



TB testing for visa purposes – March 2022

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 [SAET web pages](#).

What is TB?

Tuberculosis, known as TB, is a bacterial infection. You can find more information about it [here](#).

Do I need to be tested for TB before coming to the UK?

It depends on which country you live in. If you are currently (or have recently) been living in any of the countries on [this list](#), for at least six months you must have a TB test for visa application purposes.

Which countries are subject to the TB testing requirement?

The countries in [this list](#) are subject to the TB testing requirement.

Are there any exemptions?

As explained in the [UKVI guidance](#):

'You won't need a TB test if any of the following apply:

- *you're a diplomat accredited to the UK*
- *you're a returning UK resident and haven't been away for more than 2 years*
- *you lived for at least 6 months in a country where TB screening is not required by the UK, and you've been away from that country for no more than 6 months.'*

How will I be tested for TB?

The initial test is usually a chest x-ray. If the results are unclear, further testing (usually a sputum test) may be required.

There is no TB test centre in my home country, where do I get tested?

Not every country has an approved test centre therefore you should check [this list](#) to see where you should be tested.

My nationality doesn't require TB testing but I've been living in a country which requires TB testing for UK visa application purposes. Do I need to be tested?

Yes. The requirement is based on where you are/have recently been resident rather than on nationality.

How long is the TB test certificate valid for?

It is valid for 6 months from the date of the x-ray/test therefore we recommend that you have the test done at the earliest opportunity in case further tests are required. You do not need to wait for your CAS to have the TB test, you can have the TB test earlier.

Can I have the TB test at my local doctor's surgery/hospital?

Only test certificates from a UKVI approved test centre can be accepted for visa application purposes.

What happens after I have been tested?

If your test shows that you don't have TB, you'll receive an original certificate which you should submit with your visa application. If your results are inconclusive, you may require further tests. If you are diagnosed as having TB, you will require medical treatment.

My test results are inconclusive, what does this mean?

It doesn't necessarily mean that you have TB, it means that the chest x-ray was not clear enough for a certificate to be issued. If this happens, it is likely that you will require a sputum test.

What is the sputum test?

This is where a sample of phlegm coughed up from your lungs is taken and tested. The test results usually take up to 12 weeks to be released.

My own doctor says that I don't have TB however the approved test centre says that I have to await the results of the sputum test. Can I just apply for the visa and provide my own medical evidence?

Only a certificate from a UKVI approved test centre will be accepted for visa application purposes. If you have concerns about the sputum test, speak to the test centre where you had the test.

What happens if I apply for the visa and fail to provide a TB test certificate?

If you are subject to the TB testing requirements and fail to provide a certificate from an approved centre, your application should be refused.

If I can't get a TB certificate in time to apply for the visa, can I study on a Standard Visitor visa instead of Student visa for the first term?

No. You cannot use a Standard Visitor visa to study a programme of more than 6 months in duration. Attempting this is likely to be viewed as an attempt to circumvent the immigration rules. LSE will not issue a Short-Term Study visa letter for you in these circumstances.

I have been living in a country where TB testing isn't required for over 6 months so I should be exempt; how do I prove it?

We are aware of students who have been incorrectly refused a visa for not providing a certificate even when exempt so we recommend that you either:

- Ensure that you provide explanation within the 'Additional Information' section of the application form and also in a covering letter of the reason why you should be exempt. If you have evidence of travel (eg. previous flight details or stamps in your passport), please do include and refer to that information.
- Choose to have the TB test even though you may be exempt. However, there are no approved test centres in countries which are not subject to the requirement.

Unfortunately you cannot rely on the Entry Clearance Officer (the person who will assess your visa application) using your travel history to establish whether you are required to have a TB test, and they usually cannot tell from the passport since the introduction of E-Borders in many countries. Due to this, it is important that you either make sure that you have explained your exemption in the application, or you can choose to include a new TB test certificate if you prefer.

I received a TB inoculation when I was younger so can I show evidence of that instead of having to obtain a TB test certificate?

No. You will still need to submit a certificate from an approved centre with your visa application.

I am applying for a visa extension within the UK. Do I require a TB certificate?

No, applications made in the UK are not subject to the requirement.

Do I need to have a TB test if I am applying for a 6 month Standard Visitor visa?

No. TB testing is only a requirement for visas of more than 6 months in duration.

Will my children need to be tested if they are applying for a dependant visa?

The [UKVI guidance](#) states that;

'All children must see a clinician who'll decide if they need a chest x-ray. Children under 11 will not normally have a chest x-ray.'

What if I cannot have an X-ray for medical reasons?

You should refer to the [UKVI guidance](#) and contact your local approved test centre for advice.

Are any other medical tests required for UK visa application purposes?

None are compulsory for visa application purposes. However an Entry Clearance Officer (the person who assesses your visa application) or a Border Force Officer (the person at the UK border when you arrive in the UK), can request medical clearance if they deem it to be necessary before granting entry clearance/entry to the UK.

Am I required to have any vaccinations before applying for a UK visa?

None are compulsory for visa application purposes however you may wish to check the [recommended vaccinations](#) before travelling to the UK.

I still have questions, who can I contact for advice?

You can contact SAET (Student Advice and Engagement Team).

Who do I contact for help? For further immigration advice [contact SAET online](#). If you have questions about your CAS, contact the team who issued your CAS.