

Applying for a Student visa as a Low Risk National – October 2025

Who are low-risk nationals for Student visa purposes?

Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, The Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, British National (Overseas), Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan (*those who hold a passport issued by Taiwan that includes the number of the identification card issued by the competent authority in Taiwan*)

What is meant by low-risk national and does this apply to me?

If you are a national of one of the above countries, then you are considered to be a low-risk national. This means that under the differentiation arrangements you do not need to submit evidence of your finances with your visa application. You must send/upload any other documents relevant to your application.

As a low-risk national, you must still ensure that you are in possession of documents to evidence that you meet the Student visa requirements on the date you submit your online application. The UKVI can request these documents at any time while your application is being processed. Failure to provide documents which meet the requirements upon request could lead to a visa refusal. There is no real benefit to the low-risk arrangement; it just means that you submit fewer documents with your initial application.

Where can I apply for my visa as a low-risk national?

You will be able to apply for your visa in any country outside the UK where you are resident or in your country of nationality. This means the country where you are legally living. You can also apply from inside the UK (if your circumstances allow this).

What does 'living' mean?

Living means resident e.g. for work or study and not just visiting as a tourist. You cannot apply for a Student visa from a country you are visiting as a tourist. If you apply for your visa from a country which is not your country of nationality and not the UK, you will be asked to declare the immigration permission that you hold for that country on the visa application form. **If you are not permitted to apply in that country your application will be refused or returned as invalid. Even if you are eligible to use the UK Immigration: ID Check app, you must only use this from a country where you are legally living or your country of nationality.**

Do I need to submit any documents with my application?

Yes, as a low-risk national, it is only evidence of finances and qualifications that you do not have to submit with your application. You will still have to submit/upload the mandatory documents e.g. passport. Depending upon your personal circumstances, you may also need to submit other documents, e.g. TB test certificates if you are subject to this requirement. Please [check our advice guides](#) to make sure you are including all the required documents. If you do have any queries prior to submitting your application, please contact us.

Should I submit evidence of my finances anyway?

Low-risk nationals should still prepare evidence of their finances. The UKVI do make random checks and low-risk nationals at LSE have been asked to provide their evidence. However, we advise that you don't include evidence of finances if you are a low-risk national unless it is requested. If you choose to submit evidence, you must ensure that it meets the Student visa requirements precisely. Failure to meet these is likely to result in a visa refusal. Visa refusals for this reason increased over Summer 2024.

When do my documents need to meet the requirements?

Your documents need to meet the requirements on the date that you submit your visa application online and not the date on which you attend your appointment at the visa application centre.

How will I know the UKVI wants my documents?

The UKVI will contact you via email if they want to see your documents. These emails can often go into spam or junk mail folders so please check these on a daily

I don't meet the requirements, should I apply anyway?

No, applying when you do not meet the requirements puts you at risk of both a visa refusal, which can have adverse implications for your immigration history, and a potential immigration ban. Doing this knowingly would mean that you have given a false declaration to the UKVI, which puts you at risk of an immigration ban due to deception of up to 10 years.

What if I am not sure whether my documents meet the requirements?

Read the [visa advice guide](#) that applies to you thoroughly. Contact us to check before you submit your visa application online if you have any queries.

Why does the UKVI select certain applicants for document checks?

The UKVI conducts spot checks of a sample of candidates. Do not think that your nationality means that your documents are unlikely to be requested. We have had applicants from the USA who have received document requests. You will not be given the reason why your documents have been requested. Documents may also be requested if the caseworker has particularly queries or concerns about your application. The UKVI does not disclose figures, so we don't know how many document requests are made but we are aware of instances where documents have been requested.

If the UKVI requests my documents, how do I submit them?

The correspondence from the UKVI will explain how you need to submit your documents. You will need to follow the instructions precisely to ensure that you comply with the request.

How long will I get to submit my documents if they are requested?

The correspondence from the UKVI will make it clear how long you have to submit your documents. In the past, caseworkers have given applicants 5 days to submit documents. However, the deadline given can vary so please refer to the specific email you have received.

If you are contacted by the UKVI and asked to provide documents and are unable to do so you risk a visa refusal. Contact [SAET immediately](#) for advice.

How do I know that the request for my documents is genuine and from the UKVI?

It should be clear from the email that the request is genuine and from the UKVI as it should provide details specific to your visa application. If you are concerned or have any queries, please contact us as soon as possible.

What If I receive a visa refusal?

Please contact us as soon as possible for advice. Do not attempt to reapply until you have received advice about your refusal. You will need to send a scanned copy of the full refusal notification document before you can be advised so ensure you keep that document safe.

