THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Student Advice and Engagement Team / Student Services Centre

Tips for preventing a Student Route visa refusal – 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.

What is the best way to prepare a successful visa application?

Read the Student visa guidance carefully before applying. You should refer to the Student Advice and Engagement Team (SAET) guidance and the Student Route caseworker guidance. If you have questions after reading the guidance, contact SAET for advice.

What is the most common reason for visa refusal?

The majority of visa refusals are for financial reasons, so it is very important that you understand the financial requirements and prepare your documents accordingly. Please refer to our info sheet on meeting the financial requirements.

If my money drops below the required amount by a small amount on one day during the 28-day period, does it matter?

Yes, because it means that you do not meet the Student Route visa requirements and your application is highly likely to be refused. You must ensure that you meet the financial requirements exactly. Even a small drop in funds for one day can lead to a visa refusal.

I can't wait until the funds have been held for 28 days before applying because I need to book a visa appointment. Is it ok if my bank statements show that I held the funds until the visa appointment date?

DO NOT TAKE THE RISK! You must demonstrate that you have held the minimum required funds for 28 days before the date that you submit and pay for the online visa application, as this is your date of application. If you have not held the funds for at least 28 days before you submit your online visa application, your application is at risk of being refused. A refusal will cause more delay than waiting to apply when you have held sufficient funds. Any evidence of holding the required funds must be dated no more than 31 days before the date of your application but cannot be dated after the date you apply online.

Can my application be refused if I am low-risk?

Being low-risk does not guarantee that your application will be successful. You must still meet the requirements for the Student Route visa on the date that you submit and pay for your application online. The UKVI can request evidence of your finances and if you fail to provide your documents within a specified time frame, your application will be refused. We recommend that you do not submit your evidence of your finances if you are low-risk, unless they are requested by the UKVI. There are also general grounds for refusal in the rules e.g. fraudulent declarations.

I want to apply for my Student Route visa while I am on holiday but I have been told I could be refused, is this true?

Yes, you can only apply for your Student Route visa in the country where you are legally living or in your home country (unless you are eligible to apply from within the UK). If you apply for the visa from a country you are only visiting, your application is likely to be refused. Please ensure that you schedule your travel and visa application accordingly.

Can I be refused for reasons relating to my CAS?

Yes. Your application could be refused if:

- Your CAS is not valid (e.g. If you have already used it in a previous visa application, or if it is obsolete because you have already applied for a visa using a CAS from another institution)
- Your CAS does not show academic progression if you are applying in the UK

If you are unsure if your CAS is valid, contact SAET (Student Advice and Engagement Team) for advice.

Can I be refused if I do not pay the correct amount of Immigration Healthcare Surcharge?

Yes. If you do not pay enough, you should expect to be contacted by the UKVI for further payment. You must check your emails (including the junk folder) daily. If you fail to pay, your application will be refused. If you have overpaid, you should receive an automatic refund of the excess amount paid.

I'm relying on another person's bank statements; is that a problem?

You can only rely on funds in your own name or in a parent/legal guardian's/partner's name if you have their permission. If you use bank statements in the name of a sibling/grandparent/other relative/friend/business then your application is very likely to be refused as you would not meet the financial requirements.

If I declare adverse immigration history, will it lead to a visa refusal?

If you have a complex immigration history (e.g. 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 and also an immigration ban from the UK due to deception. Please contact SAET for advice before applying if you have a complex immigration history.

Can I be refused for reasons relating to tuberculosis (TB) testing?
Yes. If you are subject to the TB testing requirement, you must provide a valid certificate from a UKVI approved test centre. If you feel that you are exempt because you have recently been living in a country where the test is not a requirement, you must explain that in your application form or in a separate cover letter which you should submit with your application. Please read through our TB testing info sheet carefully for further guidance.

I have been told that I can only apply for the visa from my home country, but I don't intend to travel home before my course ends. Will I be refused if I apply in the UK?
Yes. You should only apply for your visa in the UK if you are confident that you are eligible to do so. UKCISA have information about this on their webpage. Contact SAET (Student Advice and Engagement Team) for advice if required.

Is it necessary to provide translations and can my application be refused if I don't?
If you are relying on documentation that is not entirely it in English (e.g. if your bank statement or degree certificate is in another language), you must provide official translations which meet the requirements outlined in the Student Route caseworker guidance. You cannot just translate the documents yourself. If you fail to provide acceptable translations when required, your application will be refused.

I am worried that my application may be refused if the person who assesses it does not fully understand my documents, what can I do?
If you have concerns you can write an explanation to clarify your documents. You can use the **'Additional Information'** section of the application form or you can write a covering letter to submit with the supporting documents for your application.

Will the UKVI contact me before deciding to refuse my visa application?
In most cases they do not contact the applicant before refusing the visa. On occasion, the person assessing the application may choose to use 'evidential flexibility' and contact the applicant for further information before a decision is made, however this is discretionary and there is no guarantee of this. It is your responsibility to ensure that the information and documents you provide with your initial application meet the requirements for the Student Route visa. You should also check your emails (including the junk folder) daily in case the UKVI do attempt to contact you.

I have a previous criminal (or civil) conviction; does that mean my visa application will be refused?
It depends on the individual circumstances so we recommend that you contact SAET (Student Advice and Engagement Team) for advice before applying for the visa.

What are the possible implications of a visa refusal?
A visa refusal is likely to delay your arrival in the UK. It is likely to affect your immigration history because you may need to declare the refusal on future visa applications (not just for the UK). Visa refusals also affect the LSE's Student Route visa Sponsor Licence, which could put the university and its international student cohort at risk.

What do I do if my visa application is refused?
Contact SAET (Student Advice and Engagement Team) immediately for advice. Do not attempt to re-apply or submit a request for Administrative Review until you have received advice about your refusal. You will need to send a scanned copy of the full refusal notification document to us before you can be advised so ensure to keep that document safe.

My friend/family member's visa application has been refused, what do I do?
If someone has received a refusal for a Student Route visa for LSE, they will need to make contact directly themselves for advice. Due to the Data Protection Act, we cannot discuss an individual with a third party unless we have their permission to do so. We prefer to advise LSE sponsored Student Route visa applicants directly via email where possible.

If my application is refused, can I get another CAS straight away so that I can reapply immediately?
A second CAS is only issued at LSE's discretion. You are not guaranteed to receive a new CAS following a visa refusal. We assess whether a new CAS can be issued on a case by case basis. It is not possible to know if you can get a new CAS until you have been advised by SAET (Student Advice and Engagement Team) therefore the best thing you can do following a refusal is to contact us immediately and follow our advice.

My visa application has been refused and I don't have time to re-apply for a Student Route visa; can I just come to the UK as a tourist so that I can enrol for my course and apply for Student Route?
No. If you enter the UK as a tourist (Standard Visitor), you will be unable to campus enrol on your course and you will be unable to apply for a Student Route visa in the UK. You could also be at risk of being refused entry to the UK as the Border Force Officers will see the recent refusal and could query your intentions in the UK. You will need to obtain a Student Route visa before travelling so contact SAET (Student Advice and Engagement Team) for advice.

Will the UKVI refuse my visa if I've had a gap in studies?
Not necessarily but they may request further information from you about your circumstances. It's a good idea to draft a letter explaining the gap in your studies and what you've been doing during that time period, in case they contact you.

Will the UKVI try to contact my bank to verify my documents and funds?
Yes, this is possible and the UKVI will only use their own named contacts to contact your bank.

Where can I find further information about refusals?
The Home Office's Immigration Rules and the Student Route caseworker guidance

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