

## TIER- 4 INFORMATION

If you are a Non-EEA (European Economic Area) national you may need to apply for a visa to study in the UK before leaving the country where you live. If you are coming to study on a postgraduate degree programme and registering for more than a term, you should apply for a Tier 4 student visa.

To find out if you need a visa to study in the UK, or how to apply please go to <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk> –

**Note: US and Canadian nationals do require a student visa to study in the UK.**

**You will find guidance and help about applying for a Tier 4 student visa on the [SOAS website](#).**

Before you can apply for a Tier-4 student visa, you must have been issued with a **CAS reference number** (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) from SOAS. This is an electronic document that confirms your unconditional offer to study at SOAS.

### ENGLISH:

**From 6 April 2015**, only **IELTS** and **Trinity College London** English language tests will be approved by the Home Office as secure English language tests (SELTs) for immigration purposes.

IELTS tests can be taken around the world, but Trinity College London tests must be taken in the UK.

**Tests taken before 22 April 2015** will be valid for immigration purposes until Nov 5 2015.

From 23 April 2015 only UKVI IELTS approved academic test taken in a UKVI approved test center and Trinity College London tests taken in the UK will be acceptable.

Please refer to the [SOAS webpage](#) for more information

### BIOMETRIC RESIDENCE PERMIT

When you apply for a Tier 4 visa in your home country or outside of the UK to study for leave that will cover more than six months, providing your application is successful, you will be granted a 30-day vignette (sticker) in your passport. You will also be given a letter which will give you instructions on when and where to collect your **Biometric Residence Permit** (BRP). Your leave to remain will be the BRP and that must be collected within ten days of your arrival in the UK in a Post Office designated by the Home Office. The BRP is a plastic card, similar to a credit card. Nothing further will be placed in your passport.

For more information on Biometric residence permits please go to

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biometric-residence-permits-applicant-and-sponsor-information>

**Enrolment at SOAS** We strongly advise you to collect your Biometric Residence Permit from the allocated Post Office as soon as you arrive in the UK and **before** attending your enrolment session. We will be able to enrol you on a temporary basis with the 30-day vignette in your passport but we must see your BRP card **before** the vignette expires, which will involve returning to the Enrolment Hall (during Welcome Week) or to the Registry (from Monday 28 September) to have your BRP scanned and before you can be fully enrolled.

### POINT BASED SYSTEM

For your visa application to be successful you must pass all the points-based assessment. The [guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student](#) will help you. You should also refer to the SOAS guidance : [Making a Tier 4 application outside the UK](#) - **You are strongly advised to read this information**

You must ensure you meet the **financial requirements fully** before submitting your visa application

- By showing that you have enough funds to cover the course fees and living costs
- By ensuring that the necessary funds are in your account **for a minimum of 28 consecutive days** prior to applying otherwise your visa will be denied.

- Financial evidence such as bank statements must be under your name or your parent's name only.

You must provide with your visa application the original documentation as entered on the CAS as well as original bank statements

**Students can apply for a visa up to 3 months in advance of their intended course start date**

### REQUESTING A CAS

To be issued with a CAS number please complete the [CAS Application Form](#) and send it back with a scanned copy of the **photo page of your passport** to: [pgtcasrequest@soas.ac.uk](mailto:pgtcasrequest@soas.ac.uk) and current or previous UK visas.

**Please don't submit a CAS request form if you are going to have your passport renewed. Wait until your new passport has been issued before submitting your request.**

If you have any further queries please email [mastersadmissions@soas.ac.uk](mailto:mastersadmissions@soas.ac.uk)

### ISSUANCE OF CAS

- CAS for September entry will be issued from the end of May onwards and according to the date the request has been received. Programmes with an early start date will be prioritized.
- CAS will be issued to all **Unconditional offer holders** who have firmly accepted the offer, completed the CAS request form (including passport copy and previous UK visas if relevant) .

### ISSUED CAS

- CAS reference number and related information will be emailed to you.
- Once issued, a **CAS number is valid for 6 months**.
- You can **apply for your visa no more than 3 months** prior to the start of the programme.
- You can only use the CAS number **ONCE** so if your visa application is refused the first time round and you want to reapply you must be issued with a new CAS. Email [mastersadmissions@soas.ac.uk](mailto:mastersadmissions@soas.ac.uk) to request a new CAS. There may be an administration charge if we have to reissue a new CAS.
- If tuition fee PAYMENTS are made before you submit your visa application to UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) please let us know so that we can update the CAS information available to UKVI.
- You will receive separate notification or receipt from SOAS for any payment made towards English pre-session tuition fees, pre-session accommodation, deposit and payment towards main programme tuition fees. For confirmation of monies paid, please email FINANCE at [cashiers@soas.ac.uk](mailto:cashiers@soas.ac.uk)
- As SOAS has issued a CAS to sponsor you in the UK as a Tier 4 (General) student, the School has a duty to report to the UKVI if you do not attend regularly, or if you withdraw from your course or interrupt your studies.

### CAS WITH PRE-SESSIONAL ENGLISH COURSE

If your offer is conditional on attending an IFCELS Pre-session English Course, the number of Tier 4 (General) student visa applications you will need to make will depend on the results of your English test.

- If the results of your English test put you in the CEFR level B1 category you may be issued with a joint CAS number, which will cover both the pre-session English course and the Master's programme. You will need to complete a CAS request form and email it to [pgtcasrequest@soas.ac.uk](mailto:pgtcasrequest@soas.ac.uk). The CAS will be issued by the Master's Admissions section.

- If the results of your English test put you in the CEFR level B2 category you will be issued with two CAS; one to cover the pre-sessional English course and one to cover the main programme of study.
  - The first CAS will be issued by IFCELS; If you need more information please email: [presessional@soas.ac.uk](mailto:presessional@soas.ac.uk). You will need to apply for a visa that will cover the duration of the pre-sessional English course.
  - Once you have successfully completed the pre-sessional course and met any other conditions you will need to request a new CAS number. This will allow you to apply for a visa extension that will cover the main programme of full-time study.

If your offer is conditional on attending an English pre-sessional course and you still have to provide evidence to meet the academic condition, **we strongly recommend you wait until your degree results are available before applying for the pre-sessional course**, as attending the pre-sessional does not guarantee admissions on the Master's programme.

#### **EXTENDING YOUR STAY UNDER TIER 4**

- **If you have already been granted Tier 4 entry clearance to the UK under the sponsorship of another university** but want to come and study at SOAS, you must apply for a new permission to study with a CAS issued by SOAS even if your current visa is still valid.

**You will not be allowed to register on a programme at SOAS unless we are satisfied that the correct procedures have been followed. We will require evidence that you have applied to UKBA to change educational sponsor or have applied for a Tier 4 visa to study under the SOAS sponsorship.**