

Choose institution and course

**Applying for a Tier 4  
visa from your home  
country**

Apply for place and receive unconditional offer

Apply for [ATAS clearance certificate](#) (if applicable)

Accept offer and obtain a 'Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies' (CAS) number from the institution (this is an electronic reference number that you will need in order to apply for a Tier 4 visa; it is valid for six months)

Check visa process in your [country of residence](#) and the [visa processing times](#) (you cannot apply more than three months before the course start date)

Take a [TB test](#) (if applicable)

Check that you meet the [Tier 4 requirements](#)

Complete [application form online](#), (unless you are [applying in North Korea](#), in which case you must print out and complete [VAF9](#) and [PBS Appendix 8](#)), pay the application fee and the [immigration health surcharge \(IHS\) if appropriate](#)

Book appointment at Visa Application Centre (VAC) (if appointment is required)

Attend VAC and pay application fee (if not already paid)

Provide your biometric information (and attend a credibility interview if you have been asked to do so)

Write your IHS reference number on your application form, sign it and submit it and your supporting documents and passport, either at VAC or by post

Visa is granted / refused – contact your institution if your application is refused

Documents and passport are returned by post or collected

Check that all of the details on your visa are correct, in particular that you have been granted [the correct length of leave](#)

Travel to the UK on/after the 'valid from' date on your visa and [collect your BRP within ten days of arrival](#) (if applicable). (Some nationals must also [register with the police](#) within seven days of arrival.)