

Extra information for international (non UK/EU) applicants for research degrees

If you are applying to study with us on a research degree and do not hold UK or EEA/EU immigration status, you will be considered as an overseas international student. You can only study on a full-time basis. The fees for full-time international study are given separately in the document on fees and registration periods.

This document gives information about the extra details required as an international applicant regarding immigration status in the UK as a student.

UK student immigration

As a student, your status in the UK will be through what is referred to as a *TIER 4 visa*. To obtain a Tier 4 visa, you will need to be issued with a *Certificate of Acceptance of Studies* (CAS) from the Academic Registry at the University. This CAS can only be issued to you when you have been given an unconditional offer of a place and have formally accepted the offer by notifying the University that you intend to take up the place. A CAS cannot be issued any earlier than 6 months before you will begin study. A CAS issued in your name by Teesside University can only be used to enter the UK to study at Teesside University and is not transferable to another institution without another application process. If you cannot enrol on the programme of study for which the CAS was issued within a period of 10 days from the date given to you in your offer letter, you must contact us with an explanation or the University will be required to notify the UK Border Agency of your non arrival and non enrolment.

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) Certificate

As part of your application to study in the UK, depending on your subject area, you may be asked to supply an ATAS Certificate. This will apply mostly if your subject area is in scientific fields, engineering, mathematics and other technological areas. For the purposes of applying for this certificate, which is done on an internet site, you will need to know specific details about your course of study. If it is needed, this will be sent to you as part of your offer letter in the form of an ATAS Attachment letter.

Finance and maintenance costs

You should allow approximately £7,200 per year for living and maintenance costs. The Immigration Office issuing your visa will expect you to supply evidence that this funding is available before issuing you with a visa.

The process of applying, receiving and accepting an offer, being issued a CAS, and being approved for ATAS certification (if necessary) takes time. Therefore, *it is important that you allow plenty of time in advance of the cohort start date* (whether October, January, or May) at which you would like to begin study. We recommend that you make a full application at least four months in advance in order for all the requirements of immigration to be dealt with in time for the appropriate cohort start. If you apply closer to the deadline we cannot guarantee entry on your desired date.