



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland

RCS Student visa guide

This guide is produced to help support RCS applicants coming to the UK to study on a Student visa. The rules, guidance and ultimate decision maker on your Student visa application is the United Kingdom Visa and Immigration (UKVI) service and is part of the Home Office Department. Guidance and rules for visas can and does change throughout the year so please make sure that you read and meet the full eligibility criteria and information on the gov.uk website [here](#).

This guide covers:

- Preparing for your visa
- Applying for your visa
- Getting your decision and travel to the UK
- Important things to remember



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Preparing for your visa application

You can apply for a Student visa to study in the UK if you're 16 or over and you:

- have been offered an unconditional place at RCS
- been assessed as eligible for a Student visa sponsorship (CAS)
- have enough [money to support yourself and pay for your course](#) - the amount will vary depending on your circumstances (details below)
- have consent from your parents if you're 16 or 17 - you'll need evidence of this when you apply

Unconditional offer

You must accept your unconditional offer through UCAS before RCS can issue your CAS.

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

Your CAS is an electronic document confirming that RCS will sponsor your studies. It shows UKVI that RCS has completed the required checks and will maintain sponsorship throughout your programme.

Details on when CAS will be issued are in the section *When to apply for your visa*.

Finances

How much you will need and how you need to show that is different for every applicant. There are several things that can impact this such as your tuition fee, any scholarships and what country you are from.

The finance requirements are set by the UKVI and RCS have no discretion over these, full details can be found [here](#).

The fee for the visa application is currently £524.

Visa Application Fees

- **Visa application fee:** £524
- **Biometric enrolment fee:** approx. £20 (if applicable)
- **Priority services:** optional and vary by Visa Application Centre



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Immigration Health Surcharge

Most people need to pay the immigration health surcharge (IHS) as part of their online immigration application. The IHS gives you access to the National Health Service (NHS). It is currently £776 per year.

Your Student visa application will calculate the exact amount you must pay and generate an IHS reference number.

Maintenance Requirements

Student visa applicants must show £1,171 per month (up to 9 months).

For full time students, this totals £10,539 for courses longer than 9 months.

Accommodation

Base Glasgow is not owned by RCS, so you cannot deduct accommodation payments from the maintenance requirement.

Tuition fees

These are listed on your CAS and can be found on the website [here](#). We will include any money you have paid towards your fees and will be confirmed on your CAS. If you make additional payments after your CAS has been issued you should contact international@rcs.ac.uk to update it.

Scholarships

RCS scholarships will appear on your CAS.

External scholarships must meet Home Office requirements listed [here](#).

US Loans

If you are using US Federal Loans or Sallie Mae Loans, email usloans@rcs.ac.uk if you have not already done so.

Using Parents' Funds

You may use funds held by a parent or legal guardian. You must provide:

- your original birth certificate (translated if not in English)
- adoption or legal guardianship documents (if applicable)
- a signed letter from your parent/guardian confirming you may use their funds



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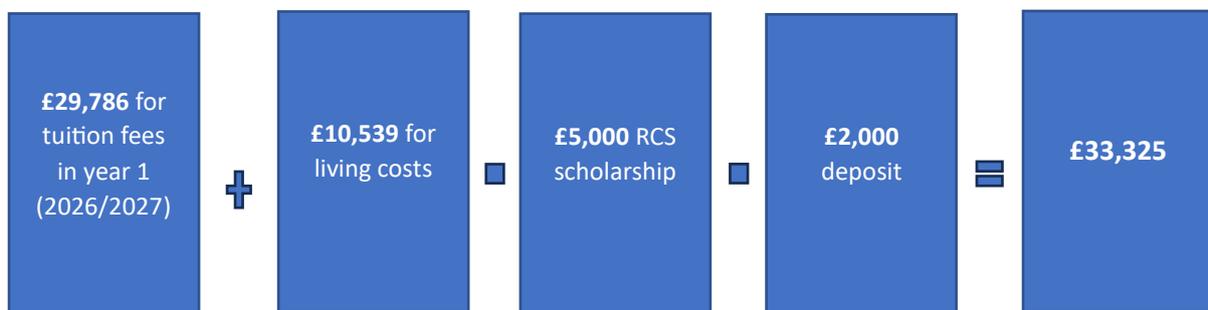
Funds Not Accepted as Evidence

Examples include:

- overdrafts
- GoFundMe
- cryptocurrency, shares, stocks, bonds
- credit cards
- non-cash assets such as salary, pensions, or property value

Example

Matías Arezo from Uruguay has accepted an offer of a place on the Masters of Music Performance programme. It is a 2-year programme. He has been awarded an RCS scholarship of £5,000 for the first year of his course and he has paid £2,000 as a deposit. For his visa application he needs to show he has **£33,325**.





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Differential evidence requirement

Nationals of certain countries may not need to submit financial or academic documents with their application. However, UKVI can still request them at any time, and failure to provide them quickly will result in refusal.

The list is in Appendix Student, paragraph ST 22.1 and currently includes:

- Australia
- Canada
- China
- France
- Spain
- United States of America

Tuberculosis (TB) Certificate

Some students must provide a TB certificate depending on nationality and residence. Check requirements on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). Failure to provide it when required will likely result in refusal.

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

No RCS programmes require ATAS.

Dependents

Only some students can bring dependants. This is heavily restricted. See [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) for full details.



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Applying for your visa

Where to Apply

Most students must apply from their home country. If you plan to apply from another country, contact international@rcs.ac.uk first. Applying from an ineligible country is likely to result in refusal.

How to apply for your visa

Apply online at: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply>.

The form adapts based on your answers. Provide full, honest, and detailed responses.

RCS will support you throughout the process, but UKVI will communicate directly with you. Use an email address you check regularly and monitor your junk folder.

You must submit all required documents in the correct format and within the stated deadlines.

When to apply for your visa

RCS begins preparing CAS from **end of April**, the earliest you can apply is 3 months before your course starts

CAS issuing deadline for 2025 entry: **August 2026**.

Before receiving your CAS, you must:

- accept your unconditional offer
- pay the £2,000 tuition fee deposit (if required)
- submit your passport
- submit the Student Route CAS Evidence Request Form
- submit a Parental Consent Form if you will be under 18 at enrolment

Check your CAS carefully. Incorrect details can lead to refusal. If anything is wrong, email international@rcs.ac.uk immediately.



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Getting your decision and travel to the UK

All outcomes will be received by email (remember the tips from above).

Successful

It is important that you familiarise yourself with the [conditions of your visa](#) so that you understand your permission and its restrictions. Common errors are the start and end dates of your visas. You should check these inline with the information in the section “Student visa validity period” below

Receiving your eVisa

You will receive your immigration permission as an **eVisa**.

- You must register for a UKVI account.
- Keep your passport details updated.
- Use the [View and Prove](#) service to share your status

We will ask you for evidence of your visa before you travel to the UK.

UKCISA provides helpful guidance on [eVisas](#).

Unsuccessful (Visa refusal)

If your visa is refused, email international@rcs.ac.uk immediately and include your refusal notice.

Processing Times

Most applications are processed within **3 weeks** of your appointment or (if using the IDV app) within 3 weeks of submission.

Do not make travel plans until your visa is granted.

RCS cannot influence UKVI processing times.

Student visa validity period

| Type of Course | Period Before Course Start | Period After Course End |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 12 months or longer | 1 Month | 4 Months |
| 6-12 months | 1 Month | 2 Months |
| Less than 6 months | 7 Days | 7 Days |



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Important things to remember

Ask! Ask! Ask!

If you have questions, email international@rcs.ac.uk

CAS issuing is extremely busy, so responses may take time.

Changes in circumstances

If you no longer intend to study at RCS, inform us so we can withdraw your CAS.
To cancel your visa application, you must contact the Home Office directly.

Biometric Residence Permits

As of 31st October 2024, BRPs are no longer issued.

Credibility Interviews

Some applicants are selected for a credibility interview - this is normal.
If you fail to attend, your application may be refused.

Further information

- <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

Finally

Good luck and we look forward to welcoming you to Scotland and RCS soon.