

IHS: Immigration Health Surcharge

What is the Immigration Health Surcharge?

The immigration health surcharge is a contribution that will ensure that temporary, non EEA migrants coming to the UK for more than six months contribute to the NHS in a manner in line with their immigration status.

The surcharge is not a visa fee. (However it needs to be paid for at the same time as your visa application).

The payment will be collected by the Home Office and it will go directly into the National Health Service (NHS) and will give you access to the NHS on the same terms as a permanent UK resident.

Who is exempt from paying the surcharge?

- EEA nationals from 1st January 2021 you will have to pay and will no longer be exempt
- Those under the Visitors route
- Those granted permission to stay in the UK for 6 months or less (only for application made from overseas)
- Nationals of Australia or New Zealand
- A British Overseas Territory citizen who is the resident of the Falkland Islands

What healthcare will the surcharge provide?

Health surcharge payers will be able to access the National Health Service in the same way as a permanent resident, i.e. they will receive NHS care generally free of charge but may be charged for services a permanent resident would also pay for, such as dental treatment and prescription charges.

How much is the surcharge and how is it calculated?

The health surcharge is set at **£470 a year** (£235 for any additional period of up to 6 months). Dependants will generally be charged the same amount as the main applicant.

The total surcharge amount will need to be paid up front and cover the whole period of leave granted, not only the length of the course.

So, in the case of a course covering a period of 12 months or more,

you should be granted an additional four months after the end of your course (see example below):

£470 for 12 months + £235 for the additional 4 months = £705 in total per person*

*The same amount will be calculated for each dependant

You can use this online calculator to check how much you need to pay: www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/type

Can I take out private healthcare insurance instead?

The health surcharge is mandatory. You will not be able to apply for a visa without an IHS reference number (even if you are not liable to pay) Some individuals may decide to take out private healthcare insurance in addition, however that is a personal decision and they will still need to pay the surcharge.

How can I apply?

You pay the healthcare surcharge as part of the application process or when you book an in person appointment. A window will open before you finish your online visa application and it will guide you through the payment.

How do I pay it?

You can pay it online with a credit or debit card (applicable for both UK and overseas applications)

**Please note: You need to pay by cash if you're in Bangladesh, Myanmar or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea **

Can it be refunded?

If you applied in the UK:

The healthcare surcharge will be automatically refunded when:

- your application has been refused and you can't appeal the decision
- your application has been refused and your administrative review has been dismissed
- your application has been refused and you can no longer ask for an administrative review
- you withdraw your application

If you applied overseas:

The healthcare surcharge will be automatically refunded when:

- your application has been refused and your administrative review has been dismissed or you can no longer ask for an administrative review of the decision
- your application has been refused

You'll have to re-pay the healthcare surcharge if you successfully appeal the immigration decision.

You can request a refund using the same service you used to pay if you don't want to finish your visa or immigration application.

For more information call: **020 8411 4507** or email the International Student Advice Team at: intadvice@mdx.ac.uk. You can also book an appointment via myUniHub.

The 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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