandemic, do not collect it before you have completed isolation, the 10 day collection requirement will be relaxed. **Choose option a. or b. below based on your travel plans** and when you need the BRP. You will need the BRP card to open a bank account and to enrol so choose option a. or b. based on your travel plans.
a) If you are arriving in Oxford between 27 September and 5 October 2021 (or earlier than this date for quarantine, if required) you are recommended to collect your BRP at your college. You must also sign up on this Eventbrite form so we know to expect your card and it can be sorted and delivered to your college. Enter the alternative collection code 2HE627 on the visa application form for yourself and also on any application/s for your dependant/s. If you choose this method of collection then your College cannot give you the card any earlier than 27 September as the cards are stored at the Home Office and then only delivered to Oxford shortly before this date.

b) For students arriving when a) is unavailable:
Choose to 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.

After your visa is issued

Once your application has been processed you will be issued with a 30 or 90-day travel visa which will be a sticker (vignette) in your passport and an explanatory letter confirming where to collect your BRP. The date you can enter the UK using this travel visa will be calculated to start based on either 7 days before your ‘intended date of travel’ as included on your application form or one month before the course start date on your CAS, whichever is later.

Example: if your CAS start date is 3 October 2021 and you choose an ‘intended date of travel’ of 15 September 2021 your 90-day travel visa will start 7 days before i.e. 8 September 2021 and run until 7 December 2021. You could not ask for the travel visa to start earlier than 3 September 2021 in this example.

18. Biometric Appointment

You will be prompted to book an appointment to give biometric information at a Visa Application Centre (VAC). Please follow the instructions on the application. If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national you will not need an appointment for biometrics; instead you will use a phone app to provide a face-scan. The date that you finalise your finalise, pay for and submit your application online is your ‘application date’. However, processing times are calculated from the date of your biometrics appointment where applicable.

19. Further help

If you experience any difficulties email student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk for advice. Please also read the FAQs about your CAS number in case you can find the answer there first.

From June to October we receive a high volume of emails so it may take us three to four working days to reply. If it is an urgent matter, we will try to reply as soon as possible.

If you can provide your student number (same as your applicant number, usually 6 or 7 digits and as shown in your CAS email; not your UCAS number) or email from the contact address you included in your admission application this will help us locate your student record quickly to answer your query.

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If your visa application is refused, please email us a copy of the refusal notice 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.

20. 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/students/visa/before/studentvisa). 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. You don’t need ATAS clearance if you are a national of any of the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland or the United States of America.

**BRP**: Biometric residence permit- non-EEA/Swiss students will be issued a 90-day travel visa to come to the UK; after arrival you collect your BRP which will be valid for the whole of your course and include some extra time after course completion. See step 17 to choose the best location to collect the BRP. EEA and Swiss students will receive an electronic equivalent.

**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 visa.

**CAS Statement**: the email that contains your CAS number and details about your course and fees.

**Differentiation arrangements**: reduced evidence requirements for ‘low risk’ nationals. See section 2.

**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 £470 per year of your Student visa 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 apply for your visa.

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

For example RQF6/SCQF9/10 is for undergraduate/visiting students; RQF7/SCQF11 for Masters, MScRes, 4 year UG exit Masters awards; RQF8/SCQF12 for DPhil students.

**Partner organisation** e.g. VFS Global or TLS contact – commercial companies who administer the visa application process on behalf of UKVI but who do not make the decision on your application.

**UKVI**: UK Visas and Immigration - will make the decision on your visa application.

**UKCISA**: [UK Council for International Student Affairs](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/studentvisa), advice on visa applications and other areas.

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

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