



Applying for a Student route visa

DISCLAIMER

Providing immigration advice or services is regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) and it is a criminal offence for unauthorised advisers to provide such advice. At Itchen College we are unable to provide immigration advice specific to an individual's specific circumstances in connection to an immigration situation matter. **We are able to provide general information and referrals to useful websites.** Please note that General information given for students who will require visas to study in the UK is made in good faith and in line with the Immigration Rules applicable at the date of issue. Itchen College accepts no liability for subsequent changes made by the Home Office with regard to UK visas.

Itchen College is listed on the [Register of licensed sponsors: students - GOV.UK](#) and can sponsor students who wish to study in the UK for longer than 6 months under the Student route.

Our Sponsor Licence number is HX74G5DRX

When making an application for a Student route visa it is always advisable to check the requirements on the following UK Government site - [Student visa : Overview - GOV.UK](#)

An alternative site which is easily accessible is UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) which provides FREE information for anyone planning to study in the UK. The relevant page for visas is [Applying for a Student route visa outside the UK](#) if you are overseas.

If you are in the UK then look at [Making a Student route application in the UK](#)

You must provide proof of your English Language ability to obtain your visa

We will assess your listening and speaking skills in the interview and only make an offer if we are satisfied you meet the entry requirements for these elements. The UK Home Office asks for official proof in the form of a Secure English Language test (known as a SELT) to prove your language skills do meet their minimum entry requirements. This is to ensure that you are a genuine student who has the ability to not only learn in the English language but to pass the final qualifications.

The test you choose must be approved by the UK Home Office and this means it is taken at an approved test centre and is for UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) purposes. Make sure you take the correct test as you will need the UKVI number on the results certificate to make a visa application.

We advise you to prepare for your SELT appointment and if they are available please complete some mock tests so you know what to expect on the test day. This will ensure you get the result you deserve. Good preparation means you will be relaxed and not surprised by unexpected components during the test.

You will be assessed in four components - listening, speaking, writing and reading.

If you are overseas please choose one of the following providers when booking your test - IELTS SELT Consortium, LanguageCert, Pearson or PSI Services (UK) Ltd.

A list of approved test centres can be found at

[Prove your English language abilities with a secure English language test \(SELT\) - GOV.UK](#)

The majority of students will opt for IELTS for UKVI Academic and the British Council site has a section on preparation and free mock tests that you can try. [Prepare for IELTS | Take IELTS](#)

The English language entry requirement for the visa is CEFR Level B1, which is a very wide ability band.

We ask that students achieve IELTS for UKVI 5.0 with no band lower than 5.0 or score the equivalent in another acceptable test. If you choose IELTS for UKVI, opt for the academic category if it is available.

If you use a different SELT your overall score must still be equivalent to CEFR Level B1 in all bands, during one test entry.

Once we have a copy of your SELT; a signed Acceptance of Offer and completed Parental Consent Form (both part of our Unconditional Offer document), we can provide you with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).

The CAS is a long reference number that the UK Home Office site provides when we complete an information database on their system.

We will give you a copy of this document so you can see the information we have entered. The CAS reference number is what you will need to make your visa application and this will link together our record and yours.

Any documentation that we name on this database, must be available if required by the UK Home Office.

See [UKCISA - international student advice and guidance - Student route: eligibility and requirements](#) for more information about long-term students eligibility requirements. These requirements are so that you provide proof that you are a genuine student.

If we make you an offer then that means we have assessed that you meet our entry requirements academically. You must still meet the UK Government's requirements when making your application so please check carefully if you have to provide any documentation before starting your visa application.

How to apply

You should apply before you have travelled to the UK and no more than six months before the start date of your course.

The link to apply online is here [Student visa : Apply - GOV.UK](#)

Before making the application check the documents you will need to apply which can be found here [Student visa : Documents you'll need to apply - GOV.UK](#)

We are licensed as a Student Visa provider, so please make sure that you apply for the Student Visa category and NOT the Child Student Visa.

The UKCISA website at [Applying for a Student route visa outside the UK](#) gives full details on what should happen next.

Should the UK Home Office contact you with any questions or requests for information, please do not ignore their request or they will decline your visa and will not provide any refund of the processing fee paid.

We cannot provide immigration advice but are able to provide general guidance or signpost you to the information on the GOV.UK or UKCISA websites. Please contact us immediately on international@itchen.ac.uk if you are sent any information requests or asked questions by the UK Home Office.

Once you have your visa decision, please let us know by emailing international@itchen.ac.uk.

In the unlikely event that your visa is refused, it is important to let us know immediately so we can assist with this. Please email international@itchen.ac.uk

Remember, a visa application is just a form and as long as you read it carefully and provide any information requested, you will have no problems.

If you are considered a low-risk applicant you still require certain evidence but will not need to submit it. You should however ensure that you have the evidence in case you are asked for it.

The list of countries that can take advantage of this are listed in paragraph ST22.1 of the [Immigration Rules: Appendix Student - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Remember:

- If you are unsure then read the guidance on GOV.UK or UKCISA sites.
- Ask us for guidance if you cannot find the answer - never guess.
- Do not ignore requests from the UK Home Office.
- If you are asked for something, please provide it or give the UK Home Office a timescale for when they can expect to receive it.
- Never be dishonest on the application or provide false documentation, as they will find out and decline your visa.
- The UKCISA Checklist is a good starting point for the visa process and this can be found at <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/uploads/files/1/OutUKChecklistF.pdf>
- Provide accurate information and documents if these are requested - they will check them and are very bureaucratic so everything has to be 100% correct. They do not overlook deliberate omissions or falsified documentation.
- Most importantly this is not a difficult visa as long as you read everything carefully and provide the answers. We are here to signpost you to helpful websites. Please contact us for this guidance.
- There are immigration advisers or specialists in every country who can assist if you really do not want to complete the visa application yourself. You will need to pay for their services but it is an option open to you.

Useful contacts:

Lynne Jones, International Coordinator (UKVI Sponsor Management System (SMS) User

Email: ljones1@itchen.ac.uk

Telephone: 0044 2380435636 ext.302

Mobile 0044 7741 260633

International General Information

Email: international@itchen.ac.uk

Useful websites:

[Student visa : Overview - GOV.UK](#)

[UKCISA](#)

[Take IELTS](#)

[PTE Academic UKVI](#)