





Student visa - Requirement guide

For students applying outside the UK



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Before applying – things to know

What is a visa / eVisa

A visa, also referred to as '**Permission to Enter**' when applying from outside the UK, permits you to enter the UK. Your visa application will be processed by the British authorities (Visa Application Centre) in your country of nationality or where you are legally resident.

From the 15th July, Student Route applicants will receive evidence of their full permission for the UK in a digital format called an <u>eVisa</u>. You will be able to access this through your <u>UKVI account</u>. Follow all the instructions in your decision letter to create a UKVI account.

You should only travel to (enter) the UK from the start (valid) date of your Student Route visa - entering the UK before the start date may mean you have to leave the UK and return after the start date!

When you arrive in the UK, your passport will be stamped with the date, location, and details of the Border Force Officer who looks at your passport. If you pass through e-Gates, it will not be stamped, but this is not an issue as long as you keep your flight ticket and boarding pass to show at Enrolment.

Your digital status can be shared with anyone who needs to check your permission.

When you receive your eVisa, you should receive a decision letter with it. This may be in the form of a physical letter or an email. It is important that you keep this somewhere safe as it is proof of your grant of permission and carries details of the conditions of your permission.

Online immigration status (eVisa)

The UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) has developed a digital immigration system. This means they are replacing physical visa documents such as Biometric Residence Permits (BRP) with an online record of your immigration status. This is known as an eVisa.

You will need to <u>create a UKVI account</u> to access your eVisa and share information about your immigration status and conditions, such as your right to work or rent in the UK, using the <u>view and prove service</u>.

Get access to your eVisa: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

For further information see Online immigration status: eVisas | UAL (arts.ac.uk)



EEA and Swiss nationals

You should only apply using the Student visa route if you moved to the UK to live on or after 1st January 2021. If you entered the UK before this date, you should have already applied to the <u>EU Settlement Scheme</u>. The application deadline for the EU Settlement Scheme was 30 June 2021.

If you're a non-EEA family member of an EEA national living in the UK, please contact us for advice.

What is Student sponsorship?

Your visa is issued under the University's student sponsor license. As your sponsor, we have a legal duty to do all that we can to ensure that students enrol and comply with the conditions of their Student visa.

Further information about your responsibilities and the conditions of your visa can be found on our website. Search for 'immigration and visas' at arts.ac.uk.

When should I apply?

You should apply as early as possible however, you cannot apply more than 6 months before the official course start date listed on your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). You should only apply when:

- you meet the financial requirements set by the Home Office
- you have the correct supporting documents
- you have received your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).

How long will it take to process my application?

The average processing time is 15 working days, but you should check processing times in your country using the online tool at the <u>gov.uk website</u>.

Making your Student Route visa application

Step 1: Prepare your documents

Do I need to provide original documents?

This varies from country to country as some application centres allow you to scan and upload your documents, but some require you to bring your original documents to your biometric appointment.

Do I need to provide translations?

If a document is not in English or Welsh, the applicant must provide a fully certified translation from a professional translator or translation company that can be independently verified by the Home Office. The translation must include all of the following information:

- confirmation that it is an accurate translation of the document
- the date of the translation
- the full name and signature of the translator or an official from the translation company
- the translator or translation company's contact details

What documents are required?

Document	Information
CAS	This is not a document, but a unique number provided to you by UAL, which you must enter on your online visa application form.
Passport	Must be valid on the date you submit your online visa application form and the date on which you plan to arrive in the UK.
Financial documents	Documents must meet specific requirements to be considered acceptable by UK Visas and Immigration. The exact requirements are discussed in this guide.
Qualifications	All the documents listed in the 'Evidence used to obtain offer' section of your CAS statement, which include certificates or transcripts of qualifications that were used to assess your suitability for the course. If an English language test is listed here, you must provide this certificate. Note that you are not required to submit a portfolio, even if your CAS statement lists one.
English language ability	Your CAS will state how your English language ability has been assessed. Some students will be exempt from being assessed using an English language test and will have to provide different evidence.
Official translations	If any of your documents are not in English or Welsh, you must provide translations, which meet specific requirements.
Parents' consent letter and evidence of relationship	If you will be under 18 on the date you submit your online visa application, your parents or legal guardians must provide a letter of consent for your studies in the UK, confirming your relationship. You must also provide evidence of your relationship with them.
Financial sponsor's consent letter	If a government or an international scholarship agency is currently providing financial sponsorship or has provided financial sponsorship within the last 12 months for studies in the UK, they must provide a letter of consent. Financial sponsorship means that all of your tuition fees and living costs are covered. The Student Advice Service can provide detailed requirements for the letter.
TB test result	A TB (Tuberculosis) test result if you have been residing in a country that requires this. See gov.uk/tb-test-visa for further details.

What is a CAS?

Your CAS number is a unique number assigned to you when the University provides information about you and your course to UK Visas and Immigration. You are sent a CAS statement by email, which contains this number and other relevant information about you and your course. You should use this information to help you complete the relevant sections of your visa application form.

You will need to enter your CAS number in your online application form and the Entry Clearance Officer will use this number to check the information held on their system about you, your course and documents they are expecting you to provide as part of your visa application.

You are not expected to send a printed copy of your CAS statement as it is already held electronically on the UKVI computer system.

Who will send the CAS and when will I receive it?

Your situation	Your CAS will be provided by	
Students starting a new course, who applied directly to UAL	Admissions Team: admissions@arts.ac.uk	
Current UAL students continuing on the same course, repeating a unit or returning from Time	The Immigration Compliance team (ICT) will contact you via the Student Portal at least 3 months before you are due to resume your course. You will also receive a notification to your UAL email address.	
Out	If you do not receive an invitation, please contact the Immigration Compliance team via email: CASrequest@arts.ac.uk .	

You will be eligible for a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number when:

- your deposit payment has been received AND,
- you have met all the conditions of your offer.

Continuing students are not required to pay a deposit and will have already met the conditions of their offer.

CAS numbers will normally be emailed to eligible students **from** three months before the course start date.

English Language Requirements

You will meet the visa English language requirement if any of the following apply, and you provide any necessary evidence. How your English language ability was assessed will be indicated on your CAS. It's important to understand that these are the requirements for the visa application only. UAL has its own English language requirements which must be met as part of the conditions of your offer. You must read the University website to understand what documents the University will accept to assess your English language level, which may differ from the list below.

 Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance has assessed you as meeting the required level

Evidence: confirmed on the CAS 'HEI sponsor has made assessment', no other evidence required.

- National of a <u>majority English-speaking country</u> Evidence: your passport
- Secure English Language Test (SELT) from an approved provider to the required level. Tests are only valid for 2 years.

Evidence: Enter your UKVI URN number on your visa application form

- Study abroad student studying in the USA on a course of study at degree level **Evidence**: confirmed on the CAS, no other evidence required.
- Met in a previous application. This means that your previous visa application must have been successful and show the required level of English ability for the course level you are now applying for.

Evidence: None required as the UKVI caseworker will check on their available systems.

 Have a GCSE, A level or Scottish Higher qualification from an OFQual in English language or literature, gained through education undertaken while you were aged under 18 and in a UK school.

Evidence: Exam certificate, transcripts or printout from awarding body's online checking service.

If you're a student continuing on the same course who needs to extend your visa due to repeats, Time Out, or doing a placement year, you will not need to submit another SELT test if that was how your English language ability was assessed when you applied to study at the University. However, if you have taken Time Out for 2 years in a row, please contact lmmigrationCompliance@arts.ac.uk for confirmation.

How much money do I need?

One of the main reasons for a Student visa refusal is because the applicant provides financial documents that do not meet the strict requirements set out by the Home Office.

On the **date that you pay for your visa application**, you are required to have a specific amount of money for your living costs and to be able to pay your tuition fees for the first year of your course. The date you attend your biometric appointment is irrelevant, it's the date you pay the visa application fee which is the key date.

There are only two exceptions to this rule: If you are applying for permission to stay (from within the UK) and you have been living in the UK with a valid visa for 12 months or more on the date of the application, you do not need to show funds. You're also exempt if you're applying as a Student Union Sabbatical Officer.

Length of course	Money required
9 months or more	Tuition fees for the first year of your course as listed on your CAS plus £13,347 to meet maintenance requirements.
Less than 9 months	Tuition fees for the first year of your course as listed on your CAS plus £1,483 per month for each month of your course for maintenance. Partial months should be rounded up.

Your CAS will state your total tuition fees for the first year of your course and how much tuition fees you have paid to the University. Any tuition fees left to pay must be shown as available to you in other evidence.

How do I ensure that my tuition fee payments are shown on my CAS?

If you make any further tuition fee payments after your CAS has been emailed to you, this must be confirmed on your CAS. The Admissions Team will only update the CAS if the payment is showing on their UAL portal account

Otherwise, you must provide a receipt issued by UAL confirming the amount of fees paid. You will find this receipt in your student portal.

How can I show that I have the required amount of money?

You can show that these funds are available to you in the following ways:

- 1. Cash funds in your personal bank account e.g. savings or current account.
- 2. Cash funds in your parent's/legal guardian's personal bank account.
- 3. Official financial sponsorship.
- 4. Specific types of student loans.

1. Cash funds in your personal bank account

If you will be using your own money to meet the financial requirements, you must provide a document that confirms:

28 days

You must have held the required amount of money for 28 consecutive days up to the date of the closing balance

31 days

The closing balance date or the date of the last transaction listed on the document must not be older than 31 days on the date you pay for your visa application.

You can use a bank statement or a letter from your bank and it must contain the following information:

- Your name or your parent's or legal guardian's name
- The full account number
- Should be on official stationery or an electronic record
- Include information about the bank such as contact details or branch code
- The date of the statement or the letter, must not be older than 31 days on the date you pay for your visa application.
- That you have the required amount of money, and it has been kept in the account for 28 consecutive days. It must not have dropped below the required amount at any point during those 28 days or your visa application will be refused.
- It must be a personal bank account or building society including a current, deposit, savings, pension or investment account from which the funds can be withdrawn immediately.
- Bank letters must be signed and on headed paper with contact information

Shares, bonds, overdrafts, credit cards and pension and investment funds from which funds cannot be withdrawn from immediately are not acceptable sources of funding.

2. Cash funds in your parent's/legal guardian's bank account

The bank statement or bank letter must meet all the requirements detailed above but be an account held in your parent's or legal guardian's name. You must also send in additional documents:

- Your original birth certificate, government-issued household register, adoption certificate or a court document naming your legal guardian.
 - If a birth certificate is not issued by your country, you should submit the relevant document issued by that country as proof of your birth and the names of your parents
- A letter from your parent/legal guardian confirming your relationship to them and that the funds can be used for your studies in the UK.

See Appendix A for a sample bank statement

See Appendix B for a sample bank letter

See Appendix C for a sample certificate of deposit

See Appendix D for a sample parent's letter

3. Official financial sponsorship

Financial sponsorship is where an applicant is given money to cover some or all of their tuition fees, living costs, or both. A Student visa applicant can receive official financial sponsorship from:

- His Majesty's Government
- your home government
- · the British Council
- an international organisation
- an international company
- a university
- an independent school.

You must provide an original letter of confirmation from your Financial Sponsor on official letter-headed paper. The letter must show:

- your name
- the name and contact details of your official financial sponsor
- the date of the letter
- · the length of your sponsorship, and
- the amount of money the sponsor is giving to you or a statement that your official financial sponsor will cover all of your fees and living costs.

If you are receiving a scholarship from UAL, you will be sent an original letter from the UAL Funding team confirming your scholarship. This can be used for your visa application.

If your financial sponsor is only covering some of your course fees or living costs, you must show that you have the rest of the money needed from other acceptable sources.

4. Student Loan

Only the following types of student loans can be used for your visa application: a student loan provided by your national government, a government-sponsored student loan company or is part of an academic or educational loans scheme. You must submit an original letter from the loan provider, which confirms the following:

- 1. be dated no more than 6 months before the date of application, and the date of the letter is dated no more than 6 months before the date of your visa application; and
- confirm the loan is a student loan provided to the applicant by either the relevant government or a government-sponsored student loan company or an academic or educational loans scheme; and
- confirm there are no conditions on the release of the loan funds other than a successful application to study in the UK as a Student or Child Student; and
- 4. confirm the amount of the loan; and
- 5. confirm the loan is to the applicant; and
- 6. confirm the funds will be:
 - (i) available to the applicant before they travel to the UK; or
 - (ii) paid directly to the student sponsor before the applicant travels to the UK, with any living cost portion of the loan being made available to the applicant by the time they arrive in the UK; or
 - (iii) available before the applicant begins their course if the loan is provided by the applicant's national government.

US Federal Loans

If you are receiving a US federal loan by applying for FAFSA, an email from the UAL Funding team will be posted to you confirming your Federal loan. This can be used for your visa application. If you are taking out an educational loan from a private US lender such as Sallie Mae, you must obtain an original letter from Sallie Mae which confirms all of the required information detailed above.

If your student loan only covers some of your course fees or living costs, you must show that you have the rest of the money needed from other acceptable sources.

If your money is not in GBP£

You must use <u>oanda.com</u> to convert the amount of money shown in your financial document to GBP£. You should include a printed conversion with your supporting documents, using the conversion rate on the date you pay for the visa application.

Step 2: Complete the online application form

All applicants are required to complete an online application form on the GOV.UK website: Student visa: Apply - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Our guide to completing the application form is available on our website:

https://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/international/immigration-and-visas/student-visa

Checking Service

If would like the Student Advice Service to check your form and documents before paying for your visa application, please email student.advisers@arts.ac.uk with the following documents and wait for our feedback **before** submitting your visa application online.

At peak periods it will take up to 5 working days to receive feedback on your documents.

- A copy of your CAS statement
- 2. Passport and current UK visa (if applicable)
- 3. Financial documents including any necessary parental evidence
- 4. Qualifications listed on your CAS
- 5. Confirm in which country you'll submit your visa application
- 6. A copy of your part completed visa application (up to the 'Declaration' section)
- 7. Your Student ID number

How much is the visa application fee?

You will be required to pay the visa application fee online once you have completed the online form. The date you pay for your visa is your visa application date and you must meet all the requirements on this date. The visa application fee depends on what type of application you make:

£524 Standard Service

Varies

Some Visa Application Centres may offer additional services for extra fees which allow your visa application to be processed quicker than a standard application.

Step 3: Pay your Immigration Health Surcharge

Anyone applying for a Student visa will need to pay a healthcare surcharge (called the 'immigration health surcharge' or IHS) as part of your immigration application. This will allow you to access the National Health Service in the UK.

At the end of your Student visa application, you will be directed to the IHS website which will link your visa application form with your IHS number.

The amount you must pay will depend on the length of your visa, not your course duration. The IHS website will calculate the amount you need to pay, and you must pay the required fee to proceed to the next step with your visa application.

£776

Per full year or part year more than 6 months

£388

Per part year less than 6 months

Example:

Course duration

Sep 2025 to Jun 2028

2 years, 10 months

Visa length*

Sep 2025 to Oct 2028

3 years, 1month

Immigration Health Surcharge

3 full years at £776 per year and

1 part year at £388 = £2,716

You can find further information about the Immigration Health Surcharge online including refunds on the GOV.UK website.

^{*}Your visa will be valid from up to one month before your course begins and up to 4 months after your course finishes.

Step 4: Attend your biometric appointment

All applicants are required to book an appointment to attend a Visa Application Centre (VAC) to enrol their biometric information and complete the final steps of their visa application. You will book an appointment at your nearest location as part of the online visa application process.



If you're an EEA or Swiss national, you will not need to submit biometric information at a Visa Application Centre. You will use the UK immigration: ID Check app on your phone to upload your biometric passport and a photo. Your visa will be issued as a digital immigration status, which you can view online.

What will happen at the appointment?

At your appointment, you will provide your fingerprints and a digital photograph. Some applicants will also be required to attend an interview called a credibility interview during their biometric appointment.

Credibility Interview

If you are required to attend an interview, you will be interviewed in English via a video link with a UK Visas and Immigration Officer in the UK. They will ask you questions relating to your course, why you chose to study in the UK, why you chose to study at UAL and your future career aspirations. They are checking that you are a genuine student and your visa can be refused if your answers do not satisfy the Entry Clearance Officer assessing your visa application.

Step 5: Submit your documents

After you submit your biometrics and complete your interview (if required to), you will then either:

- Submit your application summary sheet and supporting documents at the VAC during your appointment. You may also have the ability to scan and upload your supporting documents. OR
- You will post your application summary sheet, biometric enrolment receipt and supporting documents to the British Embassy. You may have the option to scan your supporting documents instead. Your application form will guide you on the process to follow in your country of application.

Find out more about your local Visa Application Centre and how to contact them:

https://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre

Special differentiation arrangements for low-risk nationals

If your nationality or passport appears in the list below <u>and</u> you will be applying for a visa in the UK (or in the country/territory where you live), you do not need to submit the following documents:

- Proof of meeting the financial requirements.
- Qualifications listed on your CAS in the 'Evidence used to obtain offer' section.
- Proof of meeting the English language requirement.

EU, EEA and Swiss nationals benefit from the differentiation arrangement. ST22.1 https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/appendix-student

Australia	The Dominican Republic	Oman
Bahrain	Hong Kong SAR	Peru
Barbados	Indonesia	Qatar
British National (Overseas)	Japan	Serbia
Botswana	Kazakhstan	Singapore
Brazil	Kuwait	South Korea
Brunei	Macau SAR	Taiwan passport with residence number
		residence number
Cambodia	Malaysia	Thailand
Canada	Mauritius	Tunisia
Chile	Mexico	United Arab Emirates
China	New Zealand	United States

However, you must still meet all the requirements of the visa application on the date you pay for your application. The Entry Clearance Officer can contact you and request to see your documentary evidence whilst assessing your application, so we advise that you obtain the necessary documents and keep them in a safe place.

Step 6: Receive your decision and travel to UK

Once a decision has been made to grant you entry clearance, you must complete the following steps:

- Keep a copy of your decision letter somewhere safe, as it is proof of your grant of permission and carries details of the conditions of your permission.
- Follow the instructions in your decision letter to create a <u>UKVI account</u>
- Access your eVisa through your UKVI account and check the details are correct. Report any errors you find: Report an error with your eVisa - GOV.UK
- Link your travel document (e.g. passport) to your eVisa **before** travelling to the UK: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-sure-your-evisa-is-correct-before-you-trave
- You should only travel to (enter) the UK from the start (valid) date of your eVisa entering
 the UK before the start date may mean you have to leave the UK and return after the start
 date!
- When you arrive in the UK, your passport will be stamped with the date, location, and details
 of the Border Force Officer who looks at your passport. If you pass through e-Gates, it will
 not be stamped, but this is not an issue as long as you keep your flight ticket and boarding
 pass to show at Enrolment.
- Your digital status (eVisa) can be shared with anyone who needs to check your permission:
 View your eVisa and get a share code to prove your immigration status online GOV.UK

When will my new Student visa start and expire?

Permission granted for less than 6 months:

Course duration	eVisa start date	eVisa expiry date
Less than 6 months (not Pre-sessional course)	7 days before the course start date	7 days after the course end date
Less than 6 months (Presessional course)	1 month before the course start date or 7 days before the intended date of travel, whichever is later	1 month after the course end date

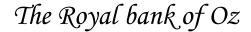
Permission granted for 6 months or longer:

Course duration	uration eVisa start date	
6 months or more but less than 12 months	1 month before the course start date or 7 days before the intended date of travel, whichever is later	2 months after the end of the course
12 months or more	1 month before the course start date or 7 days before the intended date of travel, whichever is later	4 months after the end of the course

Visa Refusal

If your visa application has been refused, email your CAS and each page of your visa refusal letter to student.advisers@arts.ac.uk immediately for further advice. Use 'visa refusal' in your email subject line.

Appendix A - Sample bank statement



1 Anywhere Street London

It should be on official stationery and include contact details or branch information.

Phone: +44 0207 000 000

It must have your full account number

Account number: [Your full account number]

[Your name]

It must have your name or your parent's name

Date: [Date of the statement]

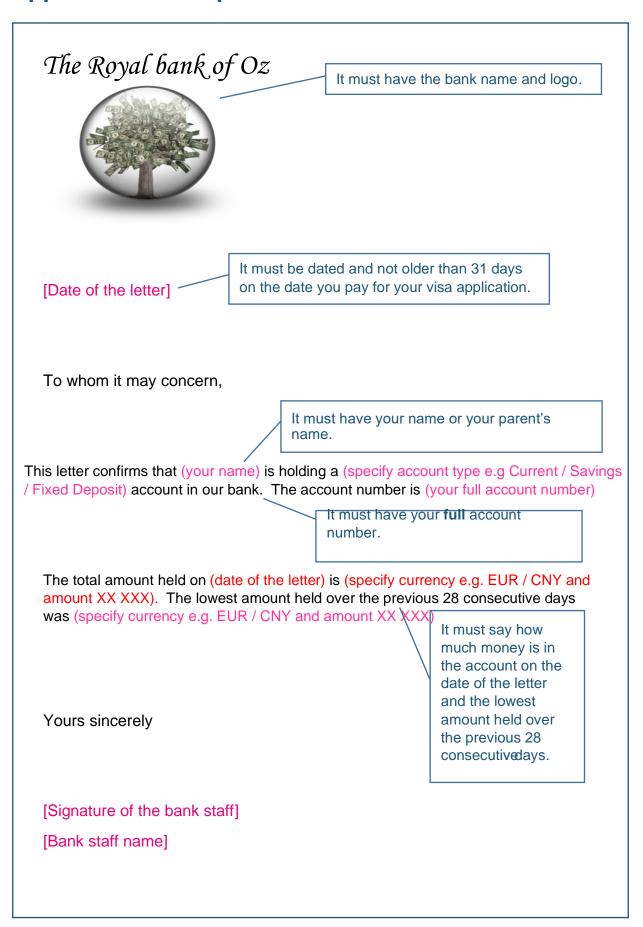
Date	Description	Money In (£)	Money Out (£)	Balance (£)
17/07/2025	Transfer	35,000		35,000
20/07/2025	Rent deposit		500	34,500
25/07/2025	lunch		10	34,490
10/08/2025	books		20	34,470
13/08/2025	From Dad	12000		46,470
07/09/2025	Rent		500	45,970
08/09/2025	dinner		10	45,960
10/09/2025	Closing Balance	e		45,960

Count backwards 28 days from the closing balance date, e.g. 10/09/2025.

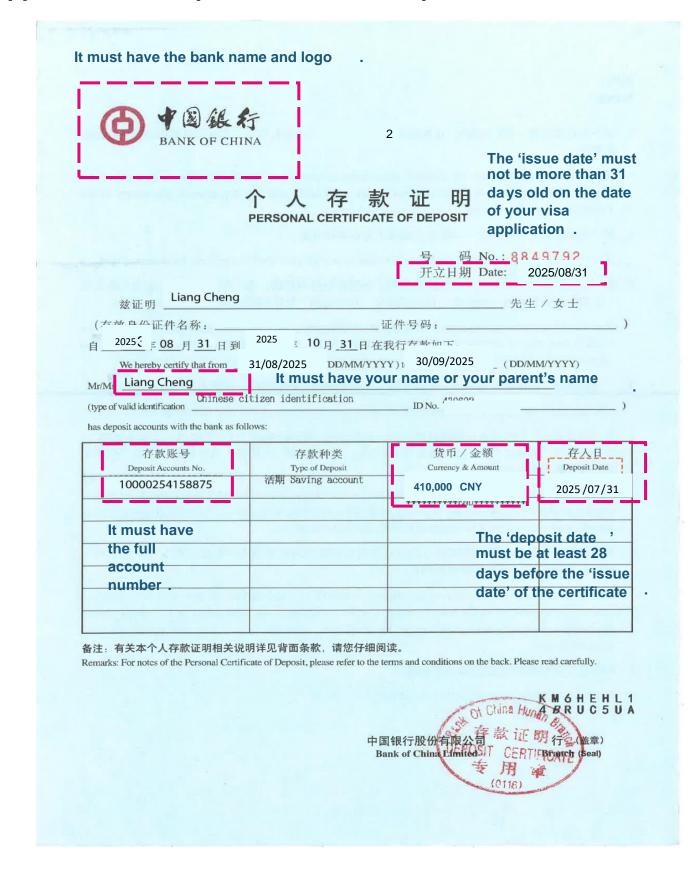
The closing balance date cannot be older than 31 days on the date you pay for your visa application, e.g. this bank statement can be used for a visa application as long as it is paid for by 11/10/2025

The required amount of funds must have been held during these 28 days e.g. between 13.08.2025 and 10.09.2025

Appendix B - Sample bank



Appendix C - Sample Certificate of Deposit



Appendix D - Sample parents' letter if using their bank statements

[Date	of the letter]	
Dear I	UK Visas and Immigration,	
I confi	irm that I am the [mother/father/legal guardian] of [your name].	
	consent for the funds in my bank account to be used by my child in the UK.	d whilst
Yours	s faithfully, [Signature]	
[Name	e of your parent]	

Appendix E – Sample parents' letter consenting to your studies in the UK (only required if you are under 18)

[Date of the letter]
Dear UK Visas and Immigration,
We confirm that we are the [parents/legal guardians]* of [your name].
We give consent for our child to make a Student visa application and give consent for their independent living and care arrangements in the UK, and their independent travel to and reception arrangements in the UK.
Yours faithfully, [Signature] [Signature}
[Name of your parents] [Name of your parents] [Contact details of your parents]

^{*}Please note that if only one parent signs the letter, they must confirm that they have sole custody of the student. If they do not have sole custody, both parents must sign and agree to the letter.

Further help and guidance

UK Visas and Immigration:

Student Visa route - Policy Guidance

Appendix Finance

Appendix ST

Appendix English Language

University of the Arts London

Visa Document Checking Service

If you are studying on one of the following courses, you will be contacted by email with information about how your documents can be checked and when to attend workshops for completing the online application form.

- Presessional English
- FPIC
- Preparation for Foundation, BA and MA
- Orientation to Foundation
- FAD+
- Pre-Foundation English

If you are **not** studying on one of the courses above and would like the Student Advice Service to check your form and documents before paying for your visa application, please email student.advisers@arts.ac.uk with the following documents and wait for our feedback before submitting your visa application online.

At peak periods it will take up to 5 working days to receive feedback on your documents.

- 1. A copy of your CAS statement
- 2. Passport and current UK visa (if applicable)
- 3. Financial documents including any necessary parental evidence
- 4. Qualifications listed on your CAS
- 5. Confirm in which country you'll submit your visa application
- 6. A copy of your part completed visa application (up to the 'Declaration' section)
- 7. Your Student ID number.

If you have any queries about your CAS, you should email the person who sent your CAS to you. The Student Advice Service do not have access to your CAS.

Contact us

- Email: <u>student.advisers@arts.ac.uk</u> Please always include your full name and UAL student ID number.
- Telephone: +44 20 7514 6900 (Currently the lines are open between 10 am and 4 pm).
- Search 'immigration' on www.arts.ac.uk to access our application guides or visit the Student Advice Service web page.

UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)

UKCISA provide up-to-date immigration, fees and international student experience information for students and colleagues working with them. https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/.

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