

Student Visa – Outline

International applicants must apply for a Student Visa before they can study with Wrexham University.

The Student Visa route is for students who intend to study full time in the UK for longer than 6 months. Before an applicant can apply for this visa, they must first obtain sponsorship from a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) licenced sponsor.

Detailed information about the Student Visa route can be found on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/points-based-system-student-route>

Student Visa Application Process for Wrexham University Applicants.

There are 10 key elements:

- 1) English Language Tests
- 2) Financial documentation
- 3) Course fee payment
- 4) Official Financial sponsorship or Government Sponsor
- 5) Tuberculosis (TB) Test
- 6) Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)
- 7) Confirmation of Studies (CAS) document
- 8) Qualification documentation and Official translations
- 9) Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)
- 10) Credibility interview

These are covered in detail below. Not all elements apply to every applicant.

English Language Tests

Applicants who require a Student Visa to study are expected to meet the English Language requirements of the University. Student migrants entering the UK for degree level study must have competence in each of the 4 skill areas (reading, writing, listening and speaking) equivalent to level B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching and Assessment.

Wrexham Universities accepted grades are:

- Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught minimum overall of 6.0 (no band lower than 5.5)
- Postgraduate Research minimum overall of 6.5 (no band lower than 6.0)

Candidates applying for below degree level courses and pre-sessional English courses must hold a UKVI approved Secure English Language Test (SELT).

- IELTS for UKVI (Academic)
- Trinity College London (ISE) Secure English Language Tests for UKVI (taken inside the UK).
- Language Cert International ESOL SELT
- PTE Academic UKVI

Candidates applying for degree level courses are expected to have achieved one of the qualifications listed on the below link. All certificates/qualifications accepted are assessed based on their equivalence to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

<https://wrexham.ac.uk/international-students/english-language-requirements/>

There are some exemptions to this rule, these are applicants who have completed a degree in the UK within the 5 years prior to the course start date, applicants from a majority English speaking country, or applicants who have completed a degree in a majority English speaking country (as per Student Visa policy guidance).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/points-based-system-student-route>

Applicants must provide their English certificate with their visa application. It is important to note that there are frequent changes to the UK Government guidelines and regulations. These changes may affect the English language requirements needed to apply for a Student Visa. It is important to read and understand the UKVI rules.

Financial Documentation

(i) Proof of adequate funds

When submitting an application for a Student Visa, applicants must be able to evidence that they have the required maintenance funds as per the UKVI policy guidance.

Applicants must show they have a minimum of £1,136 per month for a maximum of 9 months = £10,224.

For example;

- An applicant who will be coming to the UK for a three-year course will only be required to show £10,224 (9 x £1,136 = £10,224)
- An applicant who will be studying for 7 months in the UK will need to show £7,952. (7 x £1,136 = £7,952)

(ii) Allowance for currency fluctuation

If the account is not in UK pounds sterling, it is important to add an allowance for currency fluctuations. The UKVI will accept funds held in any currency. If the account is not in British Pounds (GBP), they will convert an applicant's available funds into GBP using the exchange rate given by the OANDA Currency Converter (<https://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>).

The UKVI will use the exchange rate from the day that a visa application is submitted to them, when depositing money applicants must be aware that the exchange rate can fluctuate. After converting to GBP, applicants may have less money available on the visa application date than originally expected.

We advise applicants to have a minimum additional fund of £200 available to them to cover any currency fluctuations.

(iii) Documentation criteria

The documentation provided as evidence of maintenance must be no longer than 31 days old and must show the required amount has been in the account for a minimum of 28 days.

The document must show the applicant's full name or parent/legal guardian's name, the account number, the financial institutions name and logo and the amount of money available.

When using an account in the name of a parent/legal guardian evidence must also be provided to show the applicant is related to them, this can be a birth certificate, certificate of adoption or a court document naming the applicants legal guardian. The applicant must also provide a document from their parent/legal guardian which shows they have given the applicant their permission to use their money.

Applicants are required to provide this documentation to Wrexham University before a CAS will be issued. Once financial documents have been

approved by the University the money held in the account should not for any reason be used until a decision has been reached on their visa application.

Course Fee Payment

After an applicant is issued with an Unconditional Offer letter to study at Wrexham University they will be expected to pay the minimum deposit amount stated on this letter towards their course fees. Course fees will need to clear in the University's account before a CAS document can be issued.

You are expected to provide documentation that proves you have the remaining course fees available to you, this is in addition to the money you are expected to show for Maintenance as per '2. Financial Documentation' above. The remaining course fees will be expected to be paid as per the terms and conditions of your offer.

Payment of these fees must not be taken from the account approved by the University for Maintenance unless there is enough money to show both maintenance and course fees.

Official Financial Sponsorship or Government Sponsor

In some cases, applicants may have received financial sponsorship to cover some or all their course fees and/or living costs. As evidence of sponsorship the applicant must provide a letter showing confirmation from their official financial sponsor on official letter-headed paper or stationery of the organisation which must have the official organisation stamp, the letter must show:

- The applicant's full name
- The name and contact details of the official financial sponsor
- The date of the letter
- The length of the sponsorship
- The amount of money the sponsor is giving to the applicant or a statement that confirms the official sponsor will cover all the applicant's fees and/or living costs.

This document would need to be submitted to the University before a CAS document could be issued to ensure it meets the UKVI requirements.

Students showing official financial sponsorship as evidence of maintenance must pay a minimum of 50% course fees prior to the issuance of a CAS.

Tuberculosis (TB) Test

Applicants from designated countries will need to present a tuberculosis (TB) test certificate as part of their application.

Applicants should visit the following link to check if this applies to them.

<https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa/countries-where-you-need-a-tb-test-to-enter-the-uk>

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

Applicants studying on certain science and technology courses will be required to submit an ATAS certificate with their visa application. Applicants are informed if ATAS is required on their conditional offer letter. It can take up to 4-6 weeks to receive a decision on ATAS. It is important that applicants submit their ATAS application at least a month before they intend to apply for their visa.

Confirmation of Studies (CAS) document

This document is key to an applicant's visa application, without this document as evidence of sponsorship visa applications will be rejected by the UKVI. Wrexham University will only issue the CAS document to an applicant once they are happy that all of the UKVI requirements are met and they are satisfied the applicant is genuine and eligible to study.

Qualification Documentation and Official Translations

Applicants are required to submit evidence of qualifications with their visa applications. Where the document is not already in English or Welsh the applicant must also provide an official translation that can be independently verified by the Home Office.

Official translations must include the following:

- Confirmation that it is an accurate translation of the document
- The date of the translation
- The translators full name and signature
- The translator/translation companies contact details

The documents they will be required to submit will be stated on their CAS document in the section 'Evidence used to obtain offer'.

Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

Applicants applying for a Student Visa are required to pay an NHS health surcharge (currently £776 per year for students). This amount will be paid as part of the online visa application process.

For full official information, see <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application>.

Credibility Interview

Applicants are commonly requested to undertake an interview by UKVI immigration officers to demonstrate their understanding of the programme and institution they are proposing to attend, as well as other indicators.