

**SABLE**  
INTERNATIONAL

# Visa information *for students and parents*





## Introduction

This booklet provides information for parents and legal guardians of overseas children regarding visas and related travel and reception arrangements.

Please do take the time to read through this information which is designed to provide a helpful overview of the process for obtaining a visa, if required, and to introduce the documentation which will need to be provided in accordance with UKVI (UK Visas and Immigration) requirements.

Sable International is Sidcot's trusted partner for all child student and UK immigration applications. The company has been providing immigration services for over 30 years and is regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner. Sidcot has retained Sable International's services to ensure all UK immigration applications are prepared in compliance with UKVI requirements.

Sable International will be supporting you throughout the visa application process. Should any aspect of the processes outlined in the following pages be unclear, or if you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact them at [se@sableinternational.com](mailto:se@sableinternational.com).



## Visa requirements

### NEW JOINERS

For children who are nationals of any country outside the UK or Ireland, a Child Student or Student visa will normally be required. The most common exceptions are if:

- the child is already eligible to study in the UK with the benefit of another type of visa; or
- the child is from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein and has permission to live and study in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Child Student visa has replaced the old Tier 4 (Child) student visa.

### PASSPORT

Please ensure that you check the expiry date of the passport. If it is due to expire between now and when the student will travel to the UK, please renew it as soon as possible and send us copies of the new passport.



## Visa application process

### CAS (CONFIRMATION OF ACCEPTANCE FOR STUDIES)

Sidcot school is an approved education provider licensed by UKVI to be able to sponsor Child Student or Student visa applications. A CAS is a document created by Sable International, on behalf of the Sidcot school, via the UKVI website. As part of issuing a CAS, we will confirm to the UKVI that the child has received an unconditional offer at the school and will provide information about the course, the schools offer, the fees payable and passport details. The CAS will be reviewed by UKVI staff when processing the visa application.

The CAS that is issued must show a valid passport number at the date the visa application is made. It is for this reason that you should renew the passport now if it is due to expire before travel.

### WHERE TO APPLY FOR A VISA

Sable International can assist with the full visa application and supporting document requirements. Once the forms have been completed by the Sable International team they will be sent for review to you, and you will then need to submit the visa application and pay the relevant fees to the Home Office. There are no additional fees for the service payable to Sable International.

## ● WHEN TO APPLY FOR THE VISA

In all cases the visa application must be made within six months of receiving the CAS.

If the application is made from outside the UK, applications for a visa can be made up to six months before the date of travel to the UK, but not before, thus early March is ideal.

An application can be made from inside the UK where the child is already lawfully residing in the UK. If the application is from inside the UK, the earliest you can apply is three months before the course starts.

Important note – please be aware that the visa applicant will not be able to enter or leave the UK whilst the application is in process. If the applicant does so then the visa application will be treated as “withdrawn” and this may cause problems with any future application.

The date of the application is set once the online form is completed, and the Government fee is paid.

## ● VISA FEES

UKVI currently charges a fee of £524 to apply for a Child Student visa from outside the UK.

You will also have to pay an NHS healthcare surcharge as part of your application. This cost will vary depending upon the length of the course but is £776 for each year of the course. This fee applies regardless of whether private healthcare insurance is in place. As part of the visa application process, you will be directed to a separate website to pay the NHS surcharge and then redirected back to the visa application.

## ● TUBERCULOSIS CERTIFICATE

Your child may be required to provide a tuberculosis (TB) certificate as part of the visa application. UKVI imposes this requirement if the visa applicant is a resident in any of these countries, or spent any time in any of these countries in six months prior to submitting application:

### COUNTRIES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afghanistan</li> <li>Algeria</li> <li>Angola</li> <li>Armenia</li> <li>Azerbaijan</li> <li>Bangladesh</li> <li>Belarus</li> <li>Benin (get tested in Nigeria)</li> <li>Bhutan</li> <li>Bolivia</li> <li>Botswana</li> <li>Brunei</li> <li>Burma</li> <li>Burkina Faso (get tested in Ghana)</li> <li>Burundi (get tested in Rwanda)</li> <li>Cambodia</li> <li>Cape Verde (get tested in Gambia or Senegal)</li> <li>Central African Republic (get tested in Cameroon)</li> <li>Chad (get tested in Cameroon)</li> <li>Cameroon</li> <li>China</li> <li>Congo (get tested in Democratic Republic of the Congo)</li> <li>Côte d'Ivoire</li> <li>Democratic Republic of the Congo</li> <li>Djibouti (get tested in Ethiopia)</li> <li>Dominican Republic</li> <li>East Timor (get tested in Indonesia)</li> <li>Ecuador</li> <li>Equatorial Guinea (get tested in Ghana)</li> <li>Eritrea (get tested in Kenya)</li> <li>Ethiopia</li> <li>Gabon (get tested in Cameroon)</li> <li>Gambia</li> <li>Georgia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ghana</li> <li>Guatemala</li> <li>Guinea (get tested in Sierra Leone)</li> <li>Guinea Bissau (get tested in Gambia or Senegal)</li> <li>Guyana</li> <li>Haiti</li> <li>Hong Kong</li> <li>India</li> <li>Indonesia</li> <li>Iraq</li> <li>Kazakhstan</li> <li>Kenya</li> <li>Kiribati (get tested in Fiji)</li> <li>Kyrgyzstan (get tested in Kazakhstan)</li> <li>Laos (get tested in Thailand)</li> <li>Lesotho (get tested in South Africa)</li> <li>Liberia (get tested in Ghana)</li> <li>Macau (get tested in Hong Kong)</li> <li>Madagascar</li> <li>Malawi</li> <li>Malaysia</li> <li>Mali (get tested in Gambia or Senegal)</li> <li>Marshall Islands (get tested in Fiji)</li> <li>Mauritania (get tested in Morocco)</li> <li>Micronesia (get tested in Fiji)</li> <li>Moldova</li> <li>Mongolia</li> <li>Morocco</li> <li>Mozambique</li> <li>Namibia</li> <li>Nepal</li> <li>Niger (get tested in Ghana)</li> <li>Nigeria</li> <li>North Korea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pakistan</li> <li>Palau (get tested in Philippines)</li> <li>Papua New Guinea</li> <li>Panama</li> <li>Paraguay</li> <li>Peru</li> <li>Philippines</li> <li>Russia</li> <li>Rwanda</li> <li>São Tomé and Príncipe (get tested in Angola)</li> <li>Senegal</li> <li>Sierra Leone</li> <li>Solomon Islands (get tested in Papua New Guinea)</li> <li>Somalia (get tested in Kenya)</li> <li>South Africa</li> <li>South Korea</li> <li>South Sudan (get tested in Kenya)</li> <li>Sri Lanka</li> <li>Sudan</li> <li>Suriname (get tested in Guyana)</li> <li>Swaziland (get tested in South Africa)</li> <li>Tajikistan</li> <li>Tanzania</li> <li>Togo (get tested in Ghana)</li> <li>Thailand</li> <li>Turkmenistan</li> <li>Tuvalu (get tested in Fiji)</li> <li>Uganda</li> <li>Ukraine</li> <li>Uzbekistan</li> <li>Vanuatu (get tested in Fiji)</li> <li>Vietnam</li> <li>Zambia</li> <li>Zimbabwe</li> </ul>
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Applicants will normally be given a chest x-ray and, if the test is negative, a certificate valid for six months will be issued and must be included with the visa application.

Important note – only a certificate issued by a UKVI approved testing clinic is acceptable and proof from a non-approved clinic will not be accepted and will lead to a delay in a visa being granted.

In some situations an applicant will not require a test even if they are a citizen of one of the countries listed.

For example:

- if they are a returning UK resident and have not been away for more than two years; or
- if they have lived for at least six months in a country where TB screening is not required by the UK and have not been away from that country for more than six months.

## ● LETTER OF CONSENT

When the application for the visa is made it must be accompanied by the express written consent of both parents (or one parent if they have sole responsibility) or the legal guardian of the child. This must confirm they consent to:

- the visa application
- the living arrangements and care in the UK
- the child's travel to the UK
- Sidcot holding passport while studying at school

A template letter will be sent to you by Sable International which meets all the necessary UKVI requirements.

## ● PROOF OF FUNDS TO PAY FEES

When you apply for a Child Student or Student visa, you must have sufficient funds to pay school boarding fees, in full, for the first academic year of the course.

However, you will not normally be required to provide evidence to UKVI of this if:

- your child has had a valid UK visa for at least 12 months immediately prior to the date of the visa application and is applying from the UK; or
- the child is a British Overseas Territories citizen; or
- the child is a citizen of:

## COUNTRIES

- |                          |                 |                            |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| ▪ Australia              | ▪ Germany       | ▪ New Zealand              |
| ▪ Austria                | ▪ Greece        | ▪ Norway                   |
| ▪ Bahrain                | ▪ Hong Kong     | ▪ Oman                     |
| ▪ Barbados               | ▪ Hungary       | ▪ Peru                     |
| ▪ Belgium                | ▪ Iceland       | ▪ Poland                   |
| ▪ Botswana               | ▪ Indonesia     | ▪ Portugal                 |
| ▪ Brazil                 | ▪ Ireland       | ▪ Qatar                    |
| ▪ Brunei                 | ▪ Italy         | ▪ Romania                  |
| ▪ Bulgaria               | ▪ Japan         | ▪ Serbia                   |
| ▪ Cambodia               | ▪ Kazakhstan    | ▪ Singapore                |
| ▪ Canada                 | ▪ Kuwait        | ▪ Slovakia                 |
| ▪ Chile                  | ▪ Latvia        | ▪ Slovenia                 |
| ▪ China                  | ▪ Liechtenstein | ▪ South Korea              |
| ▪ Croatia                | ▪ Lithuania     | ▪ Spain                    |
| ▪ Republic of Cyprus     | ▪ Luxembourg    | ▪ Sweden                   |
| ▪ Czech Republic         | ▪ Macao         | ▪ Switzerland              |
| ▪ Denmark                | ▪ Malaysia      | ▪ Taiwan                   |
| ▪ The Dominican Republic | ▪ Malta         | ▪ Thailand                 |
| ▪ Estonia                | ▪ Mauritius     | ▪ Tunisia                  |
| ▪ Finland                | ▪ Mexico        | ▪ United Arab Emirates     |
| ▪ France                 | ▪ Netherlands   | ▪ United States of America |

Parents/legal guardians will be required to submit a letter to UKVI confirming that they will be responsible for financially supporting the student. For other children (save those on fully funded scholarships) there will be a requirement to provide evidence that their parents/guardians have sufficient funds to pay school fees for the first academic year of the course.



This can be demonstrated by:

- Providing documentary evidence of your financial position by showing you have held sufficient funds for 28 days using bank statements from the 31 days before you submit your application. Please note UKVI will not accept that evidence of the ability to pay fees in the form of an overdraft arrangement, bitcoin savings, stocks and shares, pensions or bank accounts that are not regulated by the financial regulatory body in the country the application is made from.
- Paying one year's boarding fees in advance which is then documented on the CAS. This would be the recommended approach.

## ● BIOMETRIC RESIDENCE PERMIT/DIGITAL IMMIGRATION STATUS

Within the overall process of making the visa application online the applicant will either be required to:

- Attend an appointment and have your fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre; or
- Use the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app to scan identity documents. (Only certain nationalities can use this mobile app, predominantly EU countries. We will advise you during the application process if this applies to you).

Applicants who require an entry vignette (UKVI visa sticker inserted into passport) as part of the visa application process will be required to attend an appointment to have their fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre. Once the outcome of the application has been received by UKVI, an entry vignette will be attached into a page of the passport. For the longer term visa duration this will be digital by nature and the student will be able to register for their e-visa once the outcome has been received.

If you are using the "UK Immigration: ID Check" app to scan identity documents, we will obtain a "share code" to prove your immigration status to your education provider. For any additional travel or demonstration of your immigration status, you will be able to generate a share code using the IDV APP at any time.

[View and prove your immigration status: get a share code.](#)

## ● VISA APPLICATION PROCESSING TIMES

UKVI currently suggests that a decision on a visa application will be given within three weeks. Expedited services may be available from UKVI, although at an additional cost. UKVI gives information about visa processing times for most countries on its website, but this is not guaranteed.

Please refer to the UK guidance on visa applications from outside the UK and inside the UK.

## ● VISA DECISION

After the application has been considered by UKVI you will get a "decision letter" from UKVI.

If the application is granted you will get:

- A 90-day travel vignette (a sticker) to be placed in the child's passport. The vignette gives the holder permission to come to the UK and the child must enter the UK during the 90-day validity of the vignette; or
- Access to view immigration status information online to get a 'share code' to prove the child's immigration status (mainly EU students).

## ● EDUCATION GUARDIAN

All children under the age of 18 coming to study must have a UK-based Education Guardian (this is not the same as a legal guardian).

The Education Guardian must reside in the UK and within a reasonable distance from the school. If you do not have an Education Guardian in mind you may be able to source one through AEGIS ([www.aegisuk.net](http://www.aegisuk.net)) which may be able to locate and suggest an approved, local guardian for you to consider.

## ● ARRIVING IN THE UK

Anyone entering the UK on a Child Student or Student visa who is over the age of 16 may be interviewed by an Entry Clearance Officer who needs to be satisfied that the person is a genuine student and may question their credibility. Please ensure that your child is able to answer straightforward questions relating to their course and chosen subjects, the geographical location of the school and how long the journey from the airport should take and the name of their boarding house, if applicable.

## Next steps

As soon as we have received formal instruction from your school, we will email a document checklist. Once we are satisfied all the documents meet the requirements, we will request the CAS from the Home Office. Once the CAS is assigned, we can use this to complete your visa application online.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us on [se@sableinternational.com](mailto:se@sableinternational.com) or 0207 759 5316.

The Sable Education Team