

Student visas

For the latest updates and information about the coronavirus (Covid-19) including visa implications (e.g. studying remotely, travel restrictions, visa expiration), please visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and the [UKCISA website](#).

This is the current guidance that we have from UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) – you should check [their website](#) for the latest information.

As a non-UK student joining RADA on a full-time course of more than six months, you must apply for a Student visa before coming to the UK to start your course, otherwise you will not be allowed to enter the UK.

This visa has replaced the Tier 4 (General) student visa.

Please read the guidance below which details the process and what you will need to do.

You can apply for a Student visa to study at RADA if you:

- have been offered a place on a full-time course at RADA and have received a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies from the Admissions office
- have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course – the amount will vary depending on your circumstances
- can speak, read, write and understand English

When to apply

If you are applying from outside the UK, the earliest you can apply for a visa is 6 months before you start your course and you will usually get a decision within 3 weeks.

If you are applying from inside the UK, the earliest you can apply is 3 months before your course starts. You must apply before your current visa expires. Your new course must begin within 28 days of your current visa expiring and you will usually get a decision within 8 weeks.

You can arrive in the UK up to one week before your course starts.

Click [here](#) for information on fees.

Receiving your CAS number

Once you have accepted your place and provided the relevant evidence (see below), you will be asked to submit your passport information and details of any previous education you have undertaken in the UK.

- If you are from a country where English is not the first language, you will also be asked to provide your IELTS certificate
- If you are from a country that requires a tuberculosis test, you may be asked to provide evidence of this test to RADA

RADA will then create a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) Number on your behalf.

Check the details of your CAS and follow the instructions to report any errors or changes.

Your CAS number, which you need for your visa application, will be emailed to you along with your unconditional offer letter, which lists the information that the University has sent to the UKVI and the University's sponsor number, name and address.

The unconditional offer letter lists your course fees for one year and whether you have paid any money to date.

You must follow UKVI instructions about sending or having available documents showing you have funding for your fees and living expenses.
You will need to enter the CAS number on your visa application.

Money you will need

You must have enough money to pay your course fees and support yourself while you are in the UK.

You need to show you have enough money for one academic year's tuition fees (this information will be listed on your CAS).

You need to show you have at least £1,265 per month for 9 months (£11,385 in total) to study in London.

You do not need to prove the financial requirement if you've had a UK visa for 12 months prior to the date of your Student visa application – you must currently be in the UK

You do not need to prove the financial requirement if you're a British National Overseas or from one of the countries or territories listed [here](#).

Knowledge of English

RADA will assess your level of English language ability. In some circumstances we are required to check this using a Secure English Language Test (SELT) from an approved test provider. The list of UKVI approved English language tests is located on the [gov.uk website](#).

If you are successful in a SELT, you will be given a unique reference number. RADA will need to quote this number on the CAS. You will also need to quote this number when you make your application. UKVI will use the number on the SELT provider's online verification system to confirm that you passed the test.

UKVI may also interview you, either as part of your Student visa application overseas, or when you arrive in the UK (for example at the airport). If you were assigned a CAS and you cannot show at that interview that your English language ability is of the standard required in the immigration rules without an interpreter, your application will be refused or you may not be permitted to enter the UK.

You must have:

- **MA Theatre Lab** - IELTS score of 8.0 or above for spoken English and 7.5 or above for written English (minimum of CEFR level C1). Please submit your certificates with your course application.
- **BA in Acting/Technical Theatre and Stage Management** - RADA can choose how to assess a student's knowledge of English but it must be at CEFR level B2 or above
- **FdA in Technical Theatre and Stage Management** - SELT in reading, writing, listening and speaking and CEFR level B1

You do not need to prove your knowledge of English if you've completed a qualification equivalent to a UK degree in one of, or are from one of, the countries listed [here](#).

Documents you will need

When you apply for your Student visa you must provide:

- a current passport or other valid travel documentation
- a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from your course provider

You may also need to provide:

- proof you have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course – this will vary depending on your circumstances
- your tuberculosis test results
- written consent for your application from your financial sponsor, if you've received sponsorship for your course fees and living costs in the last 12 months

Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) for access to NHS treatment

For anyone coming to the UK for more than 6 months an IHS is paid as part of a Student visa and other visa applications, including student dependents. The IHS must be paid even if you have your own private medical insurance and do not intend to use the NHS.

From October 2020, the IHS is £470 for each year or part year over six months of the visa being applied for, plus £75 for part of a year that is less than six months.

Full details of how charging (and refunds) are administered are available on the [UKVI website](#).

Biometric residence permit

A biometric residence permit (BRP) can be used to confirm your:

- identity
- right to study or work in the UK
- right to any public services or benefits you're entitled to

Your responsibilities once you arrive in the UK

Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) collection

You must collect your BRP (the full visa) from your nominated post office within 10 days of arrival in the UK. You will receive information about this from the UK Visas and Immigration in your country of application. Please collect your BRP promptly so that you can enrol; RADA will need to scan both your passport and the BRP. Carefully check the information on the BRP card.

Passport scanning

When you start at RADA, you will need to take your passport and visa to Student and Academic Services department to be scanned, as required by the UKVI. This will usually be done at registration for all new students.

Police registration

Nationals of some countries are required to register with the police. New students should contact the police within 7 days of arrival in the UK. Police registration is a routine procedure and there is no need to be concerned about it. You can find more information about it [here](#).

Student and RADA obligations for visa holders

RADA is required to tell UKVI if you do not arrive for enrolment, leave your course, suspend your studies, or if you are absent for a long period. Please inform Student and Academic Services of any changes in your circumstances, including your contact details and any matters that may affect the progress of your studies.

It is your responsibility to keep to the conditions of your visa and to make sure you do not stay beyond its end date, unless you have put in a renewal application. If you break the conditions, you could be prosecuted or made to leave the UK and it could make it more difficult for you to get another visa.

Your visa will be issued for study at RADA only, for the course and duration specified on your CAS statement. You will usually be granted an additional two or four months after your course end date depending on the length of your course.

Correcting errors

It is possible to amend an error that appears on your Biometric Residence Permit once you have collected this in the UK. UKVI should be advised of any error within **10 working days of collecting your BRP**. A mistake can be amended free of charge by emailing UKVI.