

CHILD STUDENT **VISA** GUIDE

Welcome to our comprehensive guide on applying for a **Child Student visa to study in the UK**. Our aim is to simplify the application process and provide you with all the essential information you need.

What is a Child Student visa?

International pupils who do not hold British citizenship or UK residency such as EU Settled or Pre-Settled status will need a visa to study in the UK. A Child Student visa permits pupils aged between 4 and 17 to study at an independent school in the UK. The independent school must have made an unconditional offer of a place on a course.

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

Upon receiving an offer of a place on an approved course, the school will provide a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). This is a reference number required for the visa application. The school obtain this reference number by providing certain specific information regarding the pupil and the course to UK Visas and Immigration. The CAS is valid for six months, so it is vital that the visa application is made within this timeframe.

What is the visa application process?

Applications consist of an online application form, uploading supporting documents, and verifying identity. Depending on nationality and location of application, identity verification will either be carried out in person via an appointment at a local visa centre, or via the "UK Immigration: ID check" app. **The online application form can be found here:** www.gov.uk/child-study-visa+

How much will it cost?

To submit the visa application, you will need to pay:

- £490 visa application fee
- £776 per year of study for the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS). This will be calculated as a total for the full period of study, so £1552 for a 2-year visa. This provides full access to the National Health Service. More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application>

What documentation is required?

It is important to ensure that all required documents are provided in the correct format. A typical application will require:

- Valid Passport or Travel Document
- Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)
- Birth Certificate
- Parental Consent Letter confirming the relationship between parents and child, consenting to the child's visa application, living arrangements and care in the UK, travel to and reception in the UK. This must be signed by both parents, or by one only if they have sole responsibility, and provide contact details.

The application may also require;

TB test certificate. Check if you need one here:
<https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa>

Financial evidence to prove sufficient funds are available to cover course fees and living costs.

Certified English translations of documents not in English.

Additional documents may be necessary based on your specific situation. Ensure you compile a comprehensive set of documents to demonstrate your eligibility for the visa.



Financial evidence

You may be required to show you have enough money to pay your course fees (as shown on your CAS) and living costs. The specific amount required depends on individual circumstances:

Living arrangements	Required funds
Residential independent school boarding	Sufficient funds to cover the course fees and boarding fees for one academic year.
Living with a Private Foster Carer or Close Relative (British Citizen or Settled Status)	Adequate funds to pay the fees for one academic year. The carer or relative must have at least £570 per month available for the duration of the course (up to nine months).
Living with the child's parent or legal guardian	Sufficient funds to cover the course fees for one academic year. If no other children are under the parent's care, £1,560 per month must be available for up to nine months. If other children are also being cared for by the parent in the UK, £625 per month per child is required.
Aged 16 or 17 and living independently	Adequate funds to pay the school fees for one year. If studying in London, £1,334 per month for each month of the course (up to a maximum of nine months). If studying outside London, £1,023 per month for each month (up to a maximum of nine months).

Evidence can be in the form of bank statements or a letter from your bank that show the required money has been held for at least a consecutive 28-day period ending within the 31 days prior to the application submission date. **Funds must remain available until a decision is made.**

If course fees and accommodation fees (if boarding) for one academic year have been paid in full in advance then the requirement is met. Receipts of payments should be retained, ready to provide with the application. Certain nationalities are exempt from the requirement to provide financial evidence, however you should still be ready to show this as UK Visas and Immigration may still request it.

Important Note

A common reason for visa refusals is where UK Visas and Immigration are unable to verify the available funds, either because requested documentation has not been provided or is not in the required format, or because the funds have dropped below the required level while the application is being processed. Please ensure that you are clear on what evidence you must show and that the format of evidence meets UK government specified requirements. Please contact us for guidance on your specific circumstances.

When can the application be made?

An application cannot be made more than six months before the start date of the course, or more than three months if applying from within the UK. Please also note the CAS validity above.

How long will it take?

The Home Office usually processes Child Student Visa applications as follows:

- **Applications from outside the UK:** Decisions are usually made within 3 weeks.
- **Applications from within the UK:** Decisions are usually made within 8 weeks.

Please keep these timeframes in mind when planning your application.

UK Visas and Immigration may request further information or documentation before making their decision. Please check all email inboxes (including Spam and Junk folders) for emails from a GOV.UK address while the application is being processed.

What does a successful application look like?

The visa will either be issued electronically or physically, depending on nationality and location of application. The two possible outcomes are explained as follows:

The visa will be issued electronically as an 'eVisa'. This is an online record of UK immigration status and any conditions of that status. It can be shared with the school by generating a share code via your UKVI online account. When entering the UK, border officers will be able to view the eVisa via their system.

The visa will be issued physically as a Biometric Residence Permit ('BRP'). This is collected from within the UK, and so a visa vignette will be stuck in the pupil's passport to show at the UK border for initial entry. Please note that BRPs are being phased out, and by the end of 2024 all UK immigration status will be evidenced via an eVisa.

In either case, the 'valid from' date must be noted and the pupil must not travel to the UK to commence their studies until their new visa is valid.

How long will the Child Student visa be valid for?

The duration of the Child Student visa will vary depending on sex and course length. Those eligible have the option to extend their visa if they are eligible.

Child Student age	Period granted before course starts
Under 16 years	1 month
16 or 17 years	1 month

Several factors, including age and course length, will determine how long you can stay in the UK to continue their studies in the UK.

Start date	Duration of visa
	Course length (up to 6 years) plus 4 months
	Course length (up to 3 years) plus 4 months

Can a parent care for the Child Student visa holder while they are studying?

If your child holds or is applying for a Child Student visa, you may be eligible to apply for the Parent of a Child Student visa. To qualify, the following conditions must apply in your case:

- Your child is aged between four and eleven years old.
- Your child is attending an independent school in the UK.
- You are the sole parent accompanying your child in the UK.
- You maintain your primary residence in your home country.
- You have firm plans to leave the UK when your visa expires.

As a Parent of a Child Student visa holder, you are allowed to stay in the UK until your child's visa expires or until they turn 12 years old (whichever comes first). If your child continues their studies beyond this age, ensure suitable arrangements are in place for their ongoing care.



Further support

Our dedicated BSA Legal team specialises in supporting international pupils and their families throughout the UK visa application process. For expert guidance and assistance with Child Student visa applications or related matters, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are committed to assisting you at every stage.

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