Visa, Immigration and Accommodation

What is an EEA National?

This information was correct at the time of writing and is subject to change often in the current environment.

If you have permanent residence in, but not citizenship of, any of these countries, you are not an EEA national.

European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss Nationals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Poland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Ireland (Republic of) *</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<td>Republic of Cyprus</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Liechtenstein</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>United Kingdom (UK) *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are EEA member states, but they are not members of the European Union (EU). Nationals of EEA countries have the same freedom of movement rights as most EU citizens. The UKs EEA regulations extend the free movement rights to all EEA and Swiss nationals.

Switzerland is not a member of the EU or the EEA. However, since 1 June 2002, Swiss nationals have had rights which are like those of nationals of EEA countries. The information in this area of the website applies to both EEA and Swiss nationals.
The UK has formally left the EU. The UK is now in a transitional period which will end on the 31 December 2020, while negotiations on the future relationship continue.

For EU, EEA and Swiss students intending to study in the UK in 2020-21

If you are a student from the EU, EEA or Switzerland and are intending to live, study and work in the UK beyond 31 December 2020, you will need to make an application under the EU Settlement Scheme.

EU, EEA nationals and Swiss citizens and their eligible family members can still come to the UK (without requiring a visa) until the end of the transitional/implementation period (31 December 2020).

They can apply for immigration permission in the UK under a scheme designed by the UK government known as the EU Settlement Scheme. They will need to do this if they wish to remain in the UK after the end of the transitional/implementation period, or otherwise apply under another category of the immigration Rules.

The EU settlement scheme is designed to offer EU, non-EU EEA and Swiss citizens and their eligible family members living in the UK before the end of the transition period (during which free movement continues) the opportunity to protect their residence in the UK after the transition period has ends.

The settlement scheme is not only for those who intend to settle in the UK after studying. It is immigration permission, which can lead to settlement, but does not have to be used to gain settlement. With permission under the scheme there will be no restrictions on study (where you study or what you study).

*Irish citizens are not required to apply under the scheme but can choose to if they wish. Relevant family members who are not Irish or British will need to obtain status under the scheme, unless they have an independent right to live here under UK immigration law.

This information is correct as of 11 March 2020.

Brexit: What does it mean for students and their family? You can find detailed information on the UKCISA website [http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk)

Further information can also be found on our website: [https://www.soas.ac.uk/soas-life/student-support-and-advice/eu-settlement-scheme/](https://www.soas.ac.uk/soas-life/student-support-and-advice/eu-settlement-scheme/)

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

⚠️ In addition to this information it would be advisable to read through all the information sent to you before making your travel and accommodation plans.
What are the Programme Dates for 2020?

12-Week Pre-sessional Programme: Friday 03 July - Friday 25 September

8-Week Pre-sessional Programme A: Friday 03 July - Friday 28 August

8-Week Pre-sessional Programme B: Friday 31 July - Friday 25 September

4-Week Pre-sessional Programme A: Friday 31 July - Friday 28 August

4-Week Pre-sessional Programme B: Friday 28 August - Friday 25 September

What is a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)?

In order to apply for a Tier-4 (General) Student visa, you must request a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).

The CAS is a virtual document which we will send to you via email once you have completed the process. The entry clearance officer processing your visa application will use your CAS number to confirm your programme details. When you receive your CAS, you are advised to carefully check the following:

- Your name is spelt correctly, as shown on your passport;
- Your date of birth is correct;
- Your gender (male / female) is correct;
- Your passport is not due to expire shortly;
- The progression details on your CAS are correct;
- Your programme start and end dates are correct. In cases where you qualify for a single CAS, the Pre-sessional start date will be entered as the overall programme start date and your main programme completion date will be entered as the overall programme end date;
- The qualifications/results listed on your CAS are correct.

If there are any mistakes, please let us know immediately.
Research (PhD) Students

Please email dsadmissions@soas.ac.uk to request a CAS, making sure to quote your SOAS reference number.

Information for Taught Masters Offer Holders

CONDITIONAL OFFER

Non-EEA students / EU students

If your offer is conditional on submitting Academic, English or any other evidence, forward any relevant documentation as soon as possible.

If you need to apply for a tier-4 student visa, you must ensure all the conditions are met as early as possible as a CAS can only be issued once the offer is unconditional.

ENGLISH PRE-SESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

If you are required to attend an English pre-sessional programme, please refer to your offer letter. If you have any further queries, please email presessional@soas.ac.uk

CAS INFORMATION

To be assigned a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) you need to have:

• An unconditional offer
• Accepted the offer
• Paid the deposit or provided official evidence that you have been awarded a scholarship or are being sponsored by a recognised sponsor (e.g. Home government, International Organisation or International Company).
• Completed a CAS request Form
• Emailed your request to pgtcasrequest@soas.ac.uk together with
  o a scanned copy of the photo page of the passport you will be using with your visa application
  o any current or previous UK tier-4 visas that have been issued

Before assigning the CAS, we will ensure that you satisfy the immigration rules and verify some of the following:

• Level of any previous study in the UK
• Number of years of any previous study in the UK (5 years cap)
• Current Passport and any current tier 4 visa
• Academic progression:
  o Applying to study for second MA in the UK
PRESESSIONAL STUDENTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) 2020

- Evidence of completion of 1st MA or letter from University confirming you are highly likely to successfully complete your current MA
- Check immigration history and reason for previous visa refusal (if applicable)

REQUESTING A CAS

CAS with a pre-sessional English programme without academic condition

We can assign a joint CAS to cover a 4-week or 8-week pre-sessional English programme and the main programme of study if the academic entry requirement has been met fully.

Before a joint CAS can be issued you must:

- Apply for the pre-sessional English programme run by IFCELS - If you need more information please email: presessional@soas.ac.uk
- Receive an unconditional offer from IFCELS
- Pay the pre-sessional tuition fees
- Pay the £1,000 deposit towards the master’s tuition fees.

We cannot assign a joint CAS if your offer is conditional on attending a 12-week pre-sessional English programme even if the academic condition has been met.

In this case you will need two CASs; one to cover the pre-sessional English programme and one to cover the main programme of study.

NOTE: If you do not successfully complete the pre-sessional English programme you will not be allowed to progress onto the main programme of study and we may have to withdraw our sponsorship.

CAS with a Pre-sessional English programme and with Academic Condition

We cannot assign a joint CAS if you offer is conditional on attending a pre-sessional English programme, in addition, you must also meet an academic condition.

We strongly recommend you either wait until your academic results are available or be certain that you will satisfy the academic condition before applying for the pre-sessional programme.

You can register to attend the pre-sessional programme, but you will be doing so at your own risk. Attending the pre-sessional does not guarantee admission on the master’s programme.

You will also require two CASs.
- The first CAS will be issued by IFCELS to cover the English pre-sessional.
- The second CAS will be issued by Admissions upon successful completion of the pre-sessional and if the academic requirement has been met.
If you want to attend the pre-sessional as a stand-alone programme, you will require a UKVI approved IELTS certificate.

If SOAS has issued a CAS to sponsor you as a Tier 4 Adult/General student, the School has a duty to report to the UK Home Office if you do not attend classes regularly, if you withdraw from your programme or interrupt your studies.

If you apply for a Tier 4 (General) Student visa for the Pre-sessional programme only then you should be granted a visa until the end of the Pre-sessional programme plus one month (see chart below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-sessional programme dates</th>
<th>Tier-4 (General) Student Visa expiry date</th>
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</table>

Once you have successfully completed the Pre-sessional programme, you will be issued with a CAS to cover the duration of your main programme of study.

Check that you can make your application from within the UK

To be able to apply in the UK:

- You must have a valid Tier 4 Student visa as stated above, or Tier 2 visa.
- The start date of the new programme (degree) must be no later than 28 days after the expiry date of your latest visa (for example, the visa for the Pre-sessional programme). If there is a gap of more than 28 days following the expiry date of your current visa before your programme starts, you must apply in your home country of nationality.
- You must meet the Home Office's 'Academic Progress' requirement, or be exempt

This is a summary of the requirement, you should also look at the Tier 4 policy guidance (PDF) (academic progression section).

You do not need to meet the ‘academic progress requirement’ if you make your Tier 4 application outside the UK.

The International Student and Welfare Adviser at SOAS will be able to assist you with your visa extension. SOAS is a Highly Trusted Sponsor so you will be able to start your main programme of study before receiving the outcome of your visa extension.
Information for Undergraduate Offer Holders

CAS WITH A PRE-SESSIONAL ENGLISH PROGRAMME

1 - Academic condition met with a 4- week or 8-week pre-sessional English Programme = Integrated Unconditional offer

- If you have met the academic entry requirement and you must attend and successfully complete a 4 or 8-week English pre-sessional programme before your main programme of study, we can issue a joint CAS to cover both the pre-sessional and degree programme.

- You will need to apply for the pre-sessional programme, receive an unconditional offer for the pre-sessional and have paid the pre-sessional tuition fees before the CAS can be issued.

- If you want to attend the pre-sessional as a standalone programme, you will require
  - A UKVI approved IELTS test (if the English test submitted is non UKVI approved)
  - Two CASes - one for the pre-sessional and one for the master’s programme that will be issued upon completing the pre-sessional.

2 - Conditional Offer with a 12-week Pre-sessional English Programme

- You would need to have submitted a UKVI approved test

- If the results of your English test warrant a 12-week pre-sessional programme, you will need two CASes; one to cover the pre-sessional English Programme and one to cover the main programme of study.

The first CAS will be issued by IFCELS. If you need more information, please email: preessional@soas.ac.uk. You will need to apply for a visa that will cover the duration of the pre-sessional English programme.

Once you have successfully completed the pre-sessional Programme, 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 you offer is conditional on attending the 12-week English pre-sessional Programme, and you also have an academic condition to meet, we strongly recommend you either meet the academic condition before applying for the pre-sessional programme or be certain that you will meet the academic condition. Attending the pre-sessional does not guarantee admissions on your undergraduate degree programme.

If you apply for a Tier 4 (General) Student visa for the Pre-sessional programme only then you should be granted a visa until the end of the Pre-sessional programme plus one month (see chart below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-sessional programme dates</th>
<th>Tier-4 (General) Student Visa expiry date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Once you have successfully completed the Pre-sessional programme, you will be issued with a CAS to cover the duration of your main programme of study.

**Check that you can make your application from within the UK**

To be able to apply in the UK:

- You must have a valid Tier 4 Student visa as stated above, or Tier 2 visa.
- The start date of the new programme (degree) must be no later than 28 days after the expiry date of your latest visa (for example, the visa for the Pre-sessional programme). If there is a gap of more than 28 days following the expiry date of your current visa before your programme starts, you must apply in your home country of nationality.
- You must meet the Home Office’s 'Academic Progress' requirement, or be exempt

This is a summary of the requirement, you should also look at the [Tier 4 policy guidance (PDF)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tier-4-guidance) (academic progression section).

You do not need to meet the ‘academic progress requirement’ if you make your Tier 4 application outside the UK.

The International Student and Welfare Adviser at SOAS will be able to assist you with your visa extension. SOAS is a Highly Trusted Sponsor so you will be able to start your main programme of study before receiving the outcome of your visa extension.

**REQUESTING A CAS**

1 - *Academic condition met with a 4 week or 8 -week pre-sessional English Programme = Integrated Unconditional offer*

Once you have received an unconditional offer, you need to

Send IFCELS ([ifcels-finance@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ifcels-finance@soas.ac.uk)) the following:

- Your completed pre-sessional acceptance form; and
- Full programme fee payment for your pre-sessional programme; or if you have an official financial sponsor for your proposed studies, an official letter confirming your sponsorship
- When you make your application through UCAS you should note if you require a student visa to study in the UK and provide details of your passport. You must ensure that this information is kept up-to-date as this will be used by SOAS to communicate with UKVI. If you have not provided this information, your visa process may be delayed. If you are unsure of what needs to be done to update your information, please contact the UCAS Customer Service Unit.
2 - Conditional Offer with a 12-week Pre-sessional English Programme

If I apply for a Tier-4 (General) Student visa for my 12 weeks Pre-sessional programme only, when will my visa expire?

If you apply for a Tier 4 (General) Student visa for the Pre-sessional programme only then you should be granted a visa until the end of the Pre-sessional programme plus one month (see chart below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-sessional programme dates</th>
<th>Tier-4 (General) Student Visa expiry date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Once you have successfully completed the Pre-sessional programme, you will be issued with a CAS to cover the duration of your main programme of study.

Check that you can make your application from within the UK

To be able to apply in the UK:

- You must have a valid Tier 4 Student visa as stated above, or Tier 2 visa.
- The start date of the new programme (degree) must be no later than 28 days after the expiry date of your latest visa (for example, the visa for the Pre-sessional programme). If there is a gap of more than 28 days following the expiry date of your current visa before your programme starts, you must apply in your home country of nationality.
- You must meet the Home Office’s ‘Academic Progress’ requirement, or be exempt

This is a summary of the requirement, you should also look at the Tier 4 policy guidance (PDF) (academic progression section).

You do not need to meet the ‘academic progress requirement’ if you make your Tier 4 application outside the UK.

The International Student and Welfare Adviser at SOAS will be able to assist you with your visa extension. SOAS is a Highly Trusted Sponsor so you will be able to start your main programme of study before receiving the outcome of your visa extension.

SOAS has issued me with a single CAS to cover both a Pre-sessional Programme and a main Programme of study. However, I have only been issued a 30-day visa in my passport, what should I do?
The United Kingdom Visas and Immigration (UKV&I, department of the Home Office), has recently made significant changes to entry clearance for international students, who will study in the UK.

When your visa is granted you will receive a vignette (sticker) in your passport valid for a 30-day period from your proposed date of travel. This is not entry clearance for the whole of your leave to remain in the UK.

The short-term vignette is issued only for the purpose of facilitating travel to the UK. Once you arrive in the UK you will be issued with a plastic card called a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) sometimes known as Biometric Immigration Document. This card has a chip in it which contains your fingerprints and photograph. The BRP will state your whole period of leave to remain in the UK; it will also confirm how many hours you can work and your entitlement to NHS healthcare.

You will collect your BRP from a Post Office nearest to the UK address you entered on the visa application. You must collect your BRP within 10 days of arrival in the UK.

**Before you apply for your Tier 4 General visa**

Before you apply for your (General) Student visa, you must know the date you are planning on entering the UK. Successful applicants will be issued with a vignette (sticker) in their passport which is valid for 30 days from the date you indicated as your intended travel date in your visa application. You must make every effort to enter the UK on this date.

If you receive your temporary vignette sticker, and can’t travel during the 30-day window, you will need to apply for a replacement (another 30-day visa). You will have to pay a fee for this.

When you complete your visa application the form will give you a choice of post offices from which to collect your BRP. The form will select these post offices based on the addresses you provide on your application, that is the address where you will be living and SOAS’s address.

The letter that accompanies your 30-day vignette (sticker) will contain the details of the post office that you selected. It is therefore important for you to carefully identify the most convenient Post Office location when you are making your entry clearance application as not all Post Offices issue BRPs.
The Post Office closest to the Russell Square Campus and to SOAS’s accommodation, which does issue BRPs and which we recommend that you select is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Office Branch</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kings Cross Branch</td>
<td>17/21 Euston Road, London, Greater London NW1 2RY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grays Inn Branch</td>
<td>19/20 High Holborn, London, Greater London WC1V 6BS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Street Branch</td>
<td>The Plaza, 120 Oxford Street, London, Greater London W1D 1LT</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

When you reach immigration in the UK

Your 30-day vignette will be accompanied by a letter. When you enter the UK, you should show the border force officer your 30-day vignette and this letter.

After you have arrived in the UK

After you have arrived in the UK you must collect your BRP from the post office you selected (see above) within 10 days of entering, and **you must make every effort to collect your BRP before you physically enrol at SOAS.**

⚠️ You do not have to make an appointment at the post office, but you must take your 30-day vignette and your letter with you. If you do not collect your BRP within ten days of arriving in the UK, you may have to pay a fine and/or your visa may be cancelled.

You are strongly advised not to travel outside of the UK until you have collected your BRP (the purpose of the BRP is to provide evidence your immigration status).

For more details about collecting your BRP please see the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk). You will be able to enrol on your programme before you have collected your BRP by showing the visa vignette in your passport.
Will I receive further information from you on how to apply for a visa?

Yes. Immigration advice, including information on how to apply for a visa will be sent with your pre-sessional offer letter. You can also find further information on how to make a successful visa application via our website http://www.soas.ac.uk/studentadviceandwellbeing/students/immigration/extending-visa/

How much does it cost to renew my Tier 4 (General) visa?

The fee you must pay for your visa application depends on whether you are applying from inside the UK or outside the UK; and the method you will be using to extend your visa.

Please see the Home Office website https://www.gov.uk/visa-fees for further information.

I have been issued with a CAS from another university, but I have decided to study at SOAS instead. What should I do?

A CAS is valid for 6 months from the date of issue. If you decide to study at SOAS, you will need to request a CAS number from SOAS and use this CAS number to make your visa application. If your visa application is successful, your Tier 4 (General) Student visa will be linked to SOAS and all other CAS’s you have been issued will be made obsolete by the UK Home Office.

Important information regarding your CAS statement:

- The entry clearance officer processing your application will use your CAS number to confirm your programme details.
- If your CAS is withdrawn by either SOAS or by the Home Office, it will no longer be valid and cannot be used to apply for a Tier 4 visa.
- A CAS can only be used once.
- If your visa application is refused, you will need a new CAS to make a new visa application. Please note that we will need to see the refusal letter to check the reason(s) for the refusal before another CAS can be issued.

Urgent Note: Please note that in some cases, it may not be possible to issue you with a second CAS, e.g. your programme of study is due to commence shortly, and it is clear that your new visa application will not be processed in time for you to receive it and arrive for the programme before the last agreed start date.

- Check that your CAS document is correct and has not expired;
- Evidence of your qualifications (if listed on your CAS);
- official translation(s) of all documents not in English;
- Birth certificate;
• Letter of consent (if using a bank statement in your parent(s) or legal guardian's name)
• Two passport photographs that meet the Home Office requirements;
• Police registration certificate (if applicable);
• Written permission from your parents or legal guardian if you are 16 or 17 years old;
• Appropriate payment to the Home Office (e.g. Postal Order);
• Any SOAS original receipts for tuition fees paid (SOAS will update your CAS as required when fees are paid, but the Home Office may find it helpful to see these receipts);

All documents you send must be originals and must accompany an original application. You should keep a copy of your passport (photo page), current visa and your visa application, as you may need these as evidence of your application during enrolment. You should also obtain a receipt of postage when you send in your application to the Home Office.

What should I do if my visa is refused?

If your visa is refused, you should seek advice from the SOAS Welfare Adviser as soon as possible. You must also send us your visa refusal letter so that we can investigate the reason for the refusal.

You can also contact the UKCISA, the UK Council for International Student Affairs, for advice about your situation. Their Student Advice Line is:

Outside the UK: +44 20 3131 3576

Inside the UK: 020 3131 3576

The advice line is open from Monday to Friday, 1300 - 1600 hours (UK time)
www.ukcisa.org.uk

Where can I get more information?

Visit the SOAS website for information about how to make a successful Tier 4 visa application at

https://www.soas.ac.uk/studentadviceandwellbeing/students/immigration/extending-visa/

For all questions relating to immigration and visa requirements for your Pre-Sessional programme, please contact the IFCELS Visa and Welfare Adviser on dl20@soas.ac.uk.

Please include your full name and SOAS University student reference number in all correspondence.
What should I do if I don’t receive my visa in time for my programme start date?

All students are expected to register on their pre-sessional programme by the start date outlined on the offer letter. Late arrival is not advised as it can be very disruptive to classes. However, if your visa application has been delayed for reasons beyond your control, you must contact us immediately. You should send your email to presessional@soas.ac.uk and dl20@soas.ac.uk. Please ensure that you quote the following:

- Your full name;
- Date of birth;
- SOAS ID number;
- Date you submitted your visa application;
- Please provide any additional information you feel is important.

All late arrivals must be approved by the School. If you were issued with a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS), your latest date of arrival will be added to your CAS and confirming will be sent to you via email.

Please note that you will not be able to take up your place if your arrival date means you will have less than 80% attendance.

If I need to extend my Tier 4 (General) Student visa from within the UK, what documents will I need?

The International Student and Welfare Adviser at SOAS will be able to assist you with your visa extension and provide you with further information when you arrive.

One of the most common reasons why Tier 4 (General) applications are refused is because the applicant’s supporting documents do not meet the requirements of the policy guidance.

The immigration rules under Tier 4 require students who wish to study in the UK to meet certain conditions. The Tier 4 application process can be complex as the Immigration Rules change frequently.

Information about how to make a successful Tier 4 student visa application in the UK can be found at:

https://www.soas.ac.uk/studentadviceandwellbeing/students/immigration/extending-visa/.

Evidence of your funds

You must show evidence that you have a fixed amount of money to cover your accommodation, living cost and any outstanding fees. The Home Office specifies how much these amounts must be. The total will depend on your circumstances.
**A single CAS to cover both a Pre-sessional and main programme of study**

**IMPORTANT:** If you are issued with a joint CAS which covers both the pre-sessional programme and your main programme of study, it will give the start date as the start of your pre-sessional programme and the end date as the end of your main programme. Please use these dates to determine how much money you must show for your living costs and programme fees.

If you have received a CAS which covers both the pre-sessional and your main degree, you must be able to show funds for the duration of this period of study. If you only show funds available for the pre-sessional programme **only**, your visa application will be refused.

To meet the maintenance requirement, you will need to show that you have first year/current year’s tuition fees + 9180GBP for maintenance in your bank account for a 28- day period (ending no more than 31 days before your application). The money must not drop below the required amount throughout the whole 28 -day period or your visa application will be refused.

If the Programme you will be studying is less than 9 months in length, you will need 1020GBP for each whole or partial month you will be studying for. For instance, if your Programme is two and a half months long you will need to show enough money for three months = 3060 GBP.

**As a guide only**, a student on a 1 -year programme for example would normally need to show the following:

- Accommodation and living cost - 1020 GBP for each month of their programme up to a maximum of 9 months = 9180 GBP);
- PLUS, any outstanding fees.

In order to obtain a visa, you will need to show evidence that the money required to cover your tuition fees and living expenses has been in your bank account for at 28 consecutive days prior to submitting your visa application and are able to show appropriate evidence of this, as stated in the Tier 4 Policy Guidance.
Important summary

How long does the money have to be in my account?

Your financial documents must show that the full amount of money that you need has been in the account for **28 consecutive days** up to the date of the closing balance.

The account must not have dropped below the amount that you need to show at **any time** during the 28-day period. If it does, your immigration application will be refused.

The closing balance date cannot be more than **31 days old** on the date you make your visa application.

Please see our website for more detailed information

http://www.soas.ac.uk/studentadviceandwellbeing/students/immigration/extending-visa/

If I finish my Programme on 25 September, how can I enrol on my degree Programme the following week if my visa expires in October?

For those of you attending the programmes which end on September 25, your Tier 4 (General) Student Visa for SOAS should expire on October 25.

You will need to apply for your visa extension as soon as you have confirmation that you have passed your pre-sessional programme. IFCELS will automatically forward your results to SOAS Admissions.

You will also need to request a Confirmation of Acceptance for Study (CAS) by completing the relevant form which is downloadable from the international section of our website before you can submit your Tier 4 visa application.
IMPORTANT: If you are in the process of applying for your visa to commence your degree programme, you must provide evidence of your visa application at enrolment (The exact date and time you are required to attend enrolment will be communicated to you). You will be allowed to start your degree as soon as you have provided us with the following:

- Legible copy of your passport page containing your personal details;
- Legible copy of your Student Visa;
- A copy of the CAS statement issued to you by SOAS;
- Proof of postage of the application (e.g. Recorded or Special delivery receipt from the Post Office); or an acknowledgement letter from the Home Office; or your biometric invitation letter from the Home Office;
- A copy of your ATAS certificate (if applicable);
- Full payment for fees or; if you have an official financial sponsor for your proposed studies, an official letter confirming your sponsorship

Your documents will be copied and immediately returned to you. If you are successful with your application, your visa will be issued on a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). You MUST check that the information on your visa is correct. Once you have done this, please take your visa and letter from the Home Office to Weston Student Hub which is located on.

The International Student and Welfare Adviser at SOAS will be able to assist you with your visa extension and provide you with further information when you arrive.

We strongly recommend that all students enrol on a visa workshop before submitting their applications. Further details about the visa workshop will be provided upon arrival.
Accommodation Information

Is accommodation available for the duration of the Pre-sessional programme?

Accommodation is available within easy walking distance of SOAS in Dinwiddy House. This is self-catering residence with single en-suite rooms and shared kitchens.

The number of rooms available is limited so as soon as you have a pre-sessional offer, you need to accept and pay for the programme immediately. Please note that accommodation cannot be reserved until the full accommodation fees have been paid.

If you choose to apply for University accommodation, then you will be allowed to move into your accommodation from the Thursday immediately before your pre-sessional session starts and move out the Saturday after your session finishes.

The check-in time is from 14:00 and check-out time is 10:00. Additional nights can be booked directly with the Hall of Residence (subject to availability).

Pre-sessional accommodation arrival and departure dates for 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Move in Dates &amp; Times</th>
<th>Departing Dates &amp; Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Week Pre-sessional</td>
<td>Thursday 02 July (14:00)</td>
<td>Saturday 26 September (10:00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Week Pre-sessional A</td>
<td>Thursday 02 July (14:00)</td>
<td>Saturday 29 August (10:00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Week Pre-sessional B</td>
<td>Thursday 30 July (14:00)</td>
<td>Saturday 26 September (10:00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Week Pre-sessional A</td>
<td>Thursday 30 July (14:00)</td>
<td>Saturday 29 August (10:00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Week Pre-sessional B</td>
<td>Thursday 27 August (14:00)</td>
<td>Saturday 26 September (10:00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Will I receive confirmation of my booking?

Yes. Once your payment has been received and processed by the IFCELS Finance Officer, we will send you an email confirming your booking.

Is it possible to arrive earlier than the date noted above?

Yes. Please note that the additional nights’ accommodation is a separate arrangement from your pre-sessional accommodation booking and is therefore booked directly with the halls of residence once full payment for the programme accommodation has been received.
Completion of this request does not ensure that your early arrival request can be met.

**Specific Accommodation Requirements**

If you have a disability as defined by the Equality Act (2010) and you have specific accommodation requirements, then you must outline your requirements in your application.

If you require further assistance, please contact Delia via email ifcelsaccommodation@soas.ac.uk

**How do I apply for accommodation for my degree programme?**

If you wish to stay in University accommodation for the academic year 2020/21 after your Pre-sessional programme, you must apply for this separately.

Students will be able to apply for SOAS accommodation online via this website from **27th March 2020**. This date has changed from the 1st March as previously stated in order to secure some additional partner accommodation and finalise the application process.

Students attending SOAS for **undergraduate study** will need to **firmly accept their offer** with SOAS in order to apply for our Hall accommodation.

Students attending SOAS for **postgraduate study** will need to **firmly accept their offer and pay the deposit** in order to apply for our hall accommodation.

Please see our website for further information [https://www.soas.ac.uk/accommodation/](https://www.soas.ac.uk/accommodation/)