



APPLYING FOR A STUDENT VISA

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UK immigration policy changes regularly and while we will try to keep this guide up-to-date, it is advisable that you check the UK Government website for the most recent information - [UK Government website](#).

## DO I NEED A VISA TO STUDY IN THE UK?

It is likely you will need a visa to study in the UK if you are a national of a country outside the European Economic Area (EEA).

You can check whether you need a visa to study by visiting the [UK Government website](#). If you are already in the UK, your current leave to remain status may allow you to study.

## WHICH VISA SHOULD I APPLY FOR?

The College provides support for three types of study visa:

1. **Tier 4 (General) Student Visa - for study of one or a maximum of two years in duration**
2. **Short Term Study Visa (up to six months) - for study related to exams, re-sits and short commercial courses**
3. **Short Term Study Visa (up to 11 months) - for study related to full-time English language courses only (ESOL)**

### 1. TIER 4 VISA

The UK Tier 4 visa is for students undertaking studies that last more than six months at an **UK approved education institution**. If your application to North East Scotland College is successful, we will issue you a Confirmation of Acceptance (CAS) number- a unique number that you need to apply for a visa.

What do I need to know about this route?

- **This route is open to applicants outside the EEA (incl. Switzerland) only.**
- **You must be 16 or over.**
- **You can study a maximum of two years at the College.**
- **The minimum level of course you can apply for must be at SCQF<sup>1</sup> level 6 or above or ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages).**
- **The course must be full time - minimum 15 hours a week (8am -6pm)**
- **You must demonstrate that you have enough money available to support and accommodate yourself without working or help from public funds - i.e. maintenance funds.**
- **You are not permitted to take paid or unpaid employment**

## WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR A TIER 4 (GENERAL) VISA?

There are several important documents you will need to include with your visa application. You apply for this at your nearest Visa Application Centre in your country of usual residence - [find a full list of centres here](#).

The main documents are:

- **A valid passport**
- **A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number**
- **Original qualifications as listed in your CAS statement**
- **IELTS Academic certificate from an approved provider<sup>2</sup>**
- **Evidence of maintenance funds - please refer to Tier 4 guidance on the UK Government website**
- **Tuberculosis test results if applicable**
- **A credit / debit card to pay for the visa application and immigration health surcharge fees**

Note: All of the above documents will be checked by the College before a CAS number is released. Applicants will be required to make a payment of tuition fees in full before a CAS number is released.

<sup>1</sup>Scottish Credit Qualification Framework

<sup>2</sup>Exceptions to this requirement can be found [here](#).

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR A TIER 4 VISA?

Once you have successfully completed the College application process, have been offered a place, your supporting documents have been checked by the College and you paid your first year tuition fees in full, your CAS statement including your CAS number will be issued and sent to you via email. You can apply for your visa **online**.

Before applying, make sure you read the visa overview on the **UK Government website**.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

When your visa application is approved, your passport and temporary Tier 4 visa vignette (sticker for your passport) will be posted to you (if applicable). Please keep the College up-to-date with your travel arrangements.

If for some reason your visa is refused, please contact the College with a copy of your refusal notice. We will review your application and refusal to see how we can help you apply for a review of the decision.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE IN THE UK?

On arrival in the UK please contact the College. Please bring your passport and the original qualifications you used for your Tier 4 application. We will provide you with some essential information and direct you to the local Post Office to collect your biometric residence permit. You will then be able to enrol on your course.

College Tier 4 responsibilities:

- **Check all the relevant documents (passport, SELT, qualifications including any portfolios, TB test, evidence of maintenance funds etc.) and eligibility of TIER 4 applicants (e.g. course, academic progression, visa etc.)**
- **Conduct a Skype interview - overseas applicants or where an in-person interview is not possible**
- **Issue a CAS number accompanied with a CAS statement**
- **The College will carefully monitor the attendance of all Tier 4 students and report those with poor attendance to the UK Government.**
- **The College will also maintain an up-to-date file for all Tier 4 students, which includes contact details, a copy of your passport, BRP, and copies of any other documents used as evidence for a Tier 4 visa application.**
- **The college will comply with UK immigration law.**

## 2. SHORT TERM STUDY VISA

This type of visa can be used for:

- 2.1. **Short Term Study Visa (up to six months) - for study related to exams, re-sits and short commercial courses**
- 2.2. **Short Term Study Visa (up to 11 months) - for study related to English language courses only (ESOL)**

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS ROUTE?

- **This route is open to applicants outside of the EEA/Switzerland only.**
- **You must be 16 or over to apply and if you are under 18 additional documents are required.**
- **This route is non-extendable - you must leave the UK at the end of your visit.**
- **You are not permitted to take paid or unpaid employment under this route.**
- **You must demonstrate that you have enough money available to support and accommodate yourself without working or help from public funds.**
- **You must show that you can meet the cost of the return journey.**



## WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR A SHORT-TERM STUDY VISA?

When your application has been successful and your payment has been made, an admission letter will be issued by the College.

For full information on other supporting documents\* required, please consult the **UK Government website**.

### 3. SHORT-TERM STUDY VISA (UP TO ELEVEN MONTHS)

This route applies exclusively to students on full-time English language programmes (ESOL), who are eligible to apply for an 11-month visa.

#### WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS ROUTE?

- This route is open to applicants outside of the UK only.
- You can only take this route if you are studying full-time ESOL only. Students who are studying ESOL alongside another course do not qualify.
- You must be 16 or over to apply.
- This route is non-extendable - you must intend to leave the UK at the end of your visit.
- You are not permitted to take paid or unpaid employment under this route.
- You must demonstrate that you have enough money available to support and accommodate yourself without working or help from public funds.
- You must show that you can meet the cost of the return journey.

#### WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR STUDENT VISITOR VISA (UP TO ELEVEN MONTHS)?

When your College application has been successful and your tuition fee payment has been made in full, an admission letter will be issued by the College.


For full information on other supporting documents\* required, please consult the student visitor page on the **UK Government website**.

\*These documents will be checked by the College before an admission letter is issued.

#### COLLEGE SHORT TERM STUDY VISA RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Check all the relevant documents (passport, SELT, qualifications including any portfolios, TB test, evidence of maintenance funds etc.)
- Conduct a Skype interview where applicable - overseas applicants or where an in-person interview is not possible
- Issue an admission letter
- The College will carefully monitor the attendance of all short term study visa students
- The College will also maintain an up-to-date file for all short term study visa students, which includes contact details, a copy of your passport, visas, and copies of any other documents used as evidence for a short term study visa application.
- The college will comply with UK immigration law.

 [www.nescol.ac.uk](http://www.nescol.ac.uk)

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