THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Student Advice and Engagement Management Team / Student Services Centre

Help, my visa application has been refused! – June 2026

This guidance is based on frequently asked questions. It is not intended to be used on its own and you should use it in combination with the detailed guidance available on our website.

My visa application was refused, what do I do?

Contact SAET for advice immediately. The quickest way is to complete the online query form and await a response. You only need to fill the form in once; sending it multiple times and repeatedly trying to call only serves to delay the response. We do understand that this is a stressful time, but your patience would be appreciated as it would allow us to assist you as quickly as we are able to.

What information will SAET need from me?

We will respond to your online query form to request a scan or clear picture of the refusal notification. We need to see the information on every single page of that document so if you are not in London, please ensure that you are able to access a camera or scanner so that you can email a clear copy of that document to us. If you have copies of the documents you submitted in support of your visa application, it would be helpful if you could send those to us too so that we can check if the refusal decision was correct.

Is there anything I can do while I am awaiting a reply?

Read the guidance carefully to help you try to understand why your initial application was refused and also to check whether you can meet the requirements to re-apply. You should also speak to your department about your circumstances.

Can I still attend teaching?

If you do not have a valid visa or an application in progress you will not be permitted to attend in-person teaching and may need an authorized absence. The decision on any authorized absence will be made on an academic basis and is likely to depend on the timing, upcoming assessments and your attendance and progress on the programme to date. If your department cannot give an authorised absence, or if the authorised absence is not long enough for you to obtain a new visa, you will need to interrupt your studies.

Why can't you just give me a new CAS immediately?

LSE reserves the right not to issue further CASs following a visa refusal. It is unlikely that you will be given another CAS if there is a risk that another application would be refused. We assess every refusal on a case by case basis.

Is it possible to get a new CAS?

This will depend on your individual circumstances, which include the reason for refusal and the ability to meet the requirements for a new application. SAET will inform you as soon as they have assessed your case.

I think that the refusal may have been incorrect, what can I do?

SAET can help you to check that. If the refusal was incorrect, you may be able to challenge the decision using a process called 'administrative review'. Administrative review is not an appeal and you will not be able to provide new information to support it. It is a request for the application to be reconsidered because you believe that the person assessing your application made an error when reaching a decision. For example, if they mistakenly calculated your funds or the period the funds were held for, or if they claimed that you had not provided a TB test certificate from an approved centre when you had.

How do I apply for administrative review?

Instructions should be included with the refusal notification. If you are outside the UK, the fee is £80. The timeframe in which you are eligible to apply for administrative review is 28 calendar days, you must ensure that the deadline has not passed when you apply. If you submit a new visa application it will cancel your Administrative Review.

If you applied for your visa in the UK, the administrative review form is normally online. You must apply within 14 days of receiving the refusal notice. You will need to pay an £80 fee, which will be refunded if the refusal decision is overturned.

Note all administrative review applications are considered in the UK by a different person.

Can I apply for an Administrative Review anyway? I can't afford to re-apply for the visa.

You should only apply for administrative review if you genuinely believe that an error was made when your visa application was considered. If no error was made, an administrative review would be unsuccessful.

What are the benefits of an administrative review?
Administrative review is the only way that a refusal decision may be overturned. Even though you would still have to declare the initial refusal in future visa applications, you would be able to say that the refusal was an error and the decision was overturned. This would help your immigration history.

How long does an administrative review take to process and is there an expedited service?
The standard processing time for an administrative review is twelve months, but if you have not had an outcome within six months the UKVI will update you. There is no expedited service. Please note that it is not possible to apply for Administrative Review and submit a new application at the same time. Submitting a new visa application will cancel the Administrative Review.

My visa application was refused but LSE is closed, who can help me?
You can find regulated UK immigration advisers at:

- IAA
- ILPA

Please be aware that if your intention is to re-apply for the visa, you will not be able to obtain a new CAS until the LSE is open and SAET have assessed your case, therefore please ensure that you still contact SAET so that they can respond when the school re-opens.

Why is the LSE so concerned about visa refusals?

Visa refusals affect the LSE's Student Sponsor Licence. If the refusal rate of Student visas sponsored by the LSE is too high, it could result in LSE being unable to sponsor international students to study here. For this reason, we must consider the institution and its entire international student cohort when making a decision about whether you can be issued with another CAS. The decision is not taken lightly and each case is assessed individually based on risk.

If I am refused for a second time, will I get another CAS?

SAET will still make an assessment on an individual basis; but it is unlikely that you will be given a third CAS to reapply after two visa refusals. If your second refusal is because you did not seek guidance or follow the advice from SAET, you will not be given a new CAS. If the visa refusal was due to an error made by the LSE or by the Home Office, or if you have exceptional circumstances which affected your application, please make us aware of this.

Does the visa refusal mean that my next application will be refused due to this complication in my immigration history?

Not necessarily. Many students whose initial visa applications were refused were able to reapply successfully. However, if you have a complex immigration history (eg. a refusal, overstay, curtailment or cancellation of a visa) you must declare it accurately as required within the visa application form. Failure to declare could result in a refusal

Visa Refusals for applications made in the UK

If my visa application was refused in the UK, can I re-apply for the visa in the UK?
This will depend on your specific circumstances. If your previous visa has expired, it is likely that you may need to return to your home country to re-apply in order to minimize the period of overstay. SAET will advise you on the options available to you including where you should re-apply from.

What does a voluntary departure mean for my immigration history?
It is likely that you will need to declare a voluntary departure on future visa applications. Like a refusal, a voluntary departure does add a complication to your immigration history. However, that should not necessarily be a problem provided that you declare it and provide details as required.

What is a voluntary departure?
A voluntary departure is when you arrange to leave the UK at your own expense following a visa refusal. Normally you are instructed to liaise with the Home Office about the flight details and instructions will be provided with your refusal notification. The Home Office may inform you when you can book a flight and under what conditions you should depart.

When do I become an overstayer?
You will become an overstayer if you do not either leave the UK, submit an administrative review or contact the Home Office to confirm you have chosen voluntary departure within 14 calendar days of deemed receipt of the refusal. Deemed receipt is usually 2 working days after the date of the refusal notification, unless you can prove that you received it later (e.g. If you have evidence of the delivery date on the envelope).

Any new immigration application made in the UK as an overstayer is likely to be refused, unless there are exceptional circumstances and the application is made with less than 14 days overstay. Acceptance of exceptional circumstances is at the discretion of the Home Office.

What are the consequences of being an overstayer?
Overstaying means that you are in the UK illegally. This is a criminal offence and you will need to declare it on future immigration applications. Whilst in the UK, you will not have access to the NHS, you cannot attend LSE, you cannot work, your bank account may be closed down, you cannot rent private accommodation and depending on the duration of overstay, you could be liable for detention, an immigration ban from the UK, a fine or a prison sentence.

My friend/family member's visa application has been refused, what do I do?
If someone has received a refusal for a Student visa for LSE, they will need to contact SAET directly themselves for advice.

Where can I find more information on refusals and administrative review?

- **Student and Child Student Guidance**
- **General Grounds for Refusal**
- **Administrative Review**

Who do I contact for help? For further immigration advice, contact the SAET team online.