

Tier 4 Points Based Visa Scheme for overseas applicants

The purpose of this leaflet is to give international students coming to Middlesex University for the first time an overview of the Tier 4 points-based visa scheme. Students **already studying** at Middlesex needing to extend their visa should read International Student Guide: 2018/19. Applying for Visa Extension: Check & Send Service.

This is a complicated area and is **subject to change** so it is always advisable to seek advice if you are in any doubt about your circumstances. For more information and to contact one of our experienced advisors please email: intadvice@mdx.ac.uk

What is the Tier 4 Points- Based Visa Scheme?

All Visa Nationals applying to study at a UK University have to apply for a Tier 4 General Visa. In practice this means when you apply for your visa you will have to fulfil certain requirements which include providing the following:

- Original documentation regarding your qualifications.
- Proof that you have adequate financial resources
- A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from Middlesex University. This is an electronic reference number confirming certain details required by the Home Office.
- Biometric information and attend a creditability interview
- An (ATAS) certificate, if relevant
- If you are applying for below degree level study, you will also need to provide a Secure English Language Test Certificate that shows you have reached B2 level in reading, writing, speaking and listening. (Pre-sessionals must be at level B1)

If you satisfy all the above you will be awarded the 40 points required for a visa to enter the UK and study.

How does this work in practice?

You will be awarded 40 points when you submit your visa application form with the correct supporting documents, and a CAS from Middlesex University. The CAS will show that you are applying to study at an institution which is an **approved education provider**, and also that your course is at an **acceptable level**. In addition, you will have to show that you have enough money to cover your **fees and your living costs** for a maximum of nine months. To see how the points are broken down see below:

Points	What you get points for	Proof and documents needed
30	Doing a course (at an acceptable level) with an approved education provider (also known as sponsorship)	CAS from your approved education provider, and the documents used to get the CAS
10	Having enough money to cover your course fees and monthly living costs (also known as maintenance)	Bank statement or letter confirming that you have enough money available to cover your 1st year course fees and living costs for up to nine months, at the time you submit your application

How long will my visa last?

The length of visa is determined by the length of course you are intending to study; however, visas can only be awarded for a maximum of five years. The table below illustrates how this works for courses that are offered at Middlesex.

Type of course	Length of course	Length of stay allowed
Degree level or above	12 months or more	The full length of the course plus 4 months after the end date
Degree level or above	Six months or more, but less than 12 months	The full length of the course plus 2 months after the end date
Course to prepare you for study (known as pre-sessional)	Less than 6 months	The full length of the course plus 1 month after the end date

How much money will I need?

The amount of money you need depends upon the course. You will be expected to show that you are able to pay the

course fees and also that you have money to cover your monthly living costs. You will have to provide an original bank statement or other evidence that you have had the money in your bank account for **at least 28 consecutive days** before submitting your visa application. The bank account must be in your name or if it is a joint account, you must be one of the persons named on the account. See below for the amount of money you will need:

Length of course	Place of study	Money needed
Nine months or less	Hendon	Course fees and £1,265 for each calendar month of the course
More than nine months	Hendon	First year of fees and £11,385 to cover living costs for the first nine months in the United Kingdom

Can I provide my parents' bank statement?

Yes, but in addition you will need to supply a letter of support and your original birth certificate as proof of your relationship.

What if I have already paid some of my fees?

If you have already paid part of your fees or University Halls accommodation costs, make sure you submit the original receipts with your application, as the money you have already paid can be deducted from the amount of money you are expected to show in your bank account. **Electronic receipts will not be accepted.**

It is possible that I am going to be sponsored by my Government. What should I do?

If you are being sponsored by your government or any other relevant body **you must provide an official letter from the sponsor with your visa application.** The proof should clearly state how much your Sponsor will be paying towards your fees and living costs. If your sponsor is paying part of your costs you can deduct this amount from the money shown in your bank statement.

Do I need to provide anything else?

You will also need to have your photograph taken and give your fingerprints, which is known as your biometric information. At the same time you attend a biometric appointment you will also be

interviewed online: this is known as a credibility interview.

I am doing a post-graduate course. Is there anything else I will need?

If you are studying a post-graduate course leading to a PhD you should check whether you will need an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate. To find out more information and how to apply see: www.gov.uk/academic-technology-approval-scheme

What do I need to do if I'm bringing dependants?

You will only be able to bring your dependants to the UK if you are studying at post-graduate level for a year or more, or you are studying for more than six months and are sponsored by your Government. All other students studying at undergraduate level or below are not allowed to bring dependants to the UK.

You will need to show that you have enough money for your dependants in **addition** to money you need for yourself. If your course is based at Hendon, each dependant will need an extra £845 a month for up to a maximum of nine months the amount needed is £7,605. For more detailed information see: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-dependants-of-uk-visa-applicants-tiers-1-2-4-5

If you are applying for your Tier 4 from abroad please check our handy video here: www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/help-with-your-application/visas-and-immigration/making-your-tier-4-visa-application

If you need help or want to discuss about credibility interviews, you can speak to one of the International Student Advisors on +44 (0)20 8411 5016 or +44 (0)20 8411 5601. Alternatively you can email: intadvice@mdx.ac.uk.

Middlesex University International Student Advice Team has made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate. Middlesex University however, cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors. This publication can only be a guide and is not intended to replace the complex and diverse legislation covered. Statutes and regulations may change during the year without notice. If in doubt seek independent advice.

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Produced by the Middlesex University International Student Advisors