



Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

Student Visa: A Guide for RADA Students

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Guidance and Advice

You should always check <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa> for the most up to date guidance regarding study visas, how to apply and current eligibility criteria.

UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) www.ukcisa.org.uk is the UK's national advisory body serving the interests of international students and those who work with them. For information about studying in the UK including how to apply to university, fees, funding, and visas, visit their [information and advice](#) pages.

If you need specific advice, you can contact their students advice line on +44 20 7788 9214. The line is open Monday to Friday (except for public holidays) from 13:00 to 16:00 (UK Time)

For advice from RADA on the CAS and visa application process, contact admissions@rada.ac.uk

For further information on living and working in London, please look at our Student Life pages on the website <https://www.rada.ac.uk/student-life/>

Overview

You will need a Student Visa to study in the UK if you are going to be joining a course that is 6 months or longer.

You can apply for a visa if you:

- have been offered a place on a course by a licensed sponsor
- have submitted all of the required documents listed in your conditional offer from RADA which could include:
 - signed Terms and Conditions (all students)
 - proof that you can speak, read, write and understand English
 - evidence that you have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course
 - financial deposit (usually £3000 and will be deducted from your first years' tuition fee)

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

You will require a CAS number to start your visa process. This notifies UKVI that we support and will sponsor your student visa. To do this, we submit an electronic form to the UKVI which confirms:

- your personal details (name, date of birth, nationality, passport number)
- your course details (title, level of study, start/end dates)
- previous UK study information
- how we have determined your eligibility for the programme (basic information about your admission and confirmation of financial evidence)
- English Language requirements (IELTS scores, where necessary)
- % course spent on placement (usually only applicable to theatre technical arts)

Once this has been issued, we will send you an unconditional offer letter which includes your CAS number that you will need to provide to UKVI when you start your visa process.

Application times

We set a deadline for you to submit your supporting documents so that you can apply for your visa as soon as possible. You can apply from outside the UK up to 6 months before the start of your course, after you have received your CAS from us. Check [the UKVI guide to processing times](#) to find out how long getting a visa might take in your country.

Costs

Aside from the Financial evidence requirements, there are other associated costs. Here is an overview of what you may be asked to pay:

- £490 to apply from outside the UK, or to switch to a Student visa from inside the UK
- If you are not from a majority English Speaking Country, you will need to pay to have a Secure English Language Test (SELT) – approximately £220 GBP. You can find more information [here](#)
- You will also have to pay the [immigration healthcare surcharge](#) as part of your application. Students are required to pay £776 for each full year of their course. You can use the calculator on the [Gov.UK website](#) to see how much you need to pay.
- You may be required to have a [tuberculosis \(TB\) test](#) at an approved clinic as part of your application. The cost of this test varies by country but are generally around £100-£200

Undertaking work on a student visa

If you are on a full-time **Foundation Degree** programme, you can typically:

- work up to 10 hours per week during term time.
- The total of 10 hours in any one week, may include paid or unpaid work and for one or more organisation.
- Work full-time during holiday/vacation periods. You should refer to the [term dates](#) for your specific course of study.

If you are on a full-time **degree level** programme you can:

- Work for a maximum total of 20 hours per week during term-time
- The total of 20 hours in any one week, may include paid or unpaid work and for one or more organisation.
- Work full-time during holiday/vacation periods. You should refer to the [term dates](#) for your specific course of study.

There are certain conditions set around working. You may not:

- be self-employed;
- engage in business activity;
- work in a position that would fill a full-time permanent vacancy;
- work as a professional sportsperson including as a sports coach, paid or unpaid, as defined by the Home Office on pages 94-95 of the Student route guidance;
- work as an entertainer, paid or unpaid;
- work as a doctor or dentist in training

These restrictions apply throughout your time on a student visa.

Student visa length

- If your course lasts between 6-12 months, your visa should last for the duration of your course plus 2 months.
- If your course lasts 12 months or longer, your visa should last for the duration of your course plus 4 months.

RADA CAS Form

We will send you an internal CAS form which helps to guide you through the process of evidence submission and the financial requirements. Any further questions can be directed to admissions@rada.ac.uk

English Language Evidence

You must complete your English language test (if required) as early as possible. This is an integral part of your visa application and we cannot issue your CAS until you have met the RADA English language entry criteria listed on our [course pages](#).

For qualification purposes, majority English-speaking countries include: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Malta, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America.

Translations

ALL documents that are not in English must be officially translated by a certified translator. You must submit original documents as well as the original certified translation with your Student Visa application.

Translations must include the following:

- That it is an accurate translation of the original document
- The date of the translation
- The translator's full name and signature
- The translator's contact details

Meeting the Financial Evidence Requirements

You need enough money to pay your course fees and support yourself in the UK.

Not everyone will need to provide proof of finances to UKVI, but we will still need to see this to confirm you are able to pay your fees and living costs – there is currently no scholarship support available through RADA for international students.

You need to show that you have £1,334 per month (for a minimum of 9 months)

You must have this money for at least 28 consecutive days. The end of the 28 day period must be within 31 days of the date you apply for your visa.

[Read the guidance on finances for student applications for more information about the money you need and how to prove it.](#)

If you are from a country listed under the '[differential evidence requirements](#)', you may not need to submit financial proof to UKVI.

You can prove you have enough money using:

- a student loan from a government, government sponsored loan company, or a regulated student loans scheme
- an official financial sponsorship – for example, from a national government or university
- your own money
- your parent's money – they must provide a letter confirming they agree to you using it this way
- your partner's money, if your partner is in the UK or applying at the same time

You cannot use:

- a different relative's money (other than parent/partner)
- overdrafts
- cryptocurrency
- stocks and shares
- pensions
- bank accounts that are not regulated by the financial regulatory body in the country in which the bank operates and/or who do not use electronic record keeping

Visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-student-and-child-student-route-applicants#how-to-prove-you-have-the-money> for more information

Currency Conversions

The UKVI uses the official exchange rate on the OANDA website, which can be found at <https://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

Always use this when calculating your funds in an overseas currency.

Student visa holder responsibilities

Student visa holders have several responsibilities including:

- Attendance: Attendance is monitored and, for some programmes, forms part of the assessment process. Absences without explanation may result in visa cancellation.
- Inform admissions@rada.ac.uk of updates to your contact and visa information.
- Ensure you complete and adhere to all registration/re-enrolment requirements for each year of your study.
- Meet all payment deadlines.
- Understand and adhere to any work restrictions.
- Notify admissions@rada.ac.uk if you change your immigration status or receive a new passport.
- Report any errors on your visa documents to UKVI and notify the SAS team.
- Notify attendance@rada.ac.uk if you are planning to take a leave of absence (this must be approved by your Course Leader)
- Leave the UK before your visa expires unless you have other valid leave to remain. Overstaying is a criminal offense.
- Inform admissions@rada.ac.uk if you renew your passport and provide us with a copy.