

BIMM Tier 4 Visa – FAQ 18/19

Last updated: 23/01/2018

Visa related questions

Do I need a Visa to study in the UK?

Most students from outside the UK, EU/EEA are required to obtain a Tier 4 Visa for full-time long-term study in the UK. You can check if you need a UK Visa here:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

There are alternative UK Visa categories that support studies in the UK:

- PBS Dependant
- Tier 1
- Family Member of an EEA national

Should you wish to apply for any of the Visas listed above, please ensure that you are able to meet all visa requirements. Please provide a copy of your valid visa that enables you to study in the UK to overseasadmissions@bimm.co.uk. Please be aware that we will not be able to enrol you onto the course without this.

The Tier 5 Youth Mobility Visa can only be used to support your studies if your visa application has been approved **before** January 11th, 2018.

I have a non-UK/EU/EEA passport and currently have a long-term Schengen Visa or hold a residency card in a European Country, do I need a Visa to study in the UK?

Yes, you are still required to obtain a Tier 4 Student Visa to be eligible to study in the UK. Please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>.

When is the earliest I can apply for a Tier 4 Visa?

You can apply for your tier 4 Visa no earlier than 3 months before the start of your course.

What is the latest time I can apply for a Tier 4 Visa?

We have set multiple deadlines, to ensure that the visa can be applied for and processed and that you are able to enrol and settle in a timely manner.

August 1st, 2018: deadline for all CAS documents to be submitted. This will give the International team sufficient time to make the relevant checks to process your CAS number in good time.

September 1st, 2018: The final day that we can award CAS numbers.

Any deviations from these above deadlines are subject to approval by the Head of Admissions.

Can I apply for a Tier 4 Visa in the UK?

Unfortunately, you cannot. This due to Tier 4 Visa regulations for Tier 4 Students at private institutions.

Can I apply for my Tier 4 Visa outside of my home country?

This is possible, providing that you are in possession of a valid visa/residency card, proving you have resided in said country for longer than 6 months.

What do I need to do to obtain a Tier 4 Visa?

You will need to have completed our Tier 4 CAS checklist in full and have obtained your CAS document containing your CAS number from BIMM's International Admissions Team.

Tier 4 Visa checklist and CAS number

What is the Tier 4 Visa checklist and where can I find it?

The Tier 4 Checklist can be found attached to emails following your enquiry to BIMM as well as your offer email. If you have not yet received the Tier 4 Visa checklist, you can request for this to be sent to you by emailing overseasadmissions@bimm.co.uk.

What is CAS number and why do I need this?

A CAS stands for Confirmation of Acceptance of Study, which you are required to obtain from us before you apply for your visa. This number is in a document form that confirms that we - BIMM, as a Tier 4 Sponsor, deem you - the applicant, fit for study in the UK.

To obtain the CAS document, with the CAS number you will need to complete our Tier 4 CAS checklist. This checklist is our way to ensure that you are a genuine student and are here for the sole purpose of study by meeting all Tier 4 – and BIMM's requirements. Once you have the CAS number and have applied for the Visa, the UK Home office will then make a final entry clearance decision. This decision is the deciding factor on whether you will be permitted to study with us at BIMM.

Before you begin the process, please read through the Tier 4 Policy guidance, which you can find [here](#).

Please be aware that receiving a CAS does not guarantee your Visa approval. We do not recommend that you book any flights to the UK before you are in possession of your Tier 4 visa. If you do book your flights, you are doing so at your own risk.

Why can't I get my CAS right away?

A CAS document will only be issued to students who have completed the Tier 4 CAS checklist. We are required to make sure that we deem you a genuine student and are here for the sole purpose of study by meeting all Tier 4 – and BIMM's requirements. This cannot be rushed and will only be issued once the entirety of the checklist has been completed.

Can I apply for my Visa without a CAS?

No, you cannot. The online Visa application service will not allow you to send off your application without having entered a CAS number. Any incorrect numbers added will automatically result in a visa refusal.

Recommendations and Offers

Where can I find the conditions of my offer? And how can I accept my offer?

You will need to be a confirmed student with us before we can proceed with the CAS checklist. This means that you will need to confirm the offer given to you by BIMM first.

Here is how to find and confirm your offer:

If you have received an offer for the **DIPLOMA** course

- **You can find the offer conditions within the offer email received.**
- Pay the Deposit required securing your place on the course. Your Deposit amount payable can be found in your contract, along with your payment options through a link within the email.
- Please read and Sign the contract sent to you in an attachment in your offer email, thereby agreeing to the terms and conditions within, as well as the requirements stated in your offer email. You can either send a scanned copy of your signed contract or you can send this by post.
- Please note that both points will need to be completed before you are confirmed onto the course.

If you have received an offer for a **DEGREE** course

- **You can find the conditions to your offer on your '[UCAS track](#)'.**
- Please log into UCAS Track to 'Firmly accept' your offer. Please find step by step guidance on this [link](#). **Be aware that there are deadlines to confirm your offer, depending on when you have sent through your UCAS. You can find them at the bottom of the page of the [link](#) as well as below:**

<u>Last decision received on or before...</u>	<u>Means your reply date is...</u>
31 March 2018	2 May 2018 (if your postal address is in the EU)
3 May 2018	7 June 2018
7 June 2018	21 June 2018
12 July 2018	19 July 2018

Can I study a lower level course than what my recommendation letter states?

If you can meet the entry criteria for the course you are recommended for, you will not be able to consider a lower level course. If you do not meet the entry requirements for the higher-level course, you will be able to consider a lower level course. This will be in line with the credibility requirements set by the Home office.

I have studied different qualifications than what is stated in my offer. How do I proceed?

If you have studied different qualifications to what has been stated in your offer, please email us on overseasadmissions@bimm.co.uk to let us know what alternative qualifications you are studying. The international team will advise whether the qualification studied will

meet the entry criteria. If you have already obtained certificates and awards and want to know if they meet the entry requirements, please attach these to the email.

I will not meet the academic requirements for the course, what can I do?

Degree applicants for BIMM London, Brighton, Bristol or Manchester, who have not met the Academic requirements set by BIMM, but feel that they have had the desired experience to start the course can submit an APEL Portfolio.

This Portfolio Assignment (APEL) is for Music Practitioners, Songwriters, Music Business Practitioners and Event Managers **over the age of 19** who have significant experience but are unable to satisfy the current academic entry criteria for BIMM Institute Brighton, Bristol and Manchester. Successful completion of the Portfolio Assignment will facilitate the Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning (APEL) element, and therefore allow candidates to satisfy these entry requirements. The Experiential Learning element of APEL allows the formal recognition of prior learning gained through experience in the workplace or through private study outside of your formally-accredited school, college or university programmes. These experiential APEL credits are not awarded simply based on experience, but also on your ability to reflect on and write about this experience. The Portfolio Assignment (APEL) is therefore constructed in a way that encourages you can demonstrate informal experiential learning in more academic terms.

I have met the academic requirements for the course. Why is my offer not made Unconditional?

As a Tier 4 student, you will need to meet all Tier 4 visa entry requirements, which means that your offer will remain conditional until a CAS number has been issued to you.

Please also consider the following when checking your conditions on your UCAS track:

- Have you stated your qualifications on your UCAS application? If you have not yet let us know what you have previously studied, please do so as soon as possible.
- Have you sent through scanned copies of your qualifications for verification? If you have not done so yet, that will be the reason that your offer is still conditional.

My supporting documents are in a different language than English and Welsh. Is this okay?

If you are outside the UK, where a document is not in English or Welsh, the original must be accompanied by a full translation that can be independently verified by the Home Office. The original translation must contain confirmation from the translator/translation company that it is an accurate translation of the original document, the date of the translation, the translator/an authorised official of the translation company's full name and signature, and the translator/translation company's contact details. [Point 17, Page 14 [Tier 4 Policy Guidance](#)]

Can I translate any of my supporting documents myself?

You cannot translate the document yourself.

If you are outside the UK, where a document is not in English or Welsh, the original must be accompanied by a full translation that can be independently verified by the Home Office. The original translation must contain confirmation from the translator/translation company

that it is an accurate translation of the original document, the date of the translation, the translator/an authorised official of the translation company's full name and signature, and the translator/translation company's contact details. Please refer to Point 17, on Page 14 of the [Tier 4 Policy Guidance](#).

What to consider if I have an agent/representative assisting with my application?

Firstly, your agent must be an approved agent under contract with BIMM. If this is not yet the case, your agent will need to contact our International Agent Co-ordinator, Alan Sharman (international@bimm.co.uk). It is important that you check that your agent is aware of the latest Tier 4 regulations. We are also legally obligated to report your representative to UKVI, as per point 2.11 on Page 63 of the [Tier 4 Sponsor Guidance, Sponsorship Duties](#).

CAS Consultation

What is a CAS consultation?

The Tier 4 CAS consultation is designed for you as an opportunity to ask any questions you may have regarding the Tier 4 Visa process here at BIMM, as well as a way for us, as a Sponsor, to assess your suitability for a Tier 4 Visa and to verify your purpose of entry clearance to the UK. This consultation is to be completed either in person or via Skype. We begin contacting applicants who have confirmed their place on the course for these consultations in April of each academic year. *Please be aware that this conversation will be recorded for evidencing.*

There will be 2 stages in which we will complete this:

- 1) You will receive a confirmation email with the date and time of your consultation. There will be a questionnaire attached to the email which you are to complete and return to us within 7 days.
- 2) The CAS consultation will be then conducted on the date and time specified within the confirmation email.

It is important for us to disclose that the recording and information you disclose will not be shared with any third parties, as per data protection laws, but may be legally required to be shared with the Home Office HEAT Teams upon inspection.

What happens when I am being risk-assessed?

The risk assessment forms are put in place to accurately measure the risk of students' credibility, eligibility to study and likelihood of completing their studies successfully. If we have reasonable belief to question the above upon completion of your CAS consultation, you shall be informed accordingly upon the outcome of the risk assessment. An applicant Pre-CAS Risk Assessment Form from point of implementation will be used to assess applicants we feel are at risk of Visa refusal following the CAS consultation. For the 2018/19 Admissions Cycle we will be using the risk assessment with every applicant, as a follow up to the CAS consultation. This way each applicant is assessed in a measurable and non-biased way.

Visa refusals, progression rules and TB Certificates

I have previously applied for a UK visa which was refused. Can I still apply?

You are still able to apply for the course, but you will be at a higher risk for visa-refusal. Please ensure you send through your previous visa decision letters to us, so BIMM can risk assess whether a CAS can be issued to you. Decisions are made on a case by case basis.

What are the progression rules? Is there a limit to the amount I can study?

The academic progression rule is in place to ensure that you are progressing academically if you wish to study a further course in the UK, and are not merely seeking to extend your stay in the UK for other purposes. There is also a limit to the amount of time you can study at any level in the UK, which is why we need your full educational history to determine whether this has, or has not been exceeded. If you have previously had permission to stay as a Tier 4(Child) Visa or a Tier 4 (General) Visa, then your Tier 4 sponsor can only give you a CAS for a new course if your new course represents academic progress from your previous studies. If you have studied at the same level course, please be aware that you can study on a level 3 (Diploma) course for a maximum of 2 years and a level 4 course (Degree) for a maximum of 5 years.

You do not need to show academic progression if:

- you are making a Tier 4 (General) application from overseas
- you are making a first application to complete an existing course commenced at a Tier 4 sponsor that had its licence revoked
- you are applying to complete the qualification for which you were last given Tier 4 or Student leave after a period as a student union sabbatical officer.

If you have had any previous visas issued, please provide scanned copies of these. If you have had any visa refusals, please provide us with your refusal letter from Immigration, as this may affect the decision on your current Tier 4 Visa application.

Do I need to provide a TB certificate?

A TB screening is required for Visa Applicants from selected countries. Please follow this [link](#) to see if your country requires a TB Screening, and where to book this. If your test shows that you don't have TB, you'll be given a certificate which is valid for 6 months from the date of your x-ray. Include this certificate with your UK visa application. Please ensure it is still valid at point of Visa application.

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

I am from a country where a TB certificate is required, but I have lived abroad (outside of my home country) for 6 months or longer, where a TB certificate is not required by Tier 4 regulations. Will I still need to provide a TB certificate due to my Nationality?

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

Supporting documents

What to consider when submitting my Passport scans.

You will need to provide us with colour scans of your passport. These scans will need to include:

Front and back cover of passport. Please find an example pictured:



Visa page of passport. Should you not have had any visas granted, the pages on the passport would be empty. Please find an example of a visa page of a passport with a previous visa pictured:



ID Page of passport. This should be the page you generally show to Passport control when travelling with your passport. It should contain your passport picture as well as your general information (date of birth, passport number, place of birth, nationality, dates of validity of passport etc.)

Please make sure both pages are shown on the scanned copies of the Visa page, and the Passport ID.

What to consider when submitting my Academic qualifications.

You will need to provide us with colour scans of the academic requirements set by BIMM at point of offer. You will need to include both your Academic Transcripts as well as your final Award Certificate for verification. Provisional or unofficial certificates as well as black and white copies will not be accepted. We shall only accept your official results in colour copies.

You can find your specific academic requirements in your offer conditions:

DIPLOMA: In your **offer email**, sent to you with your contract and learning support form.

DEGREE: In your **UCAS Track**, where you can review your conditions.

If your qualification is in a language other than English or Welsh, it will need to be officially translated.

Can I submit provisional results?

Provisional results will not be accepted as evidence, as they will result in an automatic Visa refusal at point of Entry Clearance. We shall only accept your official results in colour copies.

When is an Academic IELTS for UKVI required?

Every applicant who is not exempt will need to complete a Secure English Language Test (SELT) taken through IELTS, also known as an Academic IELTS for UKVI. **A regular IELTS test will not be accepted.**

Please be aware that some public institutions (HEI's) are permitted to make their own English Language assessments, but since we are a privately funded institution, a regular Academic IELTS test or an alternative English language test will result in your visa refusal.

Required scores of your UKVI IELTS vary depending on the course you are applying for, so please study the below table very carefully to view the score required: Academic IELTS for UKVI.

Academic IELTS for UKVI	Degree level non-performance courses**	Degree level performance and production courses***	Diploma level courses
SCORE REQUIRED OVERALL	6.5 Minimum	6.0 Minimum	6.0 Minimum
SCORE REQUIRED IN EACH BAND	6.0 Minimum	5.5 Minimum	5.5 Minimum

Please be aware that the score above are BIMM's entry requirements, which are in line with (but differ from) the minimum score set by UKVI. Be aware that we cannot deviate from this score.

Have a look through the [IELTS FAQ](#) for further information.

When is an Academic IELTS for UKVI not required?

You don't need to prove your knowledge of English if you've completed a qualification equivalent to a UK degree in:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- UK
- USA

You also don't need to prove your knowledge of English if one of the following apply:

- you're a national of Canada or any of the countries in the list above
- you have studied in the UK before as a Tier 4 (Child) student
- you're applying to come to the UK for a study abroad programme as part of a university degree course in the USA

Taken from the [UKGOV](#) website.

How do I book my Academic IELTS for UKVI? How much does it cost?

You can book the test via the IELTS website. Keep in mind that it needs to be IELTS for UKVI and be mindful that you are to book the Academic IELTS for UKVI. You can find a direct link [here](#). UKVI IELTS Tests cost £200. You will receive your test results 13 days after having taken the test. Please keep this in mind when booking tests at the end of the application cycle, as this could delay your CAS. We will need to receive a scanned copy of your SELT Certificate, before checking this off your VISA Checklist. There are distinct differences between a regular IELTS test and an IELTS for UKVI, for which there is an example below.

The image below shows what an IELTS for UKVI test report looks like. It contains a UKVI number and a CEFR level as circled in red here.

The image below shows what a standard IELTS test report looks like. This is NOT an IELTS for UKVI test report.

IELTS
Test Report Form

NOTE: This report is valid for use only for the purpose of applying for a UKVI visa. It is not valid for other purposes. For more information, please visit the IELTS website.

Centre Number: 03502 Date: 13/03/2014 Candidate Number: 80010

Candidate Details

Family Name: [REDACTED]
First Name: [REDACTED]
Candidate ID: [REDACTED]
UKVI Number: [REDACTED] (circled in red)
Date of Birth: 20/01/1988 Sex (M/F): M Scheme Code: Private Candidate
Country or Region of Origin: [REDACTED]
Country of Nationality: AUSTRALIA/TASMANIA
First Language: ENGLISH

Test Results

Listening: 6.5 Reading: 6.5 Writing: 6.0 Speaking: 6.5 Overall Band Score: 6.5 **CEFR Level: B2** **UKVI:** (circled in red)

Administrative Information: Centre stamp, Validation stamp, Administrator's Signature, Test Report Form Number: 00043018

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM
Test Report Form

NOTE: This report is valid for use only for the purpose of applying for a UKVI visa. It is not valid for other purposes. For more information, please visit the IELTS website.

Centre Number: 03502 Date: 13/03/2014 Candidate Number: 80010

Candidate Details

Family Name: [REDACTED]
First Name: [REDACTED]
Candidate ID: [REDACTED]
Date of Birth: [REDACTED] Sex (M/F): M Scheme Code: Private Candidate
Country or Region of Origin: [REDACTED]
Country of Nationality: [REDACTED]
First Language: [REDACTED]

Test Results

Listening: 6.5 Reading: 6.5 Writing: 6.0 Speaking: 6.5 Overall Band Score: 6.5

Administrative Information: Centre stamp, Validation stamp, Administrator's Signature, Test Report Form Number: 00043018

I have a learning difficulty, such as dyslexia. What can I do?

IELTS can make provisions for students with learning difficulties, but be aware that these must be reported to the IELTS centre 3 months in advance. You can review this here on the [IELTS website](http://ielts.org.uk).

There is no IELTS for UKVI provider in my country. What do I do?

If you cannot find an IELTS for UKVI centre in your country, please contact us on overseasadmissions@bimm.co.uk for further instructions.

Proof of Maintenance

How much money must I hold in my account?

Applicants for Brighton, Bristol and Manchester will need to show £9,135 IN ACCOUNT OVER A 28 DAY PERIOD.

London Applicants will need to show £11,385 IN ACCOUNT OVER IN ACCOUNT OVER A 28 DAY PERIOD.

Proof of Maintenance will need to be in line with Appendix C of UKVI's Immigration rules, which you can find on this [link](#).

How must I show my maintenance funds?

Your maintenance funds can be demonstrated by either submitting **bank statements** or by submitting a **bank letter**.

You must ensure that the currency (if not in GBP) is converted using <http://www.oanda.com> – this will be the converter that the Home office will use upon your visa application. Please also be aware that the course fees are not included in this amount!

Proof of Maintenance will need to be in line with Appendix C of UKVI's Immigration rules, which you can find on this [link](#).

What are the main requirements if I am submitting bank statements?

The main requirements for the bank statement option are:

- The amount required in the bank statement does not include course fees per annum!
- The bank account must be in cash funds only (current or savings accounts only); no shares or bonds are accepted by the home office.
- Internet banking statements will need to be accompanied with a letter from the bank or building society the account is under, on company headed paper, confirming its authenticity. Alternatively, we can accept electronic bank or building society statements, bearing the official stamp of the bank or building society on every page.
- If Parents will be providing bank statement as proof of living costs, please send an unabridged birth certificate or notarised legal documents showing their relationship/guardianship of yourself. No person other than your parents or legal guardians can provide bank statements for you.

Please note that these bank statements must contain and show the following in the colour scans:

- Name of bank account holder
- Bank account number – Please do not cross or block this out, as the statement will not be accepted without this.
- The date of each transaction made within the account- if there have been no transactions, the start and end date of the statement must be shown in the statement (showing that 28 days have passed).
- Name of financial institution
- Logo of Financial institution
- The most recent transaction in the bank statement (or alternatively the end date of the statement) must be no older than 31 days before your visa application date.

Proof of Maintenance will need to be in line with Appendix C of UKVI's Immigration rules, which you can find on this [link](#).

What are the main requirements if I am submitting a bank letter?

Main requirements for the bank letter

- The letter must confirm the level of funds and that they have been held for a consecutive 28-day period.
- The period covered by the letter must end no earlier than 31 days before the date of the application;
- The letter must be dated no earlier than 31 days before the date of the application;

- The letter must be on the financial institution's letterhead or official stationery;

Please note that these bank letters must contain and show the following in the colour scans:

- the name of the applicant, applicant's parent(s) or legal guardian's name, if the applicant is applying as Tier 4 Migrant on their parent's or legal guardian's account
- the account number,
- the date of the letter,
- the financial institution's name and logo, the funds held in the applicant's account, and
- Confirmation that there have been enough funds in the applicant's account throughout the specified period of 28 days.

Proof of Maintenance will need to be in line with Appendix C of UKVI's Immigration rules, which you can find on this [link](#).

How long must I hold the funds in my account for?

The maintenance funds in the account must be at the required level for a minimum of 28 days. The most recent transaction in the bank statement (or alternatively the end date of the statement) or the period covered by the letter (as well as the date of issue of the letter) must be no older than 31 days before your visa application date.

Proof of Maintenance will need to be in line with Appendix C of UKVI's Immigration rules, which you can find on this [link](#).

Why do I need to show my maintenance funds?

Submitting your bank statements is required for your visa application to prove that you can fully support yourself financially within the UK, without aid of any external financial recourse. Please be aware that your details will not be shared as per data protection laws. We do understand that not everyone is comfortable submitting bank statements, but are not able to send you a CAS without this.

Proof of Maintenance will need to be in line with Appendix C of UKVI's Immigration rules, which you can find on this [link](#).

My funds are not held in GBP. How do I know if I have enough?

You must ensure that the currency (if not in GBP) is converted using <http://www.oanda.com> – this will be the converter that the Home office will use upon your visa application. Please also be aware that the course fees are not included in this amount!

Proof of Maintenance will need to be in line with Appendix C of UKVI's Immigration rules, which you can find on this [link](#).

I hold the required funds in shares, bonds or credit allowances. Is this sufficient evidence of maintenance funds?

No. Proof of maintenance can be shown in cash funds only. Proof of Maintenance will need to be in line with Appendix C of UKVI's Immigration rules, which you can find on this [link](#).

I do not feel comfortable showing BIMM my account number. Can I provide my bank statements without it?

You are not able to show your bank statements without the bank account number showing, nor can you black out certain numbers. This is due to Tier 4 requirements as per appendix C in UKVI's Immigration rules, which you can find on this [link](#). Please note that the information you provide will not be shared with any third parties as per data protection laws and will only need to be lawfully shown to UKVI's HEAT team upon inspection.

Who can support my maintenance funds in the UK? And who cannot?

Only you, your parent or a legal guardian can support your maintenance funds in the UK. This must be proven by supplying an unabridged birth certificate or legal documentation proving legal guardianship. No other persons are permitted to support your maintenance funds in the UK.

What defines 'Legal Guardian'?

Please refer to point 13B. in [Appendix C of the Immigration rules](#):

13B. If the applicant is relying on the provisions in paragraph 13(ii) above, he must provide:
(a) one of the following original (or notarised copy) documents:
(i) his birth certificate showing names of his parent(s),
(ii) his certificate of adoption showing the names of both parent(s) or legal guardian, or
(iii) a Court document naming his legal guardian;

And

(b) a letter from his parent(s) or legal guardian, confirming:
(1) the relationship between the applicant and his parent(s) or legal guardian, and
(2) that the parent(s) or legal guardian give their consent to the applicant using their funds to study in the UK.

Can I take out a loan to support my maintenance funds in the UK?

Yes you can, provided it aligns with point 1B.(d) of [Appendix C of the Immigration rules](#):

(d) If the applicant is applying as a Tier 4 Migrant, an original loan letter from a financial institution regulated for the purpose of student loans by either the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) or, in the case of overseas accounts, the official regulatory body for the country the institution is in and where the money is held, which is dated no more than 6 months before the date of the application and clearly shows:
(1) the applicant's name,
(2) the date of the letter,
(3) the financial institution's name and logo,

*(4) the money available as a loan,
(5) for applications for entry clearance, that the loan funds are or will be available to the applicant before he travels to the UK, or that the loan funds are or will be paid directly to the sponsor before the applicant travels to the UK, with the living costs portion of the loan released to the applicant on or before arrival in the UK, unless the loan is an academic or student loan from the applicant's country's national government and will be released to the applicant on arrival in the UK,
(6) there are no conditions placed upon the release of the loan funds to the applicant, other than him making a successful application as a Tier 4 Migrant, and
(7) the loan is provided by the national government, the state or regional government or a government sponsored student loan company or is part of an academic or educational loans scheme.*

I am from Cameroon, India, Ghana, Pakistan, Iran, Philippines, Bangladesh or Sri Lanka. What banks are approved by UKVI to supply evidence of my maintenance funds?

You can find UKVI's list of financial institutions that do not satisfactorily verify financial statements, or whose financial statements are accepted [here](#).

Course fee payments

How do I pay my course fees?

We will not be able to issue a CAS before the full course fees have been paid. If you are a Diploma student, please deduct the deposit paid from your total fees outstanding.

- Online through a secure link: www.bimm.co.uk/pay
- Bank transfer:

Account name:	BIMM Limited
Account Number:	28187253
Sort Code:	60 30 09
IBAN:	GB64NWBK60300928187253
BIC/SWIFT:	NWBKGB2L
- Telephone: **(+44) (0)844 2 646 666** By credit or debit card

You will need your Student ID number for the payment reference.

Can I pay for my course fees in instalments during the course?

You can pay the course fees in instalments throughout the application cycle, but the full course fees must be paid to us in full before a CAS can be issued. This means that you are not able to pay for the course fees during the course, meaning there are no instalment plans in place for Tier 4 Visa students.

Can I get a student loan for my tuition fees?

There are no UK student loans available to students requiring a Visa to study in the UK. If you find there are student loan companies in your home country that allow you to study at a private institution in the UK, please send confirmation of this to overseasadmissions@bimm.co.uk so we can advise its eligibility. It is your responsibility to research this.

When is the payment deadline?

Our payment deadlines are usually around August of each year, but Tier 4 Students must pay their full course fees for the year before a CAS can be issued. This means that the course fees must be paid before the August 1st CAS checklist submission deadline.

Can I use my maintenance funds towards my course fees?

No. The maintenance funds shown as your proof of maintenance must only be used towards your maintenance expenses. If your maintenance funds are below the required amount due to the payment of course fees, your visa application will result in an automatic refusal.

Are there scholarships for Tier 4 students?

There are currently no scholarships available for students who require a Tier 4 Visa.

Do you accept AMEX?

We do not accept AMEX.

What is my Student Reference number?

Your student reference number required for the online payment portal is your student number. You can find this number in your offer email. Diploma students can also find this in their contract.

When will BIMM receive and confirm my payment?

Payments are processed at least a few days after they are made. If you pay online at www.bimm.co.uk/pay, you will receive an automatic notification. If a student pays as a bank transfer, they will not receive a notification. If a student pays from an international bank account, it will take a lot longer to process. Tier 4 Students will receive notification of payment from the Admissions team, as this is a CAS checklist requirement. **Only when the payment has been cleared by us can this be checked off your checklist.**

My funds are not held in GBP. How much do I need to pay and what must I consider before payment?

You can convert the tuition fee into your currency by using www.oanda.com. Make sure you do not forget to add any transfer fees to the amount required.

Will my course fees stay the same throughout my studies?

Our [terms and conditions](#) state the following:

Tuition fees for the first academic year of the course will be set out in your offer letter. BIMM Institute reserves the right to review course fees on an annual basis and will publish tuition fees for the next academic year at least 6 months in advance of the start of that year. Tuition fees for subsequent years of any course may therefore be different from the first year.

Receiving your CAS number

What is a Pre-CAS?

You will receive a Pre-CAS once your CAS checklist has been completed in full. This will be sent to you via email and will contain all the information taken from your supporting documents that will feature within your CAS document. You will need to check and email back to confirm all the details within are correct, after which the real CAS will be issued to you via email.

Why must I confirm if the Pre-CAS is correct?

You must confirm that the details are correct within the Pre-CAS to avoid any human error at this point of the process. It is important to check the Pre-CAS carefully to get any errors highlighted before the CAS is sent to you, as any error in these will result in a Visa refusal.

When will I get my CAS?

You will receive your CAS once you have approved the Pre-CAS and once the International Admissions team have made their final compliance checks. The International Admissions team are not able to provide any timelines on when this will be completed, nor adhere to any deadlines requested by the applicant, though we are fully committed to getting the CAS processed as soon as possible.

How will I get my CAS?

Your CAS will be issued to you via email.

You will find the following information within the email:

- CAS document required for your Visa appointment attached as a PDF document.
- Your CAS number.
- Information that you need to apply for your visa online.
- Tier 4 Document checklist from UKVI attached as a PDF.
- Zip file with documentation currently on file for you, attached.

I have noticed a mistake on my CAS, but have already confirmed the details of my Pre-CAS are correct. Is it too late?

It is not necessarily too late. If you have found an error on your CAS please ensure you let us know as soon as possible! The sooner you let us know, the sooner we can do something about it. We can either amend the CAS on our sponsor management system or, if the CAS has already been issued, we can issue a sponsor note. If you find the error after you have already applied and sent off your visa application, we will need to investigate with the Home Office directly what can be done.

What important Terms and Conditions must I be aware of?

Please refer to page 4 of the Terms and Conditions:

7. International students

7.1 If you are a student from outside the European Union applying to study at a United Kingdom BIMM Institute you will need to demonstrate, at the point of registration, that you have a valid immigration status to undertake your course. If you fail to demonstrate that you have a valid immigration status we reserve the right to prevent you from registering on your course (without liability to you).

7.2 Fees are payable in full before BIMM Institute can issue a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies) to support a Tier 4 visa application. BIMM Institute has a limited allocation of CAS.

7.3 Should a visa application be refused due to an error made by BIMM Institute in the CAS, a further CAS will be issued at no charge to support the appeal.

7.4 Should a visa application be refused and there is 'No right to appeal' due to an error made by BIMM Institute, we shall reimburse you in respect of any course fees already paid.

7.5 International students are advised to apply for visas in good time, a colour copy of such visas must be provided prior to registration.

7.6 International students may be required to pay a deposit. Details of any deposit will be set out in your offer letter. Any deposits/fees paid would be refunded if a visa was not granted due to a fault in the information provided by us to UKVI. If the error was made by you then the deposit would not be refundable.