UK Student visas

UK Visas
& Immigration

GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

The UK’s visa service

- **Our purpose**: to provide an effective regular immigration system for the UK.
- **Our vision**: We place our customers’ needs at the centre of what we do, being adaptive, responsible and respectful at all times.
- **What we do**: We issue visas to enable customers to visit, work, study or join family in the UK.
- We have over **250** visa application centres around the world.
- We offer a priority visa service in nearly **190** countries.

High volume visa routes

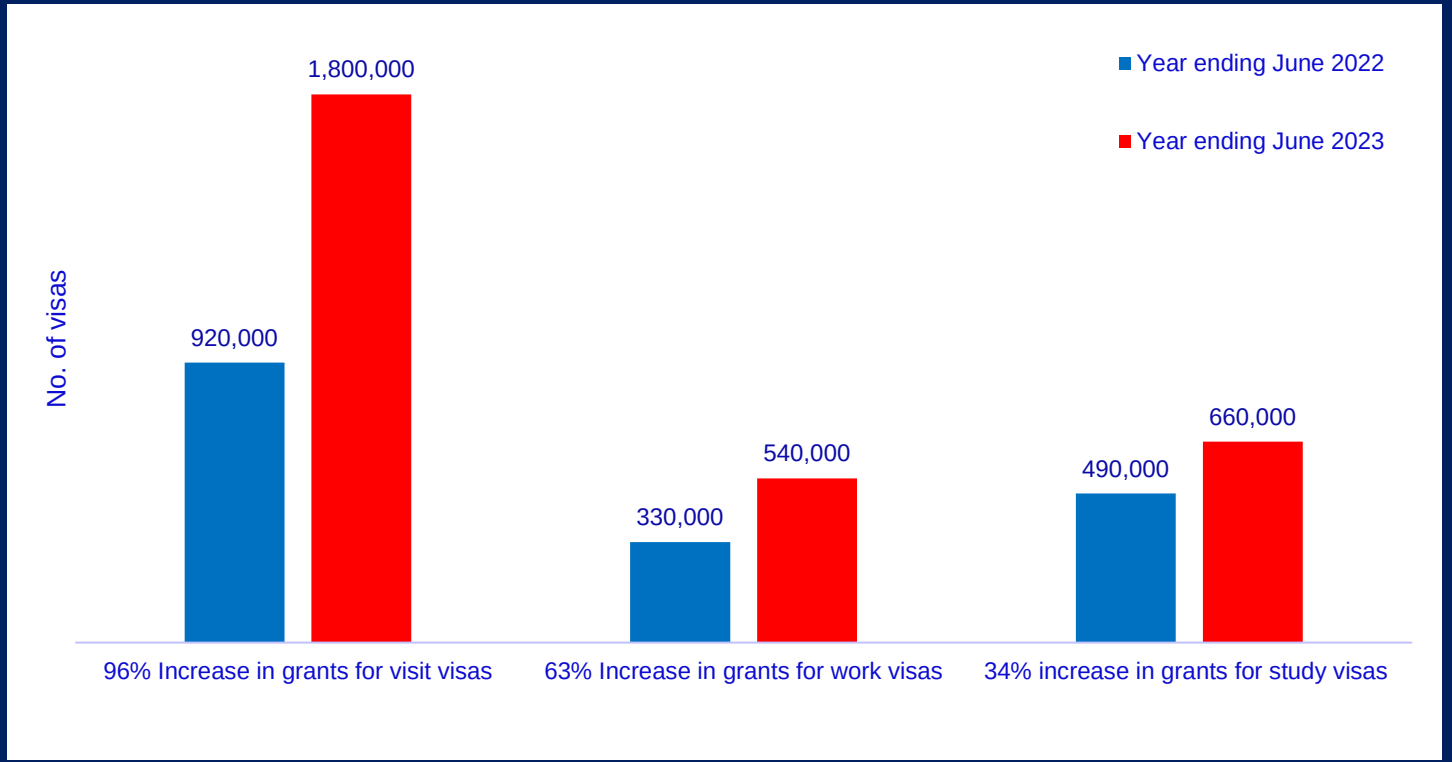
Visitor

Work

Study

Visa stats

There were over 3,000,000 UK visas granted globally in the year ending June 2023



*Approx. figures. Includes dependants. Full data available here: www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release

Different types of visa for studying in the UK

Standard Visitor – Study

For people who intend to study in the UK for less than 6 months, please visit below link for more info.

https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor/visit-to-study

Short-term Study

For people who intend to study in the UK for 6 – 11 months, please visit below link for more info.

https://www.gov.uk/visa-to-study-english

Student

At least 16 years old
Study on a further or higher education course in the UK

https://www.gov.uk/student-visa

Child Student

Child Student Under 18
Study at an independent school with a licenced Child Student sponsor.

https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa

Student visa stats

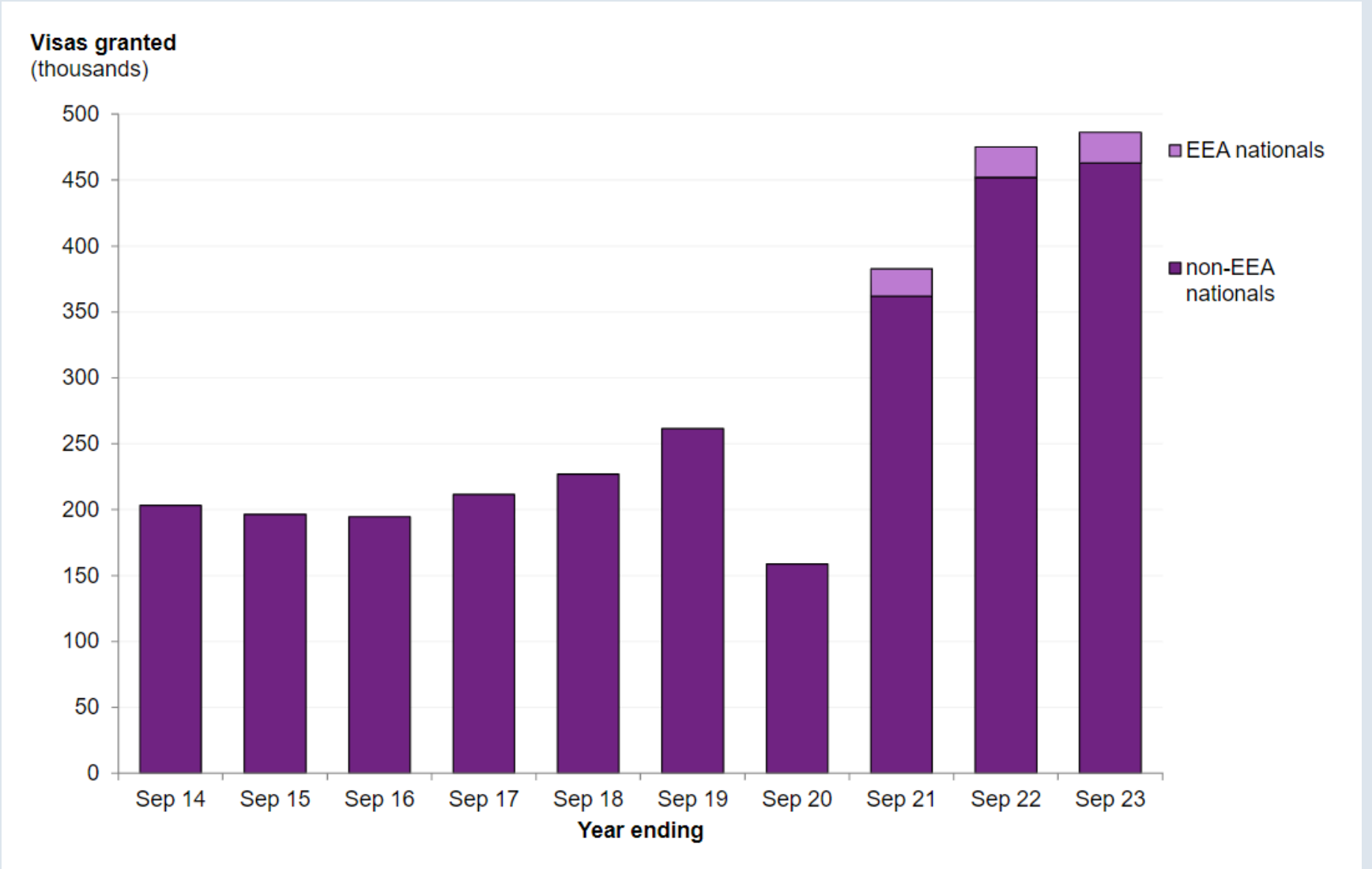
490,000

sponsored student visas granted to main applicants year ending September 2023*

*Approx figures. Full details available here: www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release

Immigration Statistics

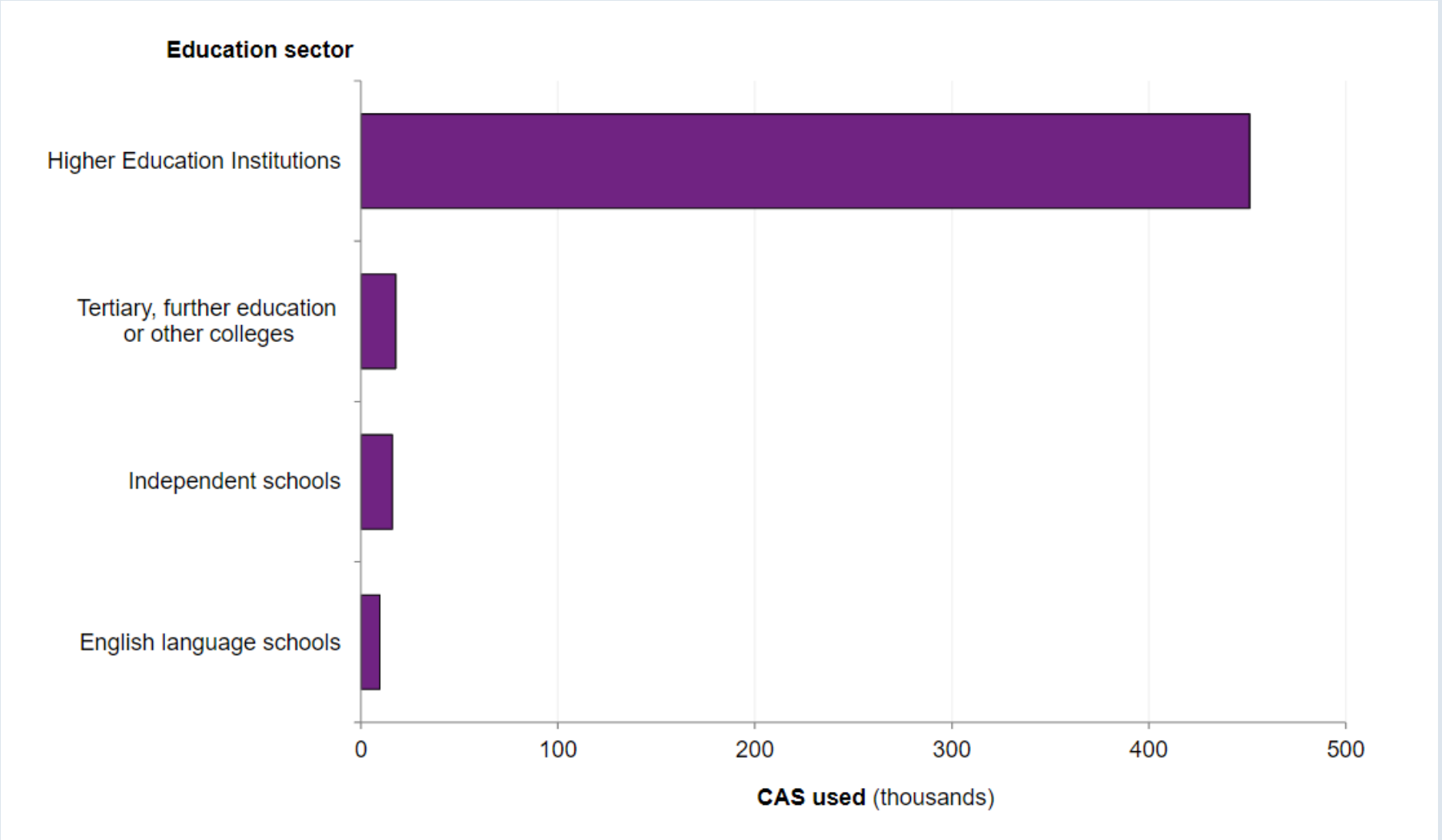
Sponsored study visa granted to main applicant globally



Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-september-2023/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study

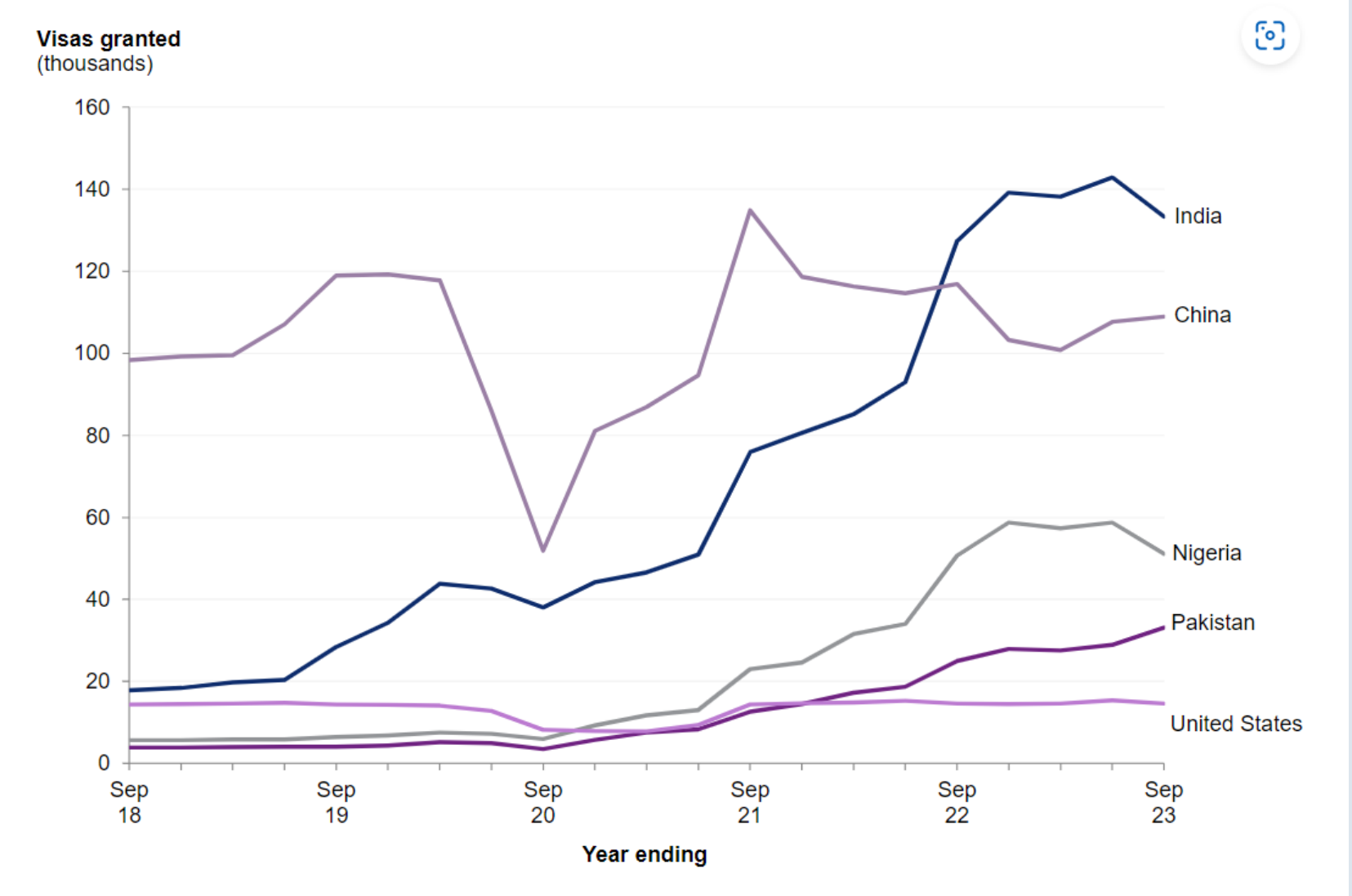
Immigration Statistics

CAS used for Sponsored Study Year Ending September 2023



Immigration Statistics

Top 5 Countries Sponsored Study Visa Granted to main applicants



Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-september-2023/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study

East Asia & South East Asia

Sponsored Student Year Ending September 2023*

146,000 visas granted

Around **30%** of the global total

99.44% issue rate

Do you need a Student visa?

British citizen

No

EU citizen

Yes

(this includes EU, EEA and Swiss citizens)

Other citizens

Yes

Who can apply?

You can apply for a UK Student visa if you are 16 or over and:

- Have an offer from an approved education institution.
- Can speak, read, write and understand English.
- Have enough money to pay for your course and support yourself.
- Have consent from your parents if you are under 18.

If you are between 4 and 17 years old and you want to study at an independent school in the UK, you may be eligible for a Child Student visa instead.

Before you apply

- Identify and apply for your course
- Check your education provider is a licensed student sponsor
- Your education provider will send you a reference number called a Confirmation of Acceptance of Study (CAS), once they've offered you a place on a course. You need this before you can apply for a visa.
- Check Gov.uk for the documents you need to prepare for your visa application
- Apply for your visa as soon as you have received your CAS number and have your documents ready

Documents required

You must provide:

- Current passport or travel document
- CAS reference number

Supplying the right documents will help avoid delays to the decision making process

You may also need to provide:

- Proof of finances
- Proof of your knowledge of English
- Birth certificate and parental consent letter if under 18
- Tuberculosis test results (if required)
- ATAS certificate (if required by course)

www.gov.uk/student-visa/documents-you-must-provide

Funds

You need enough money to pay for your course and support yourself in the UK.

You may need to provide evidence that you have enough money to cover your living costs – how much depends on where you will be studying:

- London - £1,334 for each month of the course (max 9 months)
- Rest of the UK - £1,023 for each month of the course (max 9 months)

You can prove you have enough money through:

- ✔ Cash in a savings account - in student or parent/guardian's name
- ✔ Student loan
- ✔ Official financial or government sponsorship or grant

Funds must have been held for at least 28 consecutive days prior to submitting your application.

Funds

You may not need to prove you have money to support yourself if:

- you've had a UK visa for 12 months prior to the date of your Student visa application – you must currently be in the UK
- you're applying as a student union sabbatical officer
- you're applying as a postgraduate doctor or dentist on a recognised foundation programme

Differential evidence requirement

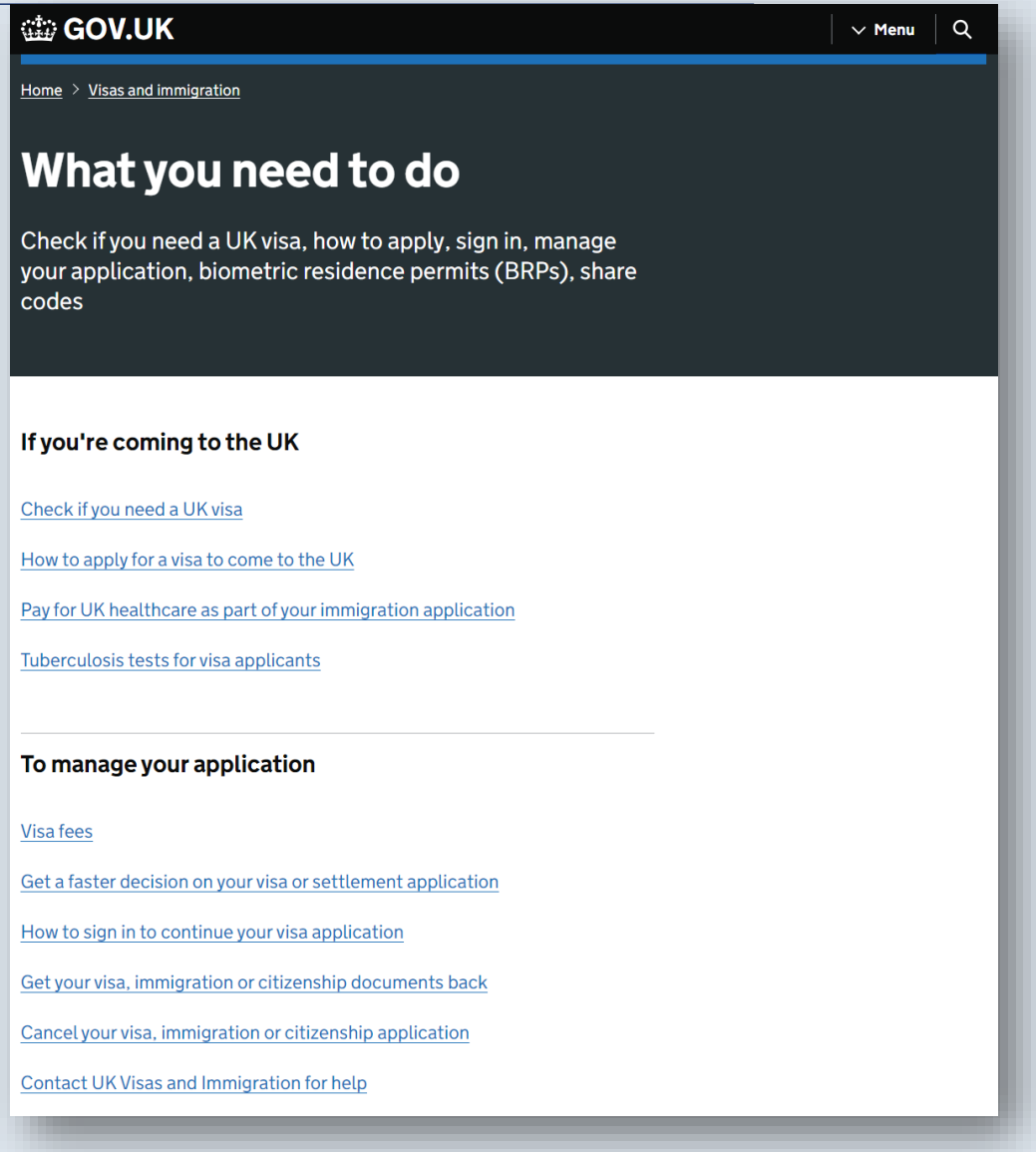
You do not need to prove you have enough money to support yourself if you are a British National (Overseas) ((BN(O)) or from one of the countries or territories listed under the 'differential evidence requirement'. However you do need to have enough funds to make an application.

For more information see www.gov/student-visa/money

How to apply

Check if you need a UK visa and how to apply here:

www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/what-you-need-to-do



Visa application process – prove your identity at a Visa Application Centre (VAC)

Apply online for your visa.
Pay Immigration Health Surcharge.
Book an appointment at a VAC

Standard service available or pay extra for optional services (for example, scanning documents or booking for a specific date or time)

Submit your biometric information (fingerprints and photograph)

UKVI will make a decision on your application

If successful, a vignette will be stuck in your passport. This will explain your leave, the validity dates of your visa and the conditions of your visa

OR

Application refused. UKVI will contact you to explain why. You may have a right to appeal or review

Your passport will be returned to you

Biometric residence permit (BRP)

- You'll usually get a BRP if you:
  - apply to come to the UK for longer than 6 months
  - extend your visa to longer than 6 months
  - apply to settle in the UK
  - transfer your visa to a new passport
  - apply for certain Home Office travel documents

- Your BRP will include information about your identity, your biometrics, your immigration status and conditions.

- You must collect your BRP within 10 days of arrival in the UK or before your vignette expires.

More info on BRPs: www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits

Processing times (from outside the UK)

- UKVI starts processing your application once you submit your application (including biometrics) on the UK Immigration: ID Check app or at a VAC.

- Processing times usually take up to **3 weeks**

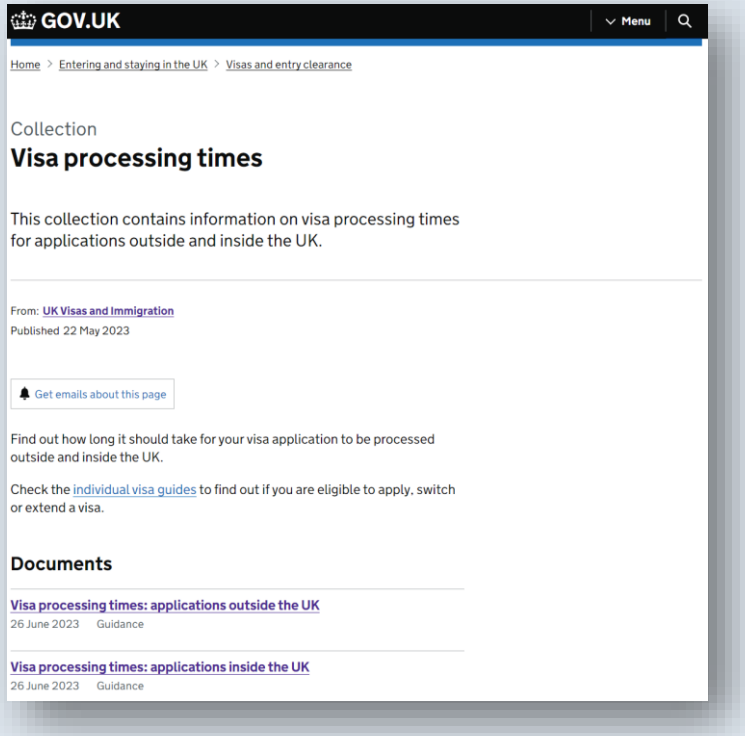
- You may be able to pay to get a faster decision on your application.
  - within **5 working days ('Priority Visa service')**
  - by the end of the **next working day ('Super Priority Visa service')**

- Applications may take longer to process, some reasons for this may include:
  - the information in your application is not accurate or requires further consideration
  - you need to provide further evidence, for example evidence of funds

Processing times (from outside the UK)

UKVI will contact you once a decision has been made on your application.

You do not need to contact UKVI to track your application if you've already made a visa application and it is still within current processing times.



Find out more:

www.gov.uk/guidance/visa-processing-times-applications-outside-the-uk

Application tips

- Once a CAS has been issued, apply for your visa as soon as possible to avoid busy periods/delays
- Check that your CAS is for the correct visa
- Include all necessary documents
- Include official translations of your documents
- Include a supporting letter to explain any gaps in your study – for example, periods of employment
- Disclose your full travel history – including visas refused
- Disclose any forms of criminality – including minor offences
- Include your birth certificate and parental consent letter if under 18
- If you are using the UK Immigration: ID Check app - after you have paid for your application, make sure you confirm you have submitted your documents. Your application can't be processed if you miss this step

Travel to the UK

You can travel to the UK before your course starts:

- Up to 1 week before if course lasts 6 months or less
- Up to 1 month before if course lasts more than 6 months

You must not travel to the UK before the start date given on your visa

Useful links & QR codes

UK Immigration: ID Check app	www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-uk-immigration-id-check-app	
View and prove your immigration status	www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status	
Biometric Residence Permit	www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits	
Processing times	www.gov.uk/guidance/visa-processing-times-applications-outside-the-uk	
VFS.Global	www.vfsglobal.com/en/individuals/index.html	
TLSContact	www.tlscontact.com/en/	

Graduate Visa

UK Visas
& Immigration

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BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

Graduate visa

- Opportunity to work in the UK for 2 years (bachelor/master degree graduates) or 3 years (PHD graduates)
- No sponsorship required

Eligibility

- Education provider has told Home Office you have successfully completed an eligible course
- Graduated from an approved institution
- Must apply in UK - before student visa expires
- Pay application fee plus Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

Graduate visa application process

Apply online at Gov.uk

Prove your identity
Use UK Immigration: ID Check app to scan passport or BRP

(You will need to sign into your existing UKVI account or create a new one)

If you can’t scan your passport or BRP using the app you will need to give biometrics at a UKVCAS application centre

Checks made by UKVI

Decision made

Decision successful

You will receive a digital immigration status or BRP to prove your right to live & work in the UK

Changes to student visa route

- Limit the right to bring dependants on the student route other than those on postgraduate research programmes;

- Remove the ability to switch out of student routes into work routes before successful completion of studies and review the maintenance requirements.

The changes are effective and will apply to students starting courses in January 2024.

- Short-term study route now allows the applicant to use financial evidence of parents or legal guardian to support their application.

Useful links & QR codes

Student visa information	www.gov.uk/student-visa	
Graduate visa information	www.gov.uk/graduate-visa	
Documents required	www.gov.uk/student-visa/documents-you-must-provide	
Funds	www.gov/student-visa/money	

Contact UKVI

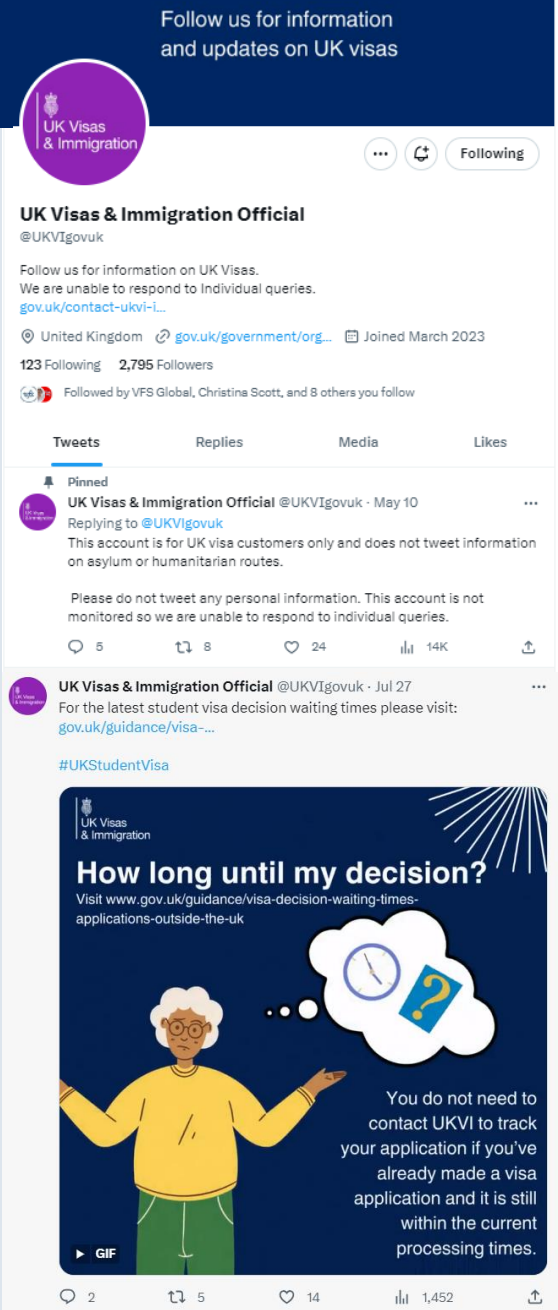
If you require further information or have any queries, you can contact UKVI online or by phone:

www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk

More information can be found on our Twitter page.
Don’t forget to follow, like, share and comment!

https://twitter.com/ukvigovuk

@ukvigovuk



Thank you