

If you are a national of a non-EEA country and you are coming to Imperial College to undertake a part-time postgraduate course, you are required to obtain a Tier 4 (General) visa prior to commencing your studies. Please read the following information carefully to help you to prepare for this application.

When do I need to apply for my visa?

You cannot apply for a Tier 4 visa more than 3 months prior to your proposed start date. You should try to allow a minimum of 30 working days between the date of your visa application and the date of your planned travel to the UK.

What documents do I need to prepare?

You will need the following before you can make your visa application:

- A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number. This is provided to you by the central Admissions Team at the College once you have been formally accepted on to the programme and have submitted all required paperwork. You cannot make a Tier 4 application without a CAS.
- Evidence that you meet the Tier 4 financial requirement. You will need to have maintained a minimum balance of your tuition fee for the first year of the programme PLUS £11385 to cover living costs in your bank account for a consecutive 28 day period prior to making your online Tier 4 visa application. This money can be in your name or in the name of your parents only (no other relatives). The Tier 4 financial requirement is extremely strict, and not meeting it is the main reason elective applicants get visa applications refused. Please refer to additional guidance about meeting this requirement which is available at www.imperial.ac.uk/study/visas
- If you are from a country that requires you to provide evidence that you are free from tuberculosis, you will need to provide a TB clearance certificate from a Home Office approved testing centre. See <https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa> for more information.

How much does the visa application cost?

A Tier 4 application is the equivalent of £348 in your home currency. In many countries you can pay an additional fee to have your application processed more quickly – check with your nearest Visa Application Centre for information on additional services that may be offered. The application fee is paid online at the point you submit your online Tier 4 application. The date you submit and pay the application fee is the date of your application (not the date you attend any appointment).

You will also be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge which will enable you to access the National Health Service in the UK during your time here. This is currently £300 per year *based on the length of the visa* and is paid upfront at the time you submit your visa application online.

What if my visa application is refused?

The main reason for Tier 4 visa refusals is that applicants haven't met the financial requirement for Tier 4. As long as you prepare carefully and ensure you read our guidance about this element then your application should be fairly straightforward. If your visa is refused you should seek advice immediately from our International Student Support Team by emailing a copy of your refusal notice to international@imperial.ac.uk. The College will not issue a new CAS for a second visa application until we have ensured that you are not going to face further problems with your application.

I don't intend to stay in the UK for very long. Do I have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge and show £11385 for living costs?

Yes. If you require a visa to study in the UK then you have to make a Tier 4 application in order to have permission to study one of these courses. You cannot apply under Tier 4 without meeting the specified financial requirements or paying the Immigration Health Surcharge.

Can I work in the UK?

No. As a student on a part-time programme you will not be permitted to work in any capacity in the UK.

Can I bring my family with me to the UK?

No. As a student on a part-time course of study, you cannot bring dependants with you to the UK.

I have heard I don't need a visa if I am coming to the UK for less than 6 months. Is this true?

Nationals of some countries do not need to apply for a visa before they travel to the UK if they are coming to the UK as a visitor or under the Short-Term Student category for less than 6 months. However, students undertaking part-time courses that are longer than 6 months, even if you intend to be in the UK for only short periods of time, are required to come under the Tier 4 (General) visa route. This is due to a change in the Immigration Rules which was introduced in January 2018.

I already hold a multiple-entry C-Visit visa which allows me to come to the UK regularly. Can I use this to undertake my studies?

If you already hold a C-Visit visa for a period of 2, 5 or 10 years **and** the main reason for holding that visa has not changed, you can undertake up to 30 days incidental study in the UK when you come for a visit. Therefore, you can use this permission to attend a face-to-face module or teaching session. If your sole reason for coming to the UK is to study and you don't already hold this type of immigration permission, you must apply for a Tier 4 (General) visa. If you are not sure, please contact the International Student Advice Team on international@imperial.ac.uk

Students who do not hold the correct immigration permission will not be permitted to study at Imperial College.

Can I get further help and advice?

Imperial College has a team of dedicated immigration advisers who can provide guidance throughout the visa application process. Please ensure you have read the information on the International Student Support website at www.imperial.ac.uk/study/visas. If you have further questions or need additional help please contact the team by email at international@imperial.ac.uk

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