



Meeting the Financial Requirements – February 2024

This guidance is based on frequently asked questions. It is not intended to be used on its own and you should always refer to the guidance on the [Student Advice and Engagement web pages](#). The financial requirements are very strict and it is the main area where LSE students receive refusals for visa applications.

How much money do I need to have?

You must be able to show the first year of your course fees as stated on your CAS plus living costs of £1,334 per month up to a maximum of nine months (£12,006). You should always roll up your living costs, so for example if you are being sponsored for 1 month and 10 days, you must show two months' worth of living costs.

If you are applying for a Student visa inside the UK and have been living in the UK for 12 months or more with a valid UK visa on the date you submit and pay for your visa application online, you do not need to provide evidence of finances.

Can I deduct any money for accommodation payments?

You can deduct a maximum of £1,334 from your living costs for payments made towards LSE or University of London owned halls of residence only.

If you pay more than £1334 for accommodation, the excess cannot be used as evidence of funds for visa purposes.

If you are in private accommodation, no payments can be used as evidence of funds for visa purposes. Some halls allocated by Residential Services are privately owned. You cannot deduct money for payments made for accommodation in:

- Lilian Knowles
- Urbanest King's Cross
- Urbanest Westminster Bridge

The accommodation payment must either be an official receipt or it may be confirmed on your CAS:

- If you are a new student, accommodation fee payments will not be shown on your CAS.
- If you are a continuing student it may be possible to include payments made of up to £1334 on your CAS.
- If you require an official receipt as evidence of additional payments email residences.fees@lse.ac.uk

How long do I need to have held the money for?

If you are using bank statements as proof of funds, you must have held the money for a 28 consecutive day period from the closing balance of your bank statements. Your closing balance must be no more than 31 days old from the day you apply for your visa (the day you submit your online application form or pay for your application). If your bank statements are dated after the date you apply for your visa, your visa application may be refused. You can calculate if you have held the money for 28 days using timeanddate.com. You should retain these funds in your bank throughout your application unless you are using it to pay programme fees or living costs.

Will my tuition fees payments be shown on my CAS?

LSE can add any tuition fees payments you have made to your CAS. However, if you have made a payment and it is not showing on your CAS, you should wait until you receive an updated CAS before submitting your visa application. If you state on your application form that you have paid fees and these are not reflected on your CAS, your application may be refused.

Whose bank accounts can I use in my application?

You can only use personal bank accounts belonging to:

- You; or
- Your parents; or
- A legal guardian as recognised by a court of law.
- Your partner if they have already been granted permission to stay in the UK or are applying for a visa at the same time as you.

If you are using your parents'/legal guardian's accounts, you must also provide:

- A letter confirming their relationship to you and that they are happy to sponsor your studies
- Your birth certificate/court document confirming they are your legal guardian.

A joint account will be accepted if you are named on the statements. Accounts belonging to anyone else, e.g. a sibling, grandparent, uncle etc. will not be accepted and your application may be refused.

In some instances you can use your partner's funds as explained on the [UKCISA web pages](#).

What type of accounts can I use as evidence of my funds?

The funds must be instantly accessible to you, for example, a current/checking or savings account. You can also use pension funds and investment accounts if these are immediately accessible. You cannot use business accounts or overdrafts.

The financial institution you use must use electronic record keeping and the UKVI must be able to satisfactorily verify the details of your financial documents. The UKVI will only verify accounts with their named contact at the bank.

What happens if I have an LSE scholarship?

A scholarship awarded by the LSE, will be stated on your CAS. It will be included in the course fees paid to date section of your CAS. If the amount shown is greater than your course fees, the difference can be used to show your living costs. For example:

Course fees: £17,500

Course fees paid to date: £25,000

The £7,500 overpayment can be used as evidence of your maintenance. This will be stated on your CAS. If your scholarship does not cover the full amount of your tuition fees and living costs, you must show the remaining amount in your bank account if you are required to provide financial evidence.

I have an Official Financial Sponsor. What evidence do I need?

An official financial sponsor can be the UK government, your home government, the British Council, an international organisation/company or a university or UK independent school. You will need to provide a letter with your visa application confirming the amount of money that you are being provided with or confirming that your sponsor will cover all tuition and living costs. The letter must be dated and confirm the name and contact details of your sponsor and the length of the sponsorship.

If you are a Chevening Scholar, there's no need for your scholarship to be included on your CAS, you can include your Final Award Letter.

I previously had an Official Financial Sponsor but they are no longer sponsoring me. Do I need additional evidence?

Yes. If you had official financial sponsorship which ended within the last 12 months and covered your course fees and living costs, you will need to obtain a letter of consent from that sponsor which states that they have no objection to you applying for another UK visa. If your sponsor will not give you permission, or if you apply without the letter, your visa application is likely to be refused.

If you were previously financially sponsored by LSE, you do not require a letter from the School giving you permission to apply for a new visa.

Do I need to have the funds in GBP pounds sterling or can my money be in another currency?

You can use funds held in any currency however you must check the exchange rate at oanda.com before you submit and pay for the online application. The UKVI will use the exchange rate on the date that you submit and pay for the visa application online to calculate the amount of funds you have.

Can I use a loan as evidence of my funds?

You can only use a loan as evidence if it is provided by a government, a government sponsored student loan company or if it is part of an academic or educational loans scheme. For example, US Federal Loans are an accepted form of loan.

If you intend to use a student loan which meets these requirements, you must provide a letter which is dated no more than 6 months before you apply for your visa and which confirms that:

- the loan is part of a government or government sponsored student loan scheme or part of an academic or educational loans scheme
- there are no conditions on the release of the loan funds apart from a successful Student visa application
- the loan is in your name and the amount of the loan
- the loan will be paid directly to you before you travel to the UK, or will be paid directly to LSE before you travel to the UK with the proportion for living costs being available to you when you arrive in the UK or will be available to you before you start your course if the loan is provided by your national government.

Can I use a personal loan to fund my studies?

If you intend to use a personal loan, you must put the money into your bank account and hold it for the required 28 consecutive evidence of maintenance.

Can I use multiple accounts as evidence?

Yes, you can. UKVI will use the closing balance of the account that favours you the most to calculate the 28 consecutive day period.

You can contact us to request our multiple account spreadsheet to check if you have enough money in all of your accounts for the required time.

Are Certificates of Deposit accepted?

UKVI will accept a Certificate of Deposit as evidence of your funds. However, it must meet the following requirements:

- The certificate must have been issued within 31 days of the date of application;
- The certificate must confirm that the funds have been held for 28 consecutive days and that the funds are instantly accessible