

Student Welfare Service

UK Student Visa Information for new GSA Students

October 25



Student Support Services

<https://www.gsa.ac.uk/study-at-the-gsa/student-support>

- **Disability & Learning Development**

learningsupport@gsa.ac.uk

- **Counselling, Mental Health and Wellbeing**

counselling@gsa.ac.uk

- **Student Welfare - *UK immigration advice***

welfare@gsa.ac.uk

GSA Website: <https://www.gsa.ac.uk/study-at-the-gsa/international>

Pre-Enrolment Gateway: <https://canvas.gsa.ac.uk/courses/2722>

Student Intranet: <https://gsofa.sharepoint.com/sites/StudentIntranet/Pages/default.aspx>

- UK Student Visa regulations, guidance and application:

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

It is each student's own responsibility to ensure they correctly complete their visa application and submit the appropriate supporting documents.

- Helpful information and guidance from
UK Council For International Student Affairs (UKCISA):

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Student-route-eligibility-and-requirements>

○ Obtaining your CAS

CAS = Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies

You cannot complete your visa application without a CAS. To receive your CAS you are required to

1 - pay the tuition fee deposit, and

2 - provide proof you have met the conditions of your offer, for your main course of study, to our Registry Office

registry@gsa.ac.uk

○ Access the Online Visa Application Form

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply-online>

- Select “Student” for Visa Type
- Select the country from which you are applying
- Confirm that you can attend an appointment at one of the visa application centers or use the UK Immigration ID Check app to scan your documents. You will be told what you need to do when you apply.
- A Credibility Interview may also take place.

○ Required Documents

(you may require other documents in addition to this standard list)

- Financial evidence
(You may need financial evidence if you are applying overseas, or you are applying in the UK and have had a UK visa for less than 12 months)
- Passport (current and valid)
- Original educational certificates (as listed on your CAS)
- Proof of English language ability (if applicable - this will be stated on the CAS)
- A [TB certificate](#) (if applicable)
- A letter of parental consent if you are under 18
- Evidence about any changes to your name
- Official translations of any evidence which isn't in English

○ **Low Risk Applicants**

Certain Student Visa applicants do not need to provide evidence of their qualifications or their finance. The Home Office calls this the 'differentiation arrangement' for 'low-risk applicants'.

Low Risk Countries:

Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Rep, Denmark, Dominican Rep, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, 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, Thailand, Tunisia, UAE, USA.

○ Financial Evidence

If financial evidence is required, it must show that you have funding for:

- **tuition fees** for the first year of your course, or for the full course duration if it's a one-year course or shorter, and
- **living expenses** (or maintenance funds) of £1,171 per month for up to nine months (£10,539 in total)

UKVI has strict rules on the documentation that can be used as evidence of funds: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-student-and-child-student-route-applicants>

Helpful guidance can be found here: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Student-route-eligibility-and-requirements#layer-5347>

○ Complete the online application

Declaration

By sending this application, you confirm that to the best of your knowledge and belief the following is correct:

- the information relating to the application
- the supporting evidence

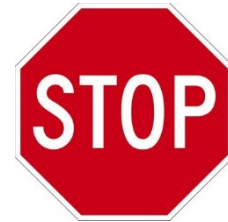
Also, the application will be processed according to the [privacy policy](#) and [terms and conditions](#).

If false information is given, the application will be refused and the applicant may be banned from the UK and prosecuted.

I confirm that:

- ☒ I am the applicant
- ☐ I am a representative of the applicant and have been authorised to act on their behalf and have discussed and confirmed the contents of this application with them

I accept the above



Only proceed with this section once you are ready to submit your application.

You cannot change your answers after the declaration stage.

When ready tick the declaration and complete the final steps to submit the application.

GSA does not offer a visa application form checking service.

○ Pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

Once you have carefully read and signed the declaration you will be taken to the **Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)** page.

- Confirm you will not stay in Jersey / Guernsey / Isle of Man.
- Copy the course start and end dates as well as the course level from your CAS (please note that “NQF 7” is equivalent to “RQF 7”/“SCQF 11”)
- Select “other” for the institution sponsoring you (not Uni of Glasgow)
- You will need a credit or debit card to pay the IHS. You can check how much you will need to pay using the details on your CAS and the IHS Payment

Estimator: <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application>

Currently £776 per person per year of stay in the UK

Once you have paid the IHS, the system will generate an IHS reference number which will automatically be entered on your visa application form.

○ Pay the Visa Application Fee

You are required to pay the UK Student Visa application fee. Your application is not fully submitted until this is done.

Student Visa fee = £524

In certain locations there is an additional fee to use the Visa Application Centre (VAC). You will be notified of this and the extra fee which will be added to your visa fee during the payment process for this application.

In the UK and some other countries you can pay an additional 'priority fee' or an additional 'super priority fee' to have your application processed more quickly.

○ **Book a Visa Appointment, if prompted to do so**

Review the ***Document Checklist*** and application form as PDFs.

If you are not using the UK ID App to upload your documents, you will be asked to book and attend an appointment at your nearest **Visa Application Centre**:

Applying outside the UK: <https://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre>

Applying inside the UK: <https://vcas.tlscontact.com/country/gb/>

Take the Document Checklist, your passport, your printed appointment confirmation details and any required supporting documents. If applying inside the UK, you can scan and upload your documents prior to your appointment. You will give your Biometric details (fingerprints and photos) at your visa appointment.

EU/EEA/Swiss and certain other students applying with a passport containing a biometric chip are not required to make an appointment to give their biometrics. They are expected to use the **UK Immigration ID check app** to scan and upload their passport and a photo:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-uk-immigration-id-check-app>

You will be told what to do when you apply.

○ Credibility Interview

You might be sent an email asking you to attend a ***Credibility Interview*** as part of the application process.

The interview will be short (around 5 minutes) and should be conducted during your appointment at the Visa Application Centre.

The interview will be via video link with UK Visas & Immigration staff based in the UK. The purpose of this interview is to check that you are coming to the UK as a genuine student. The questions will be about your immigration, education and employment history, study and post-study plans and financial circumstances.

○ **Receiving your visa when applying outside the UK:**

If your visa application is successful, your passport will be sent to you with an **Entry Clearance vignette/sticker**, which is valid for up to 90 days.

You will receive a **Visa Decision Letter** which confirms the application has been successful and the conditions of your visa.

From 15 July 2025, visa vignettes stickers in your passports will no longer be issued to successful Student visa applicants. Instead, you will need to follow the instructions in your decision letter or email to create a UKVI account and access your [E-Visa](#). You will not receive anything in your passport.

○ Receiving your visa when applying inside the UK:

You will be issued an [E-Visa](#), which can be used to view and prove your immigration status online.

Along side details of your E-Visa you will also be sent a Visa Decision Letter, containing information about the conditions of your visa. Please check this letter and keep a copy somewhere safe.

As long as you have submitted your visa application prior to your existing UK visa expiring, you can remain in the UK and commence your studies while waiting for your E-Visa to be issued.

If your Student Visa application is **refused** contact registry@gsa.ac.uk and welfare@gsa.ac.uk with your Refusal Notice

○ After receiving your E-Visa:

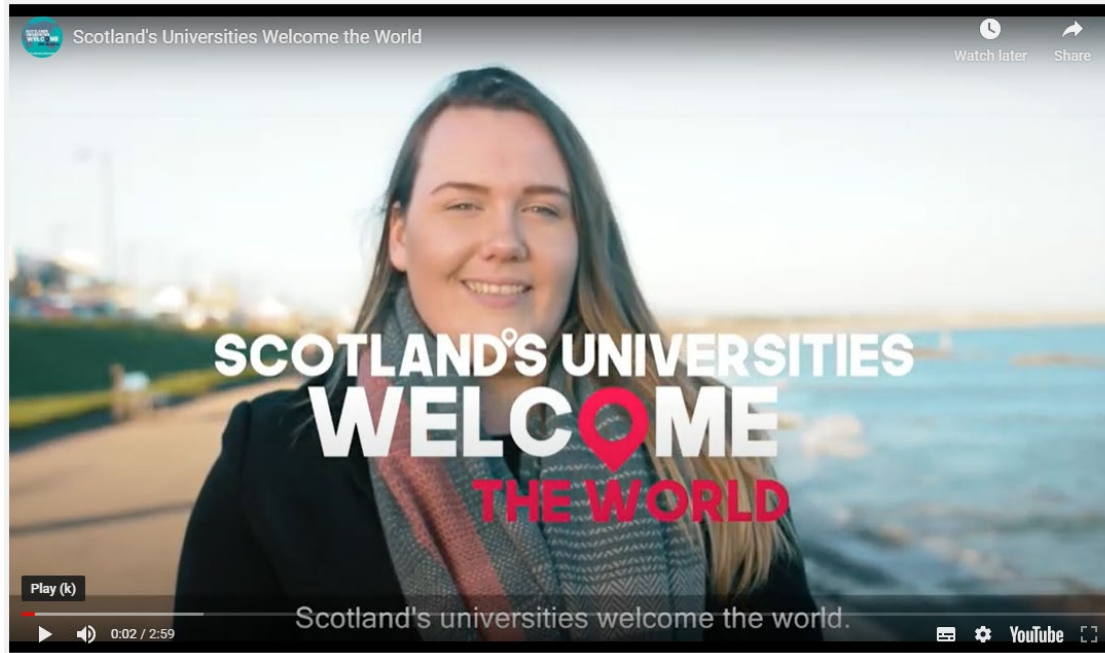
Check that all of the information is correct on your E-Visa and accompanying Decision Letter:

- name and date of birth
- Work permission. Your E-Visa / Decision Letter should state that you can work for 20 hours per week.
- Visa expiry date
 - 4 months after your programme end date, if your programme is 12 months or longer
 - 2 months after your programme end date, if your programme is for less than 12 months but more than 6.

You must report any problems with your E-Visa as soon as possible:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-error-evisa>

Arrival Information



<https://youtu.be/a1gXW7ziR8M>

Orientate Yourself

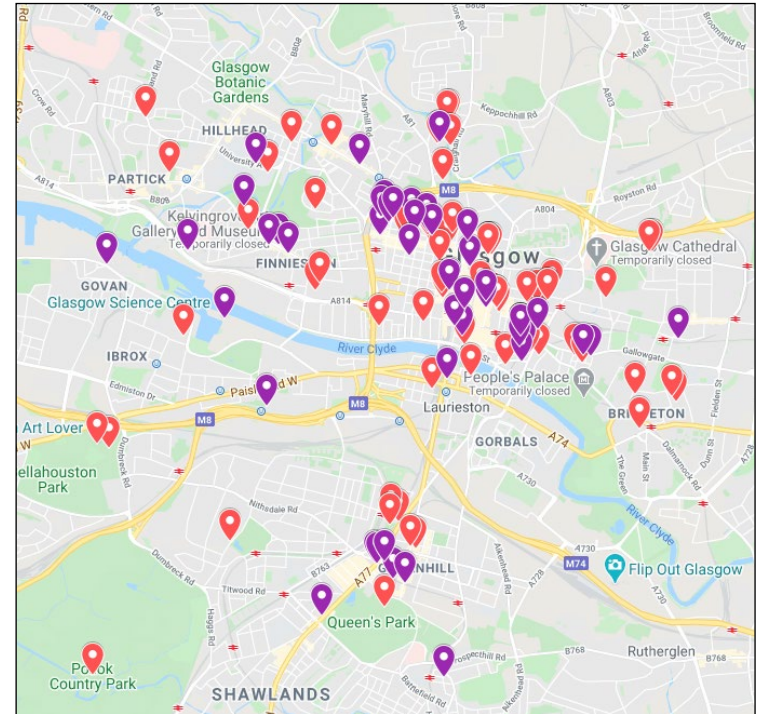
GSA Creative Network

A Creative Network of over 22,000 GSA students, graduates, industry partners, collaborators and supporters.

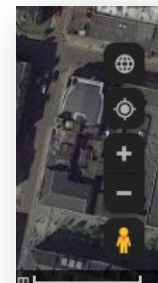
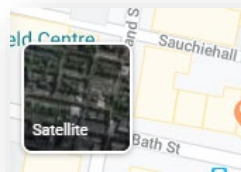
Representing a multitude of industries and residing in over 95 countries around the world.

GSA Live Map:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=12-2QYlva-pZgbXlQW_w7fMlydqL0usrI&hl=en_US&ll=55.86103367306809%2C-4.270765795043993&z=13



Google Maps 3D Globe View



Arrange your Accommodation

Securing your accommodation and getting to know more about living in Glasgow will help you make a great start to your time at GSA:

- GSA Halls of Residence:

<https://www.gsa.ac.uk/study-at-the-gsa/accommodation>

- Private Accommodation advice:

<https://www.gsa.ac.uk/study-at-the-gsa/accommodation/private-rented-accommodation>

Useful Numbers

Emergency Services: 999

Police Scotland / Ambulance Service / Fire Brigade / Coastguard

In a non-emergency situation you can contact the police by dialling **101**

NHS 24: 111

As a full time student in Scotland you can access health care via the National Health Service (NHS)

- <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>
- <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Healthcare

- Register with the NHS Doctor and Dentist.
Student Health Care info:
<https://canvas.gsa.ac.uk/courses/2722/pages/student-healthcare>
- Prescriptions are FREE in Scotland. Bring medication with you.
- Meningitis: Obtain Men ACWY vaccination (under 25's attending university for the first time)



Arriving in the UK

- Call home
- Move in to your accommodation
 - take out insurance for your personal belongings
 - apply for Student Council Tax Exemption
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/ctstudent>
- Enrol / provide documentation as requested by GSA
- Attend online GSA Central Induction sessions
(details to be confirmed)

Arriving in the UK, continued

- Attend online and in-person GSA Programme Induction sessions (details to be confirmed)
- Open a UK bank account
<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Opening-a-bank-account>
Student Status Letter:
<https://gsofa.sharepoint.com/sites/StudentIntranet/ProfessionalSupport/AcademicRegistry/Pages/Letter-Requests.aspx>
- Register with a doctor

Keep in contact with GSA:

- **Pre-Enrolment Gateway:**
<https://canvas.gsa.ac.uk/courses/2722>
- **Watch out for communications and newsletters e-mailed to all new students**
- **Keep in contact once enrolled on your programme:**
 - Student Emails
 - Student Intranet
 - Canvas – GSA's virtual learning environment

Useful Websites:

UKCISA:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>

The British Council:

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/moving-uk>

Scottish Government advice for international students:

<https://www.scotland.org/study>

Any questions or concerns please contact

Student Welfare: welfare@gsa.ac.uk