Applying for a Tier 4 Student Visa

a guide for students applying from outside the UK
## Contents

- About this guide
- Overview of Tier 4 visa process
- Checklist – documents needed for your Tier 4 visa application
- Top ten tips
- Applying for a Tier 4 (General) student visa - criteria
- Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)
- Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

### Financial requirements

- How much money do I need to show the UKVI?
- Providing evidence of funds – what documents does the UKVI accept?
- Using your parents'/legal guardians' funds or a joint account
- Scholarships
- Loans
- Supporting documents

### How to apply for your visa

### Problems with your application

### Your visa

### Advice, guidance and support

### Help documents

- Example of a CAS document
- Template bank statement
- Money flow chart
- Evidence of money list
About this guide

This guide is for students starting a new course at Cranfield University and who are applying for their Tier 4 (General) student visa from outside the UK.

The information given is not exhaustive and should be used alongside the Home Office Tier 4 Policy Guidance and immigration rules - look out for the references highlighted throughout this guide as illustrated below.

Related Home Office guidance

See Pages 10-97 of the Home Office Tier 4 Policy Guidance (version 01/18)

Each student’s requirements will vary so it is important that you understand what is and is not required from you at each stage. To help, a flowchart and document checklist have been included within this guide.

Published: January 2018
Overview of Tier 4 visa process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offer received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You have applied to Cranfield University and receive an unconditional offer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apply for ATAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Academic Technology Approval Scheme) if your offer letter states this is required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upload all documents required by Cranfield University to obtain a CAS (if applicable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• You will need to complete the ‘CAS request task’— look out for an email asking you to do this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Once completed you will be issued a CAS via email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A CAS cannot be issued more than six months before your course start date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Take a Tuberculosis test if applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This will depend on where it is that you are applying for your visa from</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check you meet all of the Tier 4 requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You will not be able to apply for your visa until three months at the earliest before your course start date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check you have all of the supporting documents for your visa application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Use the checklist on the next page for help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The University’s Student Immigration team can be contacted for any guidance you may need or to check up to date documents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apply for your visa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• This can be done online or via paper if your country does not support online applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Paper applicants should print out and complete VAF2 and PBS Appendix 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You will need to pay for your application fee and Immigration Health Surcharge.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book an appointment at your nearest Visa Application Centre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Attend your appointment and provide your biometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• You may be required to attend a Credibility Interview if requested</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visa decision made</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Your documents will be posted back to you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Please check all details on your visa are correct, including the length of leave granted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travel to the UK on or after the ‘valid from’ date on your visa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Collect your biometric residence permit (BRP) from your chosen Post Office within 10 days of arriving in the UK or on a date provided by the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrival at Cranfield University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• During registration you will need to present your passport and visa to the University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If you visa states you need to register with the Police, you can do this when the Police visit the University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Checklist – documents needed for your Tier 4 visa application

This checklist is not intended to be used on its own – please refer to the detailed guidance in this document and the Home Office Tier 4 Policy Guidance to make sure that all your documents meet the requirements of the Home Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Guidance notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed visa application form</td>
<td>In some countries you can only apply online. Please check the Home Office <a href="https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/about/international-students/visas-and-immigration">supported countries page</a> to see if you should make an online application. If you make an online application you must also print it off and submit it with your supporting documents. If your country does not support online applications you must complete and submit form <a href="https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/about/international-students/visas-and-immigration">VAF2</a> and self-assessment form Appendix 8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed Appendix 8</td>
<td>If you are unable to apply online, you must complete the self-assessment form Appendix 8 and submit a printed copy with your application form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current valid passport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous passports</td>
<td>These are required to show your previous travel history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of your permission to be in the country where you are applying, if you are not a national of that country</td>
<td>This must show your current immigration status. It could be a residence permit, 'green card' or valid visa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two passport sized colour photographs</td>
<td>Please see the Home Office <a href="https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/about/international-students/visas-and-immigration">photographic requirements</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documents and evidence used to obtain your CAS</td>
<td>You will need to include the evidence that the university has included on your CAS. You can see this information on your CAS document. If not, you must get this information directly from the University before you apply. Each certificate of qualification or transcript must be the original (not a copy).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number</td>
<td>You will need to write the CAS number on your application form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry qualifications</td>
<td>You will need to include evidence to support the information included within your CAS and this will be highlighted on your CAS document. Each certificate of qualification or transcript must be the original (not a copy).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English language test certificate</td>
<td>If you are required to complete a Secure English Language Test (SELT), you must send your original official score report with your application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate</td>
<td>If you are not sure whether you have to submit an ATAS certificate, please confirm with the University. These take 20-30 working days to be issued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document</td>
<td>Guidance notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Financial documents                               | You must show that you hold and will continue to hold the required maintenance funds to support yourself and pay for your course. You must show your course fees for the first year of your course (or for the entire course, if it lasts less than a year). When we assign your CAS, the University can include details of money you have already paid. If any money you have already paid is not indicated on your CAS, you must include evidence of payment in your application.  
**The evidence should meet the criteria in the Evidence of money list - see page 27** |
| Evidence of an official financial sponsor or government sponsor | If Cranfield University is giving you any official financial sponsorship, the details will be included on your CAS.  
In any other circumstances you must provide an official headed letter of confirmation bearing the organisation's official stamp.  
**The evidence should meet the criteria in the Evidence of money list - see page 27** |
| No objection letter from your official (government) financial sponsor | If you are currently financially sponsored by a government or an international scholarship agency or your financial sponsorship ended within 12 months of your application being made, you will need your sponsor’s permission to stay in or re-enter the UK. You must provide the UKVI with your financial sponsor’s unconditional consent in writing. This must confirm that your sponsor has no objection to you continuing your studies in the UK. If your financial sponsor does not give consent, the UKVI will refuse your visa application. |
| Living costs                                      | You must provide evidence of your ability to meet living costs as follows:  
£1,015 per month up to nine months if your course of study is more than nine months.  
£680 per month per dependent for up to nine months if your course of study is more than nine months.  
**The evidence should meet the criteria in the Evidence of money list see page 27** |
| Translations                                      | Where documents have been translated, the original translation must contain confirmation of the following from the translator:  
• that it is an accurate translation of the original document  
• the date of the translation  
• the translator’s full name, signature and contact details. |
| Tuberculosis screening                            | You will need to present a valid medical certificate if you are applying for a visa from a country listed on the Home Office TB tests list. This must be issued by a listed medical practitioner, confirming that you have undergone screening for active pulmonary tuberculosis and that this tuberculosis is not present. |
Top ten tips

1. **Do not leave it too late**
   You cannot apply for your visa more than three months before your course start date. However you should not leave it too late to apply as you could risk missing your course start date.

2. **If you are an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen, you currently do not need a Tier 4 visa**
   Currently EU/EEA/Swiss citizens do not need to get immigration permission to study in the UK. Instead you should use your EU/EEA/Swiss passport to travel to the UK.

3. **Apply for your visa in your home country**
   It is important to apply for your visa where you hold normal residence. Therefore if you wish to travel before you get your visa you will need to return home to make your application. You should apply online for your visa. If you live in North Korea, you cannot apply online, instead there is a paper application available.

4. **Only apply for your visa if you have your CAS, the required supporting documents and funding**
   You are required to show your tuition fees plus nine months maintenance (£1,015 per month, total £9,135). You will need your CAS which will be issued by Cranfield University. If you do not hold enough funds or are missing your CAS, your visa will be refused. This would mean losing the application fee and having a refusal on your record. You could also miss the start date of your course due to the delays in re-applying for another Tier 4 visa. If you are unsure, please contact the Student Immigration team before you apply.

5. **Do not use the same CAS twice**
   Once you have made your visa application, the CAS number has been used. If your visa is refused and you need to make a new application, you must get a new CAS. If this happens, please contact the Student Immigration team immediately for advice.

6. **Include original documents with your visa application**
   It is very important that you only send original documents, including your passport and any translations, with your visa application. If you do not, your visa could be delayed or even refused.

7. **Keep copies of every document that you send with your application**
   You should take copies of all your documents. The copies should also be carried with you when you enter the UK. This is useful in case any documents are lost or you have any problems with your application. You will need to present the originals to the UKVI at your visa application appointment.

8. **If your visa is refused, contact Cranfield University immediately**
   The University’s Student Immigration team can advise you on where you may have gone wrong and help correct the outcome if a mistake was made by the UKVI. Make sure you include the refusal notice in an email to the team – E: studentimmigration@cranfield.ac.uk

9. **Do not make any travel arrangements before you get your visa**
   You should not plan to enter the UK before the ‘valid from’ date on your visa. If your visa application is delayed for any reason, you could risk losing your travel expenses and having to re-book if you make arrangements prior to receiving your passport and temporary visa.

10. **Think carefully before travelling via the Republic of Ireland**
    If you do, your passport may not be stamped and your permission to study in the UK may not appear valid. If you do wish to transit through the Republic of Ireland you should contact your airline to ensure UK immigration control will be present. If you
Applying for a Tier 4 (General) student visa - criteria

**Full-time and part-time students**

There is a cap on the amount of time that you can study at degree level with Tier 4 immigration permission in the UK. If you have previously studied in the UK, you can only apply for a student visa if this will not take you beyond five years study at degree level. You must provide details of previous study to help the University’s Admissions team assess your eligibility.

The exception to this rule is if you have studied on a four year undergraduate degree (you can study for up to 6 years in the UK) or on certain vocational courses. Please note that re-sitting a year of a three year degree does not constitute a four year degree; the actual degree course must be four years in duration at the point of application (rather than a standard three year degree).

Study at PhD level is exempt from the cap. However, if you have previously completed a PhD or one of the postgraduate research qualifications listed in the Home Office’s Tier 4 Policy Guidance in the UK, any new Tier 4 application is subject to an 8-year cap (including courses below degree level, but not including Tier 4 leave granted under the Doctorate Extension Scheme). If you think that you may be affected by the cap, please contact the University Admissions team – see page 21 for contact details.

**Students who have previously studied in the UK**

This section is only relevant to students who have applied for a Tier 4 (General) student visa on or after 5 October 2009.

As the application process in the UK takes much longer than overseas, you may choose to apply in your home country before returning to the UK. If you apply for a Tier 4 visa outside the UK, it is cheaper, faster and you will have your visa ready to begin your studies.

If your Tier 4 (General) student visa is not for Cranfield University and you have insufficient time for an application to be processed overseas before the start of your programme, the Home Office has confirmed that you may be able to re-enter the UK showing your old visa and your CAS from Cranfield University. We advise you to carry a print out of your CAS document to show when you enter the UK. Check with the University’s Student Immigration team before you make any travel arrangements.

When you return to the UK, you will have to apply for a new visa to study at Cranfield University before you will be able to register at Cranfield University and begin your programme. There is no guarantee that you will be granted your student visa and the decision will be based on your application.

If your Tier 4 (General) visa was for a part-time programme, you will not be permitted to extend this visa from within the UK. You will have to return to your home country and apply for a new visa from there, as such please be sure to allow sufficient time.

Start early as there are many documents to prepare and your funds need to be in place for 28 consecutive days before you apply.
Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

What is a CAS?

CAS stands for Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies. You can start preparing your Tier 4 application but you cannot apply until you have received a CAS from Cranfield University. The CAS number is generated when Cranfield University provides the Home Office with information about you and your programme of study.

A CAS is only valid for six months, and it can only be used once. The CAS links you to Cranfield University and means you can only use it to study at Cranfield University. If you apply for a Tier 4 visa using a CAS from another university in your application, you will not be able to use it to study on a programme at Cranfield University.

When do I get my CAS?

If you are joining Cranfield University you will receive your CAS from the Admissions team once they have reviewed the documents you have sent. The University will only issue a CAS if:

- you will be studying on a full-time programme or a part-time programme lasting 6 months or longer
- you have provided official proof of your English language scores (if required)
- your offer is unconditional and you have accepted your offer online via the EVE portal for Cranfield campus
- by the end of the programme, you will not have spent more than five years studying in the UK at degree level or eight years at research degree level PhD and other research degrees are normally exempt from this limit.

You can only apply for a visa within three months of your course start date.

Refer to the Help Documents on page 23 of this guide for an example of the CAS document
Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

The IHS was introduced on 6 April 2015 and paying it means you will be entitled to use the NHS (National Health Service) in the UK. Payment is included as part of the online visa application form. In addition to emergency health care, you will not be charged for hospital treatment or further medical treatment. Please note that you will still need to pay for certain types of services (e.g. prescriptions, dental treatments and eye tests.)

The sum is an annual amount and you will be charged the full amount when you apply for your visa. It is not an optional charge and failure to pay or pay the correct amount can lead to your visa being rejected or refused.

If you will receive a UK Government scholarship, e.g. Chevening, Commonwealth, etc., please contact the Student Immigration team for information about IHS.

If you believe that you have been charged incorrectly, you should contact the Student Immigration team for advice.

If your visa is refused, you will receive a refund for your IHS payment. You will not receive a refund if you enter the UK and then decide to leave earlier than expected.

Related Home Office guidance

Details on the immigration health surcharge and how to calculate it can be found on the Home Office website.
Financial requirements

You can only apply for a visa within three months of the start date of your course.

Meeting the financial requirements for the Tier 4 visa is an area where most students make mistakes, so please read this section carefully.

**What do I need to do?**

- Read the relevant Tier 4 Policy Guidance
- Calculate how much money you need: use the Money Flowchart and Evidence of money list on page 25 and 27
- Decide which documents you are going to use, and find out how long it will take to get them
- Plan to get the documents dated near to the time you will apply.

**How much money do I need to show the UKVI?**

**Tuition fees**

When applying for your visa, you only need to show funds for the *first year* of your course. If you have not paid any of your tuition fees, you will need to show that you have held the full amount in your bank account for 28 consecutive days from the closing balance date of your bank statement. If you have paid some of your tuition fees this will show in your CAS statement and you will only need to show the remaining amount of fees that you have to pay.

If you have paid some of your fees and this is not shown on your CAS, please contact the Admissions and Student Immigration teams at Cranfield University before applying for your visa. Please note: it can take several days or weeks for payments to show in the Cranfield University account depending on how you pay. If you include details of tuition fees you have paid in your application form and your CAS has not been updated, your application could be refused.

Check the [fees and funding section](#) on the University website for details on how to pay.

**Living costs**

Cranfield University is classed as outer London so the maintenance level is set at £1,015 per month.

If you are applying to come to the UK to study for the first time or extending your Tier 4 visa (excluding Doctorate Extension Scheme), you will need to show:

£1,015 living costs for each month up to a maximum of nine months (£9,135). It does not matter if your course is longer than nine months, this is all the Home Office requires you to show. You must have held these funds for 28 consecutive days from the closing balance date of your bank statement.
Providing evidence of funds – what documents does the UKVI accept?

Most refusals of a Tier 4 (General) visa application, made by new Cranfield University students, are because they have not shown sufficient funds for the required period of time or they have submitted unsatisfactory financial documents. You must ensure that your bank statements meet the following requirements:

- The closing balance must be no more than 31 days prior to the date of your Tier 4 visa application (the day you pay for your online application).
- Your bank statements must show that the entire amount has been in your account for 28 consecutive days before the closing balance of your statement (and has not fallen below the required amount at any point in the 28 days). Use http://www.timeanddate.com/ to calculate if you have held your required funds for 28 days.
- The bank account should be a personal or savings account (not a business account, stocks, shares, pensions, investments, credit cards or overdrafts).
- The documents must be issued by a bank that the UKVI accepts.

The bank statement must show the following:

- your name or your parent’s/legal guardian’s name
- the account number
- the financial institution’s name and logo
- the amount of money available.

Check the example bank statement and evidence of money list on page 24 and 27 to see what information should be on the statement.

When you submit an application for a Tier 4 visa, you are declaring that the money you are showing is genuinely available to you and will remain available to you unless used to pay fees and living costs.

The UKVI will not accept documents from banks that have not provided satisfactory information during verification checks. If you submit documents from a bank on the UKVI list of unacceptable institutions, your application will be refused. You can check if your bank documents are acceptable at Appendix P of the immigration rules. Do keep checking the list as institutions and countries are regularly added or removed by the Home Office.

Points to be aware of

Overseas currency: Be aware of currency fluctuations and ensure that your bank account holds the required amount throughout the required period of time. The Home Office use https://www.oanda.com/ to calculate exchange rates. If the money falls below the required amount for just one day, your application will be refused.

Make your documents easy to understand: You may submit an explanatory note about your bank statements if you think that anything is unclear. If your documents could be misread, we advise you include a letter from the bank confirming that the account is a cash account and accessible to you.

Documents not in English: If your bank statements are not in English, you must provide an official translation that can be verified by the Home Office. If you are using an overseas account, include a conversion of the amounts on your statements using https://www.oanda.com/. It is possible to use overseas accounts when applying inside and outside the UK.

Multiple accounts: If you are using multiple accounts, the Home Office will look at the combined total of all your accounts during the 28 days before your closing balance. We advise you include a brief summary of the accounts to make them as easy as possible to read.
Using your parents’/legal guardians’ funds or a joint account

You can choose to submit your parents’ financial documents as proof that you meet the financial requirements. In addition to submitting your parents’ original bank documents (which must meet all of the requirements as listed on page 12), you must also submit original legal documentation (or a notarised copy) to confirm your relationship.

You must provide one of the following:

- your birth certificate showing your name and the name of your parents
- certificate of adoption showing your name and the name of your parent(s)
- court document stating the name of your legal guardian(s) and your name.

You must also provide a letter from your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) confirming their relationship with you and that they consent to you using their funds to pay for your tuition fees and living costs in the UK (see Evidence of money list on page 27 for more information).

It is possible to use a joint account as evidence providing that you are named on the account. You do not need to submit the additional legal documents proving the relationship.
Scholarships

The Home Office Tier 4 Policy Guidance states that an official financial sponsor is ‘Her Majesty's Government, the student’s home government, the British Council or any international organisation, international company, university or UK independent school’. If you are receiving financial support from another type of body or organisation, or from your relatives, this does not count as official financial sponsorship. Please note the following:

- **US Federal Loans**: they are not classified as scholarships because they are an educational loan scheme.
- **Current sponsorship/scholarships**: If you are receiving financial sponsorship or a scholarship to study on your current course, you will need to show evidence of this.
- **Past sponsorship/scholarships**: If you have received a scholarship from a government or an international scholarship agency within the last 12 months which covered all of your tuition fees and living costs, you will need to show evidence that they consent to you continuing to study in the UK and permit you to extend your visa.
- **If you have a Cranfield University scholarship**: your scholarship will be shown on your Cranfield University CAS. Check your CAS document to make sure the details are correct.
- **If you are receiving an external scholarship**: You will need a letter from your official financial sponsor. Check the Tier 4 Policy Guidance for exact details of what the letter needs to show. Also see the Evidence of money list on page 27.

Loans

If you want to use a loan letter as evidence of your funds the Home Office guidance states that this letter must confirm that: “the loan is provided by the national government, the state or regional government or a government sponsored student loan company or is part of an academic or educational loans scheme”. The financial institution must be regulated by either the Financial Conduct Authority, the Prudential Regulatory Authority or, in the case of overseas accounts, by the home regulator (the official regulatory body for the country the financial institution is in and where the money is held) for the purpose of student loans.

The Home Office has not defined academic or educational loan schemes. However, it must be a recognised scheme and your bank should not confirm that a personal loan is part of an educational loan scheme if this is not the case.

If the Home Office is unable to verify a scheme, you risk your visa being refused and receiving a ban from immigration applications to the UK for deception. Please see the information on all other loans at the end of this section.

You cannot use loans held in the name of your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) as evidence of money held by you.

There must be no conditions placed on the release of the loan funds to you, other than your Tier 4 visa application being successful.

**All other loans**: If you are using a loan from any other source (a bank, a personal sponsor a relative etc.) you cannot submit a loan letter as evidence. You must receive the funds and transfer them into your own bank account (or that of your parents or legal guardian) and wait 28 days before you can apply for your Tier 4 visa.
**Supporting documents**

Some nationalities do not have to submit documentary requirements under Tier 4 of the points-based system as the Home Office classes them as “low risk”.

However, you may be asked for these documents at any point in the application process so we do advise that you are aware of the requirements regarding financial and educational documents.

You will qualify for the differentiation arrangement if:

- you are sponsored by a sponsor with a Tier 4 Sponsor status
- you are applying for entry clearance in your country of nationality or for leave to remain in the UK
- you are a national of one of the countries listed in Appendix H of the Immigration Rules

**Qualifications**

Cranfield University will list on your CAS any qualifications that were used to assess you for the course. See the section ‘Evidence we have used to assess your application to Cranfield University’ to check which qualifications were used.

You must submit the original documents (plus any official translations if applicable) when you apply for your visa or your application may be refused.

**English language requirements**

To study at Cranfield University your English language must be at the required level of your course.

You can meet this required level in a number of ways:

1. If you are a national of a country listed on the Home Office’s majority English speaking countries in the immigration rules, you will not have to show English language documents. Your CAS will inform you if you need to provide an English language test certificate.

2. You were assessed based on previous study in English and Cranfield University will state that we have made our own assessment based on the University’s criteria and you won’t have to submit further documents.

3. If you are attending a pre-sessional programme, you may be required to provide evidence of your English language ability in your applications. The University’s Admissions team will confirm if this is required.

4. If you have previously completed an academic qualification equivalent to a UK degree which was taught in a “majority English speaking” country. You will need to provide official documentations produced by UK NARIC which confirms the translation.

Regardless of whether you fulfil the English language requirement, you will still need to submit other academic documents. Each document must be the original and must show:

- your name
- the title of the award
- the date of the award
- the name of the awarding institution

Your CAS will state what evidence we have used and you will need to send the evidence with your application.
Translations of documents
If you are outside the UK and your documents are not in English they must be:

- accompanied by a fully certified translation by a professional translator/translation company
- include details of the translation/translation company’s credentials
- confirm it is an accurate translation of the original document and the translator/translation company’s contact details
- must be dated and include the original signature of the translator.

If you are submitting an overseas qualification or award certificate it will not be taken as a direct translation of the academic level of that award. Instead the UKVI will use UK NARIC to assess the equivalency of overseas qualifications.

Photographs
Check the Home Office detailed photograph guidance to ensure that you meet the requirements.

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)
ATAS is only for students studying certain science, engineering or technology subjects. If you need an ATAS certificate, Cranfield University will confirm this on your offer letter and on your CAS document.

If you are not sure whether or not you need an ATAS certificate, please check with the Admissions team at Cranfield University.

Read more information and find out how to apply.

Tuberculosis (TB) screening
If your course is more than six months and you will be applying from a country where TB testing is required for visa purposes, you will need to obtain a TB certificate otherwise your visa application will be refused.

If you are a national of a country that the Home Office have on their TB screening list, then you will need to be tested before you arrive in the UK.

Some countries do not have approved testing centres so you will need to get tested in a neighbouring country.

Who doesn’t need to be tested
- Diplomats accredited to the UK.
- Returning UK residents who haven’t been away for more than two years.
- Individuals who have lived for at least six months in a country where TB screening is not required by the UK, and they have been away from that country for no more than six months.
How to apply for your visa

How you apply depends on the country you are applying from and where your visa application will be processed.

Where can I apply?

You apply in the country where you are living.

If you are just visiting another country (e.g. as a tourist) you will need to return to your home country to apply for a Tier 4 visa. Whilst the visa application form is online (except in North Korea), you will still have to travel to a visa application centre to give your biometric information and submit your passport and supporting documents. There is not a visa application centre in every country, so you may need to travel to another country for the visa appointment so please ensure that you budget accordingly. Contact the Student Immigration team at the University if you are unsure what to do. For countries that do not support online applications, please complete forms VAF9 and Appendix 8.

Find out where your nearest visa application centre is.

How long will my visa take to process?

You can get an indication of recent processing times online.

If you are worried that your arrival may be late due to visa processing times, please inform the Admissions team at Cranfield University. Please note: the University cannot assist in expediting your visa application.

If you receive any correspondence about your application and you are unsure what to do or if you require support, please contact the Student Immigration team at Cranfield University.

Points to be aware of

- Make copies of all documents you are submitting to the Home Office before you apply.

- You can apply within three months of the start date of your programme. If you apply before that time your application will be refused. Apply as early as you can within the three months.

- Your date of application is the day that you submit your online application or pay the fee for your application. You must ensure that all of your documents are prepared before you submit or pay for your application (whichever comes earlier). The checklist at the beginning of this guide will help you plan the documents you need to send.
Problems with your application

If your application has been refused, you should contact the Admissions team and Student Immigration team at Cranfield University immediately and send the refusal letter to them. They will then advise you accordingly.

Administrative Review
If you think that the Home Office has made a mistake with your application (for example they may have misread or ignored a document), you can submit an administrative review. The Entry Clearance Manager in the visa processing centre (who did not make the original decision) will review the application. The Home Office state that they will make decisions within 28 days, however, it can take much longer. Please note: if you made a mistake, an administrative review will not be successful.

You cannot submit an administrative review while making a fresh application.

Credibility interviews
If your application has been refused on the basis of a credibility interview, you will need to request an administrative review before you can apply again. Unless you can prove the first decision was wrong, the Home Office is likely to refuse your application again. If you have been refused on the basis of a credibility interview, it is not guaranteed that Cranfield University will be able to issue you another CAS. In this situation, please contact the Student Immigration team for advice immediately.

Applying again
If you are applying again, you will need new bank statements dated no more than one month before you apply and a new CAS. You cannot apply again with the same CAS number. The number of refusals an institution’s students have, affects the institution’s ability to hold a Tier 4 sponsor licence. You must ensure you let Cranfield University know if your visa has been refused.
Your visa

Receiving your visa

If your visa application is successful, you will be given a temporary vignette (sticker) in your passport which will be valid for 30 days and will allow you to enter the UK. The vignette is not your visa for the whole period of your course.

You must ensure that you can collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) from the nominated Post Office within 10 days of arriving in the UK (or a nominated date by the UKVI) in order to remain compliant with the conditions of the visa you have been granted.

Read more detailed information about BRPs.

Checking you visa

When you receive your visa from the Home Office, in addition to your personal details (name, date of birth, etc.), check that the following information is correct:

Sponsor Licence Number

Each institution has its own Sponsor Licence Number. You need to check that your Tier 4 sticker has the correct sponsor licence number for Cranfield University. This is listed on your CAS. You cannot study at Cranfield University if you are issued with a Tier 4 visa for a different institution so it is essential that your visa has the correct sponsor licence number.

End date of your Tier 4 visa

You can check the Tier 4 Policy Guidance for the full amount of time that you should be granted on your visa.

• Programme of study is 12 months or longer: you will be granted until the end of your programme plus four months.
• Programme of study is between 6 and 12 months: you will be granted until the end of your programme plus two months.

Work conditions

Full-time students at Cranfield University on a Tier 4 (General) student visa can work up to 20 hours a week in total during term time (subject to the University policies). If you are not sure, please contact the Student Immigration team at the University for advice. Part-time students on a Tier 4 (General) student visa are not permitted to work in the UK.

Errors

If you notice that there is an error before your travel to the UK, you can inform the visa application centre that you applied to and request that it is amended. If you do not have time to amend it in your own country, please contact the Student Immigration team when you arrive at Cranfield University and they will advise accordingly.

When you email, please provide these details:

• Full name
• Date of birth
• Nationality
• Passport number
• BRP number
• Application case reference number or Home Office reference number
• Telephone number
• Details of the error on the BRP

If there is a problem with your grant of leave or you have been given the incorrect working permission, please contact the Student Immigration team for advice immediately. It is not guaranteed that any late administrative reviews will be accepted. This could affect the length of time you are able to remain in the UK.
Police registration

Some nationalities need to register with the police. It will be written on the vignette sticker in your passport and will say ‘Police registration required’ or ‘Must register with the Police within 7 days’.

If your country is on the list but police registration is not listed as a condition on your visa, please contact the Student Immigration team.

For students who are residing in Bedfordshire area only the police usually visit Cranfield University in October for our main registration period. However, if this date period has passed or you are residing at the Shrivenham site, you will need to go to the police station within 7 days of arriving in the UK.

If you have extended your visa in the UK you will be required to update your police registration certificate with the details of your new visa. Guidance on how to register with the police will be communicated to you on your arrival at Cranfield University.

Related Home Office guidance

See paragraph 325-326 of the Immigration Rules.
Advice, guidance and support

**Cranfield University Student Immigration team**
The team offers immigration advice to prospective and current students at the University. They advise on the Tier 4 (General) visa application and supporting documents in the following ways:

- In person: one-to-one meetings with an adviser
- T: +44 (0)1234 752970; 754179; 758181
- E: studentimmigration@cranfield.ac.uk

Find them in Building 45.

**Cranfield University Student funding team**
Contact them:

- T: +44 (0)1234 758181
- E: studentfunding@cranfield.ac.uk

**Cranfield University Admissions team**
Contact them:

- T: +44 (0)1234 758540
- E: study@cranfield.ac.uk

**Home Office**
- Website: [https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration](https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration)

**UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)**
- Website: [http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/)

UKCISA is a national advisory body serving the interests of international students. They provide in-depth guidance on Tier 4 (General) student visa applications on their website.

You can contact the UKCISA advice line for students on:

- T: +44 (0)20 7788 9214
- Monday-Friday, 13:00-16:00.
Help documents

- Example of a CAS document
- Template bank statement
- Money flowchart
- Evidence of money list
Example of a CAS document

Dear (Student name)

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) Document

This document is to confirm that the University is able to support your application for your Tier 4 visa. We have now assigned a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) number with the UK Home Office and you will need to provide the CAS with your visa application.

You will need to use the CAS number below and the University’s sponsor licence number on the application form for your visa. You do not need to provide this document with your visa application but you should check carefully with the UK Home Office to see which documents you do need to provide - [https://www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your CAS number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cranfield University sponsor licence number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family name (as it appears on your passport)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Given name (as it appears on your passport)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University reference number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATAS required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course start date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course end date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course fee due for first year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course fees paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance bursary award per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is Secure English Language Test (SELT) required?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason not required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English language test provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English language level attained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELT – speaking score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELT – listening score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELT – reading score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELT – writing score</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course progression information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Previously a UK student?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous course level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is new course higher, lower or the same level?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progression Justification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evidence we have used to assess your application to Cranfield University

Signature
**Template bank statement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deposit/Withdrawal</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/03/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>£30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/03/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>£29,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/03/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>£27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/03/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>£17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/04/2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above template is an example to show the information you need to show on the bank statement. The amount of money you have to show in your account may vary depending on the length of your course and any remaining tuition fees. Please see the relevant section of this handbook for advice on financial documents.
Money flowchart

How much money do I need to show the Home Office for my Tier 4 visa application?

### Tuition fees

**How much are your tuition fees?**
1. Check the tuition fees shown on your CAS statement.
2. You need to show the tuition fees for the first year of your programme or the whole programme if it is less than 12 months.

**Subtract any money already paid to Cranfield University for tuition fees.**
1. Subtract the amount shown in the course fees paid section on your CAS.
2. If you have paid more tuition fees contact the University’s Admissions team who created your CAS to get it updated.

**Subtract any Cranfield University scholarships or bursaries.**
Any scholarships or bursaries awarded by Cranfield University will be stated on your CAS document.

### Maintenance fees

**How many months living costs do you need to show?**
1. Check your course start and end date on your CAS document.
2. If your course includes part of a month you must round this up. For example five months plus one week = six months. However, you only need to show a maximum of nine months living costs even if your course is longer than nine months.

**Subtract money already paid to Cranfield University for accommodation (deposit is not regarded as payment).**
1. You can only subtract money paid for Cranfield University owned accommodation. This does not include privately managed accommodation.
2. This amount must be shown on your CAS.
3. You can only subtract up to £1,265 in total even if you have already paid more than this for your accommodation.

**Total remaining tuition fees + Total remaining maintenance fees =**

**The amount of money you need to show the Home Office for your Tier 4 visa application.**
### How can I prove to the Home Office that I meet the financial requirements?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opening balance of statement</th>
<th>Closing balance of statement</th>
<th>Date of Tier 4 visa application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum 28 consecutive days</td>
<td>Maximum 31 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Funds have been held for at least 28 consecutive days.
  - You can calculate this using the date-to-date calculator at: [http://www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)
- Funds have not gone below the total amount required at any time in the 28 consecutive days
- The financial institution is not listed in Appendix P of the immigration rules as unsatisfactory
- Financial documents meet the requirements of Pages 44-55 of the Tier 4 policy guidance
- You still hold the total amount of money required even after you have made your visa application
- There are no more than 31 days between the closing balance date of your bank statement and the date of your Tier 4 visa application
## Evidence of money list

| If you are being given Official Financial Sponsorship, you must provide a letter of confirmation from your Official Financial Sponsor on the official letter-headed paper or stationery of the organisation which must have their official stamp on it. | 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  
• 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 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of application</td>
<td>This is the date the visa fee is paid for online.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Personal bank or building society statements covering a consecutive 28 day period ending no more than 31 days before the date of your application. | Your personal bank or building society statements must show:  
• Your name or your parent’s/legal guardian’s name  
• The account number  
• The financial institution’s name and logo  
• The amount of money available  
Bank statements printed on the bank’s letterhead are acceptable as evidence (this excludes mini-statements from cash points).  
Electronic bank statements must contain all of the details listed above. In addition, you will need to provide a supporting letter from your bank on company headed paper, confirming the authenticity of the statement provided.  
Alternatively an electronic bank statement bearing the official stamp of the bank in question will be accepted. This stamp must appear on every page of the statement.  
The UKVI will only accept statements which show the balance in the account for the full period needed.  
If you want to use a joint account as proof of your money, you must be named on the account along with one or more other people. |
| Building society pass book covering a consecutive 28 day period ending no more than 31 days before the date of your application. | Your building society pass book must show:  
• Your name or your parent’s/legal guardian’s name  
• The account number  
• The financial institution’s name and logo  
• The amount of money available |
| Letter from your bank confirming funds have been held for a consecutive 28 day period ending no more than 31 days before the date of your application. | Your letter from a bank or building society must show:  
• Your name or your parent’s/legal guardian’s name  
• The account number  
• The date of the letter  
• The financial institution’s name and logo  
• The money in your account  
• That there is enough money in the account to cover your course fees and living costs |
| **Letter from a financial institution regulated by either the Financial Conduct Authority, the Prudential Regulatory Authority or, in the case of overseas accounts, the home regulator (official regulatory body for the country the institution is in and where the money is held) for the purpose of personal savings accounts, confirming funds have been held for a consecutive 28 day period ending no more than 31 days before the date of the application.** | **Your letter from the financial institution regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, the Prudential Regulatory Authority or home regulator must show:**  
- Your name or your parent’s/legal guardian’s name  
- The account number  
- The date of the letter  
- The financial institution’s name and logo  
- The money in your account |
| --- | --- |
| **Letter from a regulated financial institution confirming a loan** | **The loan letter(s) from a regulated financial institution must be dated no more than 6 months before the date of your application. The letter(s) must be the original (not a copy) and must clearly show:**  
- Your name  
- The date of the letter  
- The financial institution’s name and logo  
- The money available as a loan  
- That the loan is provided by your national government, their state or regional government, a government sponsored Student Loan Company or is part of an academic or educational loans scheme  
  
**The financial institution must be regulated by either the Financial Conduct Authority, the Prudential Regulatory Authority or, in the case of overseas accounts, by the home regulator (the official regulatory body for the country the financial institution is in and where the money is held) for the purpose of student loans.**  
**There must be no conditions placed on the release of the loan funds to you, other than your Tier 4 application being successful.**  
**You cannot use loans held in the name of your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) as evidence of money held by you.** |
| **If you are relying on money held by your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) (using a bank statement in their name/s), in addition you must show that you are related to them and must provide a further document.** | **The further supporting document should be one of the following:**  
- Your birth certificate showing the names of your parent(s)/legal guardian(s); or  
- Your certificate of adoption showing names of both parent(s) or legal guardian(s); or  
- A court document naming your legal guardian(s). The document use must be the original legal document or a notarised copy |
| **If you are relying on money held by your parents(s)/legal guardian, you must also show that your parent(s)/legal guardian have given their permission for you to use this money. You must provide: a letter from your parent(s) or legal guardian(s).** | **The letter must confirm:**  
- The relationship between you and your parent(s) or legal guardian(s); and  
- That your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have given their consent to you using their funds to study in the UK. |
Evidence of money that is available to you - low risk nationalities

Students of designated low-risk nationalities attending courses with sponsors that hold Tier 4 Sponsor status do not routinely have to present maintenance documents at the visa application stage. However, the Home Office reserves the right to ask to see the evidence.

The current list of low-risk nationalities is shown at Appendix H of the Immigration Rules.

If you are a student of a nationality not included in this list, you must show that you have held the required money for a consecutive 28-day period (finishing on the date of the closing balance) ending no more than one month before your application.

Evidence of money that is available to you – single and multiple bank statements

If you are providing your evidence of money from a single account, the UKVI will assess the funds available to you from the closing balance given on the document you provide as evidence.

If you provide two or more pieces of evidence from a single account (for example, two consecutive bank statements), the UKVI will assess the money available to you from the closing balance of the most recent document. They will always use the closing balance date from the account that most favours you.

The Home Office has established a list of financial institutions which do not verify financial statements to their satisfaction and from whom they will no longer accept documents. See Appendix p.

Certificates of deposit

Certificates of deposit are only acceptable if they do not indicate that funds are frozen. They should also meet the following points:

- you must apply for your visa within 31 days of the certificate issue date
- the account opening date must be at least 28 days prior to the certificate issue date.

Unacceptable documents

Other accounts or financial instruments such as shares, bonds, overdrafts, credit cards and pension funds are not acceptable, regardless of notice period. Certificates of deposit are only acceptable if they do not indicate that funds are frozen.