

N.U.in England: FIE Visa Guide Supplement 2018



Do I need a visa for N.U.in England?

ALL students from non-EU/EEA countries¹ MUST apply for the Tier 4 General Visa. Due to the nature of The N.U.in England:FIE program, students are NOT eligible for the Short-term Study Visa. Students who hold an EU/EEA passport and plan to travel on this passport, must upload the photo page to their N.U.in and FIE Online Administration System portals.

The information contained in this document is not intended to be fully comprehensive. Please refer to the Foundation for International Education (FIE) [Tier 4 \(General\) Visa Guide](#) for complete information on the UK visa process. You should also plan 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. If your application is successful, your visa will be in the form of a vignette bearing your photograph and will be stuck to one of the pages of your passport. Therefore, you must have your visa application 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. You will need to **set aside at least six weeks** during which you will not need your passport since you will be required to submit your original passport with your application. Therefore, travel plans during the application process are strongly discouraged. **If you complete your visa application after mid-July, you MUST select – a priority or premium application processing service. Please note that the British Consulate General issues**

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.

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.**

What are the first steps I should take when applying for a UK visa?

You will not be able to apply for their visa until you have been emailed your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from FIE. CAS Numbers will not be issued until you have submitted all required documents on the [FIE Online Administration System Portal](#). You will receive reminder emails if you have documents pending. It is important that you check your Husky email accounts (including spam) every day and ensure that you read all of these communications.

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

The application fee varies depending on the currency, and all visa regulation costs are subject to change. 'Priority' and 'Premium' services are available at an additional cost. Please refer to the question 'How much will my Tier 4 visa cost?' in the FAQ section of the [FIE Tier 4 \(General\) Visa Guide](#) for a full breakdown of costs.

Completing a Tier 4 Visa Application

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

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

The British Government requires that all citizens who are *not* from a majority English speaking country² submit proof of English language skills. **All N.U.*in* students are exempt from the English language requirement as they are participating in a study abroad program in the UK as part of their bachelor's or master's degree at a Higher Education Institution in the USA.**

****Important Note for those who will be under 18 at the time of application****

If you are under 18 when you make your Tier 4 application (even if you will be 18 by the time you arrive in the UK), you will need to provide a letter of consent from your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) as part of your application. Please refer to Section 2.4 'Supporting Documents' of the [FIE Tier 4 \(General\) Visa Guide](#) for more information.

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

All Tier 4 applicants must have the required funds for their studies (equivalent to at least £3795 GBP for N.U.*in* England: FIE students). Students who qualify for the *differentiation arrangements* do NOT need to submit any financial evidence with their application form, though they should have it available in case it is requested by the UKVI at short notice during processing.

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.

To qualify for differentiation arrangements you must:

- Be a national of Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Botswana, British National (Overseas), Brunei, Canada, Chile, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan (*if the passport includes the number of the identification card issued by the competent authority in Taiwan*), Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates or the United State of America.

AND

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

See the FIE [Tier 4 \(General\) Visa Guide](#) for additional information regarding differentiation arrangements. Please refer to the question ‘*What are differentiation arrangements?*’ in the FAQ section.

ALL OTHER STUDENTS must submit financial evidence that they meet the maintenance requirement (equivalent to at least £3795 GBP). Please refer to Section 2.4 ‘Supporting Documents’ in the [FIE Tier 4 \(General\) Visa Guide](#) for information on acceptable forms of financial evidence. Please use [OANDA](#) for all currency conversions, and ensure you have more than the minimum to allow for currency exchange rate fluctuations.

Please refer to the guidance in the UK’s Home Office publication (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/591777/T4_Migrant_Guidance_February_2017.pdf) for additional information about the maintenance requirement.

Also, please refer to section 4.a. of the [FIE Tier 4 \(General\) Visa Guide](#) for Acceptable types of documents for financial evidence.

Application Requirements and Timeline

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 the [Gov.UK website](#), register an account, create an application, and complete
 - 2) While answering each question, carefully review the CAS Statement Email and [FIE Tier 4 \(General\) Visa Guide](#) . These documents outline exactly how to answer a majority of questions
 - 3) Register for an Immigration Health Surcharge reference number, 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.
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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. Note: 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 passport for personal international travel.*

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. Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre> and check the instructions for the application centre you will be attending.

Please refer to Step 4 'Mail Your Application Materials' in the [FIE Tier 4 \(General\) Visa Guide](#) for information on how and where to ship your application packet.

Important Reminders

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. You can also refer to the 'Useful Contacts' section at the beginning of the [FIE Tier 4 \(General\) Visa Guide](#).

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.