

N.U.in England Visa Guide Supplement 2017



Citizens from a Non-English-speaking country (including applicants who are permanent residents of the United States)

Please refer to the Foundation for International Education Tier 4 Visa Guide (“guidance”) for complete information on the UK visa process. The information contained in this document is not intended to be exhaustive and you should aim to review the latest guidance provided by the UK’s Home Office, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student> The information listed below is only a guide and does not constitute legal advice.

Type of Visa

United Kingdom Tier 4 (General) Visa

All N.U.in England students who are NOT citizens of a European Economic Area country (EEA)¹ MUST apply for the Tier 4 (General) Visa.

What is a UK Tier 4 (General) Visa?

A UK Tier 4 (General) visa provides students permission to study in the UK. This visa uses a points-based system. N.U.in England students are not eligible to enter under the Short-term study visa category and must have the visa issued in their passport prior to arrival. Students will no longer have the full duration of their visas endorsed in their passports (unless applying for a duration of six months or less). Instead, once their visas have been approved by the relevant British Diplomatic Posts, their passports will be endorsed with 30 day travel vignettes valid from the date of intended arrival in the UK detailed in their Visa4UK online application forms. Students will have to travel to the UK within the specified 30 day period and collect their Biometric Residence Permits (BRP) within 10 days of their arrival or before the expiry of their 30 day travel vignette (whichever is shortest). Their BRPs will detail the full duration of their leave as Tier 4 (General) students.

¹ The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union of 28 countries, which include: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK. The European Economic Area (EEA) includes EU countries and also Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Therefore, students should have their visa applications approved prior to travelling to the UK.

How long will the application process take?

The visa processing time varies; therefore we highly encourage you to apply early. **Please note** students are not able to apply for their visa until they have been emailed their Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). CAS Numbers will not be issued until all required documents are submitted on the **FIE Online Administration System Portal**. Students will receive several emails if they have documents pending; it is important that they check their Husky email accounts (including spam) every day to ensure they are reading these communications.

How much does a UK Tier 4 (General) Visa cost?

Student visa will cost £328 or around \$404 USD (as of 3/17/17). **Please note:** There is potential that this cost is likely to increase in April 2017. As visa regulations are subject to change, it is important that students continue to check the [UK Visas and Immigration regulations](#).

Top Tips

1. Students planning to travel on their EEA passport must upload this passport photo page to their N.U.in and FIE Online Administration System portals.
2. Students must have their Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) **before** applying for their visa.
 - a. CAS Numbers will not be issued until all required documents are submitted on the FIE Online Administration System portal. Students will receive several emails if they have documents pending; it is important that they check their Husky email accounts (including spam) every day to ensure they are reading these communications.
3. **Set aside at least six weeks**, during which the students will not need their passport for personal travel. Students have to personally go to an application support center to complete the biometrics requirement and then will ship off their passport to the British Consulate for processing. Students who are residing in the US will have to submit their biometric data at an Application Support Center in the US and post their applications (or apply through an agent) to the British Consulate in New York for consideration. Students who are not residing in the US will have to submit their biometric data and applications at the relevant Visa Application Center (VAC). The VAC will then forward their applications to the relevant British Diplomatic Post for consideration.

Completing a Tier 4 Visa Application

REMEMBER! ALL students from non-EEA countries **MUST** apply for the Tier 4 visa. Due to the nature of The N.U.in England program, they are **NOT** eligible for the Short-term study Visa.

Top Tips- International N.U.in Students

****Important Note on the English Language Requirement****

1. The British Government requires that all citizens from a non-majority English speaking country² submit proof of English language skills. You must provide evidence of your English language ability by submitting it to the FIE Online Administration System. You will see that requirement automatically on your portal **once you have completed the Personal Information Questionnaire fully and provided information on your nationality.**
2. **The British Government is not accepting certificates issued by the Educational Testing Service (TOEFL and TOEIC). Participants will need to immediately take an approved test if they only have results issued by the Educational Testing Service. Please note that signing up and receiving the results may take several weeks. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the approved test results, and to notify the N.U.in office immediately if they are unable to do so** in a timely fashion. Alternatively, those who have completed the equivalent of a UK bachelor's degree which was taught in English may also qualify. If this is the case, a student must obtain an official document from UK NARIC (designated UK national agency for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills) that states how their international qualifications compare to UK qualifications.
3. Students will have to submit the original test results/certificate to the British Consulate/Embassy when they apply for the visa.

****Important Note on Financial Evidence****

All Tier 4 applicants must have the required funds for their studies (approximately £3795 for N.U.in England students for the three month duration of the program). Students who qualify for the *differentiation agreement* do NOT need to submit any financial evidence [ON THE BASIS THAT FIE IS A HIGHLY TRUSTED SPONSOR]. However, Home Office has discretion to request these documents. To qualify you must:

- Be a national of Argentina, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, Botswana, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates, or the United States of America

AND

- Apply for the Tier 4 Visa in your country of nationality, or in a country where students have permanent residence.

ALL OTHER STUDENTS must submit financial evidence that they meet the maintenance requirement (as above, of approximately £3000 depending on circumstances. Please refer to the guidance from page 43

² **Majority English-speaking Countries are:** United States of America, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, New Zealand, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.

for more exact figures, which can be found at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591777/T4_Migrant_Guidance_February_2017.pdf. You can show financial evidence in one of four ways:

1. Submit personal bank statements in the students' names covering a **consecutive 28 day period** ending no more than 31 days before the date of their applications.
2. Submit a bank statement from an account in a parent or guardian's name. In addition to the criteria outlined in the FIE Visa Guide, you must also submit an original birth certificate, adoption certification, or court document confirming legal guardian status AND a signed and dated letter from the parent/legal guardian confirming your relationship to them, the funds available, and they give their consent for you to use their funds.
3. Official financial scholarship: from Her Majesty's Government, student's home country, the British Council or any international organisation, international company, university or a British independent school. Please note Northeastern University is not your official financial sponsor.
4. Student loans.

Approximate Length of Time

Action

Student will receive CAS email by early-mid June (provided they have completed ALL required paperwork)

Receive CAS Statement email from FIE

Once the student has submitted all required documents to the FIE Online Administration System, they will be emailed their CAS Number (emails sent starting in early June). This will ONLY be sent to the student. It is very important students check their email accounts daily, including spam.

Print out the CAS Statement Email and carefully review. It will outline how to answer most of the application questions.

1 hour

Complete online application

- 1) Access Visa4UK website, register an account, create an application, and complete
 - 2) While answering each question, carefully review the CAS Statement Email and FIE visa guide. These documents outline exactly how to answer a majority of questions
 - 3) Pay for application and Immigration Health Surcharge fee, and print entire application form
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(Min) 1 day –
(Estimated max) 2
weeks following
successful application
submission

Book and attend biometric appointment

Once the application has been completed and the declaration signed, students who are applying in the US will be prompted to book an appointment at their local Application Support Center (ASC) to have their biometric data (fingerprints and photograph) taken. Students applying in other countries will be prompted to book an appointment at the nearest Visa Application Center (VAC) to submit their biometric data and application documents.

- Appointment availability varies by location; plan for having to wait at least 1-2 weeks.
- Students who are applying in the US must bring their original passport and biometric appointment confirmation sheet with them to the ASC. Once students have submitted their biometric data, the ASC will endorse (stamp and sign) the biometric appointment confirmation sheet.
- Students who have to attend a VAC must bring their original passport and all their supporting documentation with them to the VAC. Students will submit their applications and biometric data to the VAC on the same day.

Prepare materials
prior to biometrics.
This will allow you to
do an immediate
submission after your
appointment.

Prepare application packet

- 1) Passport (original passport!) and photo copy
- 2) 1 UK-sized passport photo- For submissions to the British Consulate General in New York, this is no longer necessary. Check with your local VAC to determine if this is still required.
- 3) Online application printout
- 4) Biometric appointment confirmation page
- 5) Original evidence of meeting the English language requirements
- 6) Original evidence of meeting the financial requirements
- 7) Copy of all application materials

Please see the online guidance for a list of all documents which may be required for your application.

Processing time: 2-8
weeks. Priority
service may be
available in your
country. Certain
countries may have
longer processing
times. *Remember:
during this time you
WILL NOT have
access to your*

Ship materials to British Consulate in your country within 5 days of providing biometrics. Please note that the requirements for submission of the documents varies from country to country.

If students are applying in the US, they will have to post their applications to the British Consulate General in New York. Students submitting outside the US will only have to submit their applications to the relevant Visa Application Centers who will forward their applications to the relevant British Diplomatic Post for consideration

passport for personal international travel.

Please follow the online guidance provided when submitting your application.

If you are mailing your documents to the British General Consulate in New York, please mail them to the address below:

UK Visas and Immigration
British Consulate General
845 Third Avenue, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10022

- Post materials using a registered mail service that gives you a tracking number
- Include a pre-paid, labeled envelope as part of the package. After the British consulate approves the visa, they will ship the documents back to this address

Note: Students should purchase the return courier service which can be found at

https://www.vfsglobal.co.uk/usa/user_pay_services.html#Courier-Service. Once the purchase has been made, a prepaid UPS label will be generated which students should include in their package to the BCG in New York.

Important Reminder:

Northeastern University and FIE have no influence on the outcome of visa applications, and no ability to contact the British Consulate to inquire about a visa application or expedite the process for an individual student. It is the sole responsibility of the student to complete the application correctly and in an effective manner.

N.U.*in* employees are unable to provide advice to students or parents concerning the visa application. They are solely available to advise on the process and logistics. A number of commercial services are available to provide immigration advice and assistance on the visa application process.

***Please note:* Students are responsible for obtaining a valid visa or entry documents if applicable prior to the program start date. If they cannot obtain a valid visa or entry documents if applicable in time, then please refer to the N.U.*in* Withdrawal Policy and contact the N.U.*in* office to discuss next steps.**