

# N.U.in England Visa Guide Supplement 2017

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## *U.S. Citizens or Citizens of a Majority English-Speaking Country<sup>1</sup>*

*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

#### 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.

#### 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 £335 or around \$433 USD (as of 4/20/17). **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](#).

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<sup>1</sup> **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.

## Top Tips

1. Students must have their Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) **before** applying for their visa.
2. **Set aside at least six weeks**, during which the students will not need their passport for personal travel. Students will have to send their passport and documents to the British Consulate General (BCG) in New York (for students applying in the US) or the relevant Visa application Centers (for students applying in other countries) for processing.
3. **For U.S. citizens: Applications submitted prior to mid-July can be submitted for regular processing.** Please also note that some of the Visa Application Centers (VAC) located outside of the US may offer priority processing for Tier 4 (General) visas. Students should check the relevant VACs' websites. **If you complete the application after mid-July, you MUST select the priority processing service. Please note that the British Consulate General issues no guarantees that the visa will be processed in time for the start of the program; as such, it is important to apply as early as possible.**

## Completing a Tier 4 General Visa Application

**REMEMBER!** ALL students from non-EEA countries<sup>2</sup> MUST apply for the Tier 4 General Visa. Due to the nature of The N.U.in England program, they are NOT eligible for the Short-term Study Visa, which can be obtained on arrival.

### Approximate Length of Time

### Action

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

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#### 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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

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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 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. If this option does not come up at the end of the application or you see an error message, please contact the N.U.*in* office as soon as possible
  - 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.
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Prepare materials  
prior to biometrics.  
This will allow you to  
do an immediate  
submission after your  
appointment.

**Prepare application packet (for students submitting their applications in the US)**

- 1) Passport (original passport!) and photo copy
  - 2) 1 UK-sized passport photo- For submissions to the BCG in New York, this is no longer necessary. Check with your local VAC to determine if this is still required.
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- 3) Online application printout
  - 4) Biometric appointment confirmation page
  - 5) Copy of all materials (all supporting documents)
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Processing time: 2-8 weeks. Priority service is available. *Remember: during this time you WILL NOT have access to your passport for personal international travel.*

### Ship materials to British Consulate General in New York:

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](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.*

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## 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.

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

## Please be mindful:

**All N.U.*in* participants will need a passport.** Those who do not already have a valid passport should apply for one as soon as possible. US citizens can find more information at the [US Department of State passport website](#). Students should ensure that their passports are valid for six months beyond the date of departure to the UK (I.e., the date they travel to the UK).

## Visa Application Checklist:

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ UK-Sized Passport Photo
- ✓ Online Application Printout
- ✓ Stamped Confirmation Page from Biometric Appointment
- ✓ Copy of all materials- include evidence of English language and financial requirements (if required).
- ✓ UPS/USPS return shipping envelope

***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.