

It is really important that you understand how to meet the financial requirements of a Tier 4 application, as it can be very easy for your visa application to be refused if you get it wrong. **Do not assume that just because you have a lot of money in a bank account that this will be acceptable – the money needs to be held for a set period of time and the documents need to be in a very specific format.** Please read this guidance carefully and contact international@imperial.ac.uk if there is anything you are not sure about.

How much money do I need to show?

You need to show that you have:

- Your full tuition fee for the first or next **year** of your course (or for the full course if studying a 1- year Masters degree) **PLUS**
- A minimum of **£11,385** to cover your living costs

This money needs to be cash funds that have been held in a bank account for **AT LEAST 28 days** before the date you make your Tier 4 application. The date of the application is the date you submit the online form and pay the visa application fee.

I am extending my visa to complete a course I have already started. Does this mean I can show a lower amount of money to cover my living costs in the UK?

If you are applying for additional time to complete a course, the amount of money you need to show for your living costs depends on how many months of your course are remaining. You will need to have a minimum of £1,265 per month of your course, up to a maximum of 9 months. Therefore, if you are applying for an additional 6 months' time, then you need to have £7,590 to cover your living costs, plus enough money to pay any outstanding tuition fees. Any money you show must have been held in a bank account for 28 days. If you have at least 9 months or more remaining, you will have to have the full maintenance amount of £11,385.

Low risk nationals

Nationals of certain countries (e.g China) are considered to be low-risk for immigration purposes, and therefore although you are required to have enough money to meet the Tier 4 immigration rules you **do not need to include any documentation with your application demonstrating you meet this requirement.** Please bear in mind, however, that the UK Visa and Immigration Service can request evidence as part of the visa process if they want to. Therefore, you **must** wait until you have maintained the required amount of money for 28 days before you make your Tier 4 application, and you should read the rest of this guidance to ensure you could produce documents in the required format if they are requested. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-h-tier-4-documentary-requirements> for the full list of Low Risk national countries.

I am not a Low Risk national: what financial documents do I need for my application?

UKVI is very specific about the financial documents they will accept. The following are acceptable:



1. Personal bank or building society statements

These **MUST** show:

- your **name**;
- your **account number**;
- the **date of the statement**;
- the financial **institution's name and logo**;
- a running balance ending no more than 1 month before the date of the application showing that the money in the account has not dropped below the required amount for a consecutive 28 day period.

Internet bank statements

You can use on-line statements if they contain all of the details listed above. However, you must **ALSO**:

- provide a letter from your bank on headed paper confirming that the statements are authentic

or

- ask your bank to stamp your electronic statements with the official stamp of the bank. This stamp should appear on every page of the statement.

2. A letter from your bank / building society

A letter from your bank / building society confirming that you have sufficient funds. This letter must include:

- your **name**;
- your **account number**;
- the **date of the letter**;
- the financial **institution's name and logo**;
- a statement from the bank confirming that the money in the account has not dropped below the required amount for a **consecutive 28 day period**. (Wording should be: "This is to confirm that the balance in this account has not dropped below xxxxxx from DATE to DATE". OR "I am writing to confirm that the balance in this account has not dropped below xxxxxx for the last 28 days").

Can I use a fixed-term deposit to demonstrate I have enough money?

You can use a Certificate of Deposit to support your Tier 4 application. To be acceptable as evidence:

- the certificate of deposit must have been issued within 31 days of the date of application
- at least 28 days must have elapsed between the date of the deposit and the date of issue of the certificate, and
- there must be no wording on the document which indicates the funds are frozen or otherwise inaccessible.

Can I use money held in my parents' account?

If you wish to use your parents' bank statements, you will need to provide:

- Your **birth certificate** showing the name of the parent(s) showing the funds
- a **signed and dated letter** from your parent(s) confirming the **relationship** between you and that the money in their account is for your studies
- You will also need to provide your parents' financial documents (as above). Please note: these must be personal bank accounts and not business accounts.

What if the money in my account is not in UK pounds (£)?

If your funds are not in pounds sterling, you need to convert the closing balance into pounds using the following website: www.oanda.com/convert/classic. You must include it with your bank documents.



I have heard that there are some banks that UKVI won't accept documents from. Is this true?

Yes. In some countries, there are some financial institutions that do not satisfactorily verify financial statements and therefore UKVI won't accept documents from those banks as evidence for a Tier 4 application. The list is in Appendix P of the Immigration Rules which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-p-lists-of-financial-institutions>

What if I have already paid some of my tuition fees?

If you have already paid some or all of your course fees against a fee invoice you have received, this will automatically be updated against your CAS once the payment has cleared against your account with the College. Please bear in mind this can take up to 3 working days for credit / debit card payments and up to 8 working days for bank transfers. Please ensure you quote your CID number against any payment you make to the College for tuition fees. Any money showing as paid in your CAS can be deducted from the total amount you need to demonstrate held in a bank account for 28 days. A CAS will only be updated to reflect additional fees paid if you have not already submitted a visa application. If your application has been submitted, then the CAS will not update so you should make sure that you meet the Tier 4 requirements fully before the date you submit your Tier 4 application online.

How will UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) assess that I have the right amount of money?

It needs to be clear from whatever documents you are including that you have held a minimum balance of at least the required amount at all times during the 28-day period. The caseworker / Entry Clearance Officer will look at the date of the closing balance, and the amount of money held in the account on that date, and then work backwards from that date for a 28 day period. **At every point during that 28 day period it must be clear that the balance in the account has not dropped below the minimum required amount.**

I have a scholarship which covers my fees and living expenses. Do I still need to include my bank statements with my Tier 4 application?

If you are financially sponsored by the College, your home government, an international company or a scholarship agency, you can provide a formal letter from your financial sponsor confirming the details of the award including the amount of money you will be receiving. This must be on official letter headed paper, stamped by the organisation and dated within the last 6 months. You only need to include your own bank statement as well if the amount of money from your financial sponsor doesn't cover the minimum required amount required under Tier 4 (fees for the first year of your course plus maintenance of at least £1,265 per month of the course).

Please note: You can only show evidence of being funded by a private company if that company is considered to be 'international'. That means it needs to have a registered office in more than one country. The international nature of the company needs to be clear from any documentation or company website otherwise it won't be accepted as an official financial sponsor. If the company is not 'international' you will need to demonstrate the money in another way (see above).



I am going to be funded by a loan. Do I still need to include my bank statements with my Tier 4 application?

If you are using a loan to fund your studies, you can use a letter from a regulated financial institution confirming that you have a loan that is provided by the national government, the state or regional government or a government sponsored Student Loan Company or that is part of an academic or educational loans scheme. The loan must be held under your own name and the loan letter must be dated no more than 6 months before the date of your application. There must be no conditions on the release of the loan funds to you, other than your making a successful Tier 4 application.

If you are applying from overseas, the loan funds must be available to you before you travel to the UK, unless the loan is an academic/student loan from your country's national government and will be released to you by your national government or your Tier 4 education provider when you arrive in the UK

Can I get extra help and advice?

The International Student Support Team offers specialist immigration advice to international students applying to study at Imperial College or who are already studying here. See www.imperial.ac.uk/study/international-students for full details or email international@imperial.ac.uk

