This guidance document provides important information about the financial requirements that UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) have set for Tier 4 applicants.

The document will cover the following:

1. Exemptions
2. How much money you need to show
3. Evidence for self-funded students
4. Sponsored Students
5. Evidence which is not accepted
6. Appendix – parent’s bank account letter template

This document is based on guidance provided by UKVI. For the full guidance document produced by UKVI, please visit:

1. Exemptions

Please note that if you are a national of one of the following countries you are not required to show financial evidence as part of your CAS and visa application. See here for further details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low-Risk Nationalities (As of Oct 2019)</th>
<th>Kuwait</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
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<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
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<td>Barbados</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>Botswana</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Oman</td>
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<td>Brunei</td>
<td>Peru</td>
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<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
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<td>Chile</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
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<td>The Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
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Please note that passport holders of the following are also considered low-risk: British national (overseas), Hong Kong, Macau SAR, and Taiwan (those who hold a passport issued by Taiwan that includes the number of the identification card issued by the competent authority in Taiwan).

However, even if you are one of the nationalities listed above you must ensure that you meet the Tier 4 financial requirements. UKVI can contact you to request your financial evidence at any stage of the application process. You should still read through this guide and ensure you can provide correct financial evidence if requested by UKVI.
2. How much money you need to show

UKVI state that applicants need to show that they have their tuition fees for the upcoming academic year as well as sufficient funds to cover maintenance and living costs for up to 9 months. Put simply, you will need to show:

Tuition Fees for one year + Maintenance = total amount you need to show.

i. Tuition Fees

You need to be able to demonstrate that you can pay your tuition fees for the academic year in full. Any tuition fees that you have already paid can be deducted from the amount that you need to show. Your CAS will also be updated to show any payments that you have made towards you tuition fees.

ii. Maintenance (living costs)

UKVI have calculated maintenance costs at £1,015 per month of study, up to a maximum of 9 months. This means that, in most cases, students will need to show the following:

\[ £1,015 \times 9 = £9,135 \]

iii. Dependents

If you are also applying for leave for your dependants, there are additional maintenance funds which you will need to show. UKVI need to see that you have at least £680 per month per dependent, up to a maximum of 9 months. This means that most Tier 4 dependants would need to show the following:

\[ £680 \times 9 = £6,120 \]

This calculation is based on one dependant. If you had more than one you would need to multiply the amount accordingly.
Please note that maintenance for dependants is calculated based on the total expected months that your visa will be granted, whereas the maintenance for the main applicant (the student) is calculated based on the total months of study.

Example:

If you are extending your course for 3 months, and expect to receive a 4 month wrap up period, you would be expected to show £1,015 x 3 months. Your dependants, however, would each be expected to show £680 x (3+4) months.

◆ IF THE LENGTH OF YOUR COURSE INCLUDES PART OF A MONTH

UKVI will round up any part of a month when calculating the length of your course.

Example:

If the course start date on the CAS is 02/02/2020 and the course end date is 03/03/2020, the course end date is 1 month and 1 day, so the length of the course will be considered to be 2 months.

◆ DOCTORATE EXTENSION SCHEME (DES) Maintenance requirement

Please note that if you are applying for leave to remain on the Doctorate Extension Scheme, you must show that you have funds to cover your living costs for 2 months. This also applies for each dependant(s).

3. Evidence for Self-Funded Students

The following documents are acceptable for use as evidence that you possess the required funds.

You must show that you have held the correct amount of money for at least 28 consecutive days before we can issue you with a CAS, as well as maintain
these funds until the submission of your visa application.

- Bank statements (in your own name, a joint account with your name included, or in your parents' name(s))
- A letter from your bank confirming your balance
- A deposit certificate
- A loan letter

**Bank Statements**

Your bank statements must meet the following requirements:

- They must be no more than 31 days old when you complete your visa application
- They must either be originals produced by the bank, or electronic print-outs which have been stamped by the bank on each page
- They must clearly show the account holder’s name, the account number, the bank’s name and logo, the date of the statement, the closing balance, and transactions covering at least 28 consecutive days

**Using your parent’s bank statements**

As a Tier 4 applicant, you are permitted to use the bank accounts of one or both of your parents as evidence that you meet the financial requirements set by UKVI.

You **cannot** use bank statements from any other family relatives, or friends.

When using a parent’s bank account you must provide their bank statement, which meets all the requirements as detailed above, as well as the following two additional documents:

i. A legal document confirming parentage (a birth certificate, a certificate of adoption, or a court document stating the name(s) of your legal guardian(s))
ii. A letter of consent signed by your parent(s) – see Appendix of this document for a template.

**Bank Letter**

Alternatively, you can submit a letter from your bank to prove that you meet UKVI’s financial requirements. Any letter must meet the following requirements:

- It must be clearly dated, and no older than 31 days when you complete your visa application
- It must clearly include your name (or your parent(s)’s name(s)), the relevant account number and the bank’s name and logo.
- It must clearly demonstrate your account balance, and;
- It must state clearly that you have held the required funds in your account for at least 28 consecutive days

You can view a template of an acceptable bank letter on the ISS website [here](#).

**Deposit Certificate**

You can also submit a deposit certificate as proof of funding. The certificate must show the required funds, have been issued at least 28 days after the date of deposit, and be no more than 31 days old.

You can view a template of an acceptable deposit certificate [here](#).

**Loan Letter**

If you wish to use a loan letter as proof of your funds, it must meet the following conditions:

- The letter must clearly state that the loan is being provided by a national government, a state or regional government, a government-sponsored student loan company, or is part of an educational loan scheme. The financial
institution providing the loan must be subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority, the Prudential Regulatory Authority, or, for overseas accounts, by the domestic financial regulator.

- Clearly state your name, the date, the loan provider’s name and logo, the amount of money available, and confirmation that there are no conditions placed on the release of the loan other than a successful Tier 4 visa application.

- If applying outside the UK, the letter must confirm that the loan funds are all available before you travel to the UK, or that the tuition fee part of the loan will be paid directly to the University before travel to the UK and the maintenance part of the loan released on, or before, arrival in the UK. If it is a student loan from your national government then the funds can be released on arrival in the UK.

Letters from private sources of funds (for example, a bank) will not be accepted as proof of funds. You can use evidence of a bank loan, but only if it is part of a formal Educational Loans Scheme, administered by a regulated bank. A personal bank loan, even for the purposes of education, is not acceptable. If you plan on using such a bank loan, we would advise you to transfer the money into your own bank account, then wait for the required 28 days before using one of the other forms of evidence listed above.

You can view a template loan letter on the ISS website here.

4. Sponsored Students

If you are sponsored by an official financial sponsor, you can use a letter confirming the details of your sponsorship as proof that you meet UKVI’s financial requirements.

Sponsor letters are only accepted from:

- the British Council
- the British government or your home government
- an international organisation or company (with an office in more than one country)

Any letter must be on official letterhead paper and have the official stamp of the financial sponsor on it. It must also clearly show your name and the names of any dependents covered, the date, the sponsor’s address and contact details, and the amount of money you will receive or a statement confirming that your full fees and living costs will be covered.

You can view a template sponsor letter on the ISS website here.

Partial sponsorship

If your sponsorship does not cover your full tuition fees and living costs (as detailed on page 3) then you will need to provide both the sponsor letter and bank statements to show the remaining amount. We advise you to contact us in this scenario to check your evidence before you apply for your visa.

Previous sponsorship and consent

Where you were previously financially sponsored for both tuition and living expenses by a government or international scholarship agency 12 months prior to your new application, you must provide a letter from your past financial sponsor giving unconditional consent for you to remain in and re-enter the UK.

5. Evidence Not Accepted

The following list contains evidence which will not be accepted by The University of Sheffield and UKVI, and which may result in a visa refusal:

- Bank statements from family members other than your parents
- Bank statements from friends
- Bank statements in a company’s name
- Evidence of salaried pay – e.g. payslips, employment contracts
- Sponsor letters from any organisation which is not considered an ‘official’ sponsor as outlined above – e.g. churches or local businesses.
- Sponsor letters from a family member

For students from any of the countries listed below, UKVI has published a list of what it deems acceptable and unacceptable financial institutions. Any financial statements from organisations in the unacceptable lists will not be accepted and could lead to a visa refusal.

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Iran</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
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<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>The Philippines</td>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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You can read the full list of acceptable and unacceptable institutions [here](#).
6. Appendix: Parent’s Financial Consent Letter

Sample Parent/Guardian Financial Consent Letter

This is a sample letter to confirm the relationship for parents/legal guardians and that they give you permission to use their funds. If this letter is not in English it must be accompanied by an official translation.

[Your parent[s]/guardian[s] address]

[Date]

RE: Financial Support for [student's name]

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

This is to confirm that I, [parent(s) or legal guardian(s) name], am the [mother/father/legal guardian] of [student’s name] and that I will financially support my [son/daughter/ward] during [his/her] studies. [S/he] is studying a [title of course, e.g. BA English] at the University of Sheffield.
I am happy to provide funding to my [child/ward] for the full tuition fees and maintenance while studying in the UK. I am able to fund this amount and this is evidenced by my bank statements which are enclosed. I give my consent to the funds being available to my [child/ward] for study in the UK.

Enclosed is the [birth certificate/adoption certificate/court document confirming legal guardianship] confirming our relationship.

Yours faithfully

[parent(s)/legal guardian(s) signature]
[parent(s)/legal guardian(s) name]