

Student Immigration Update - October 2018

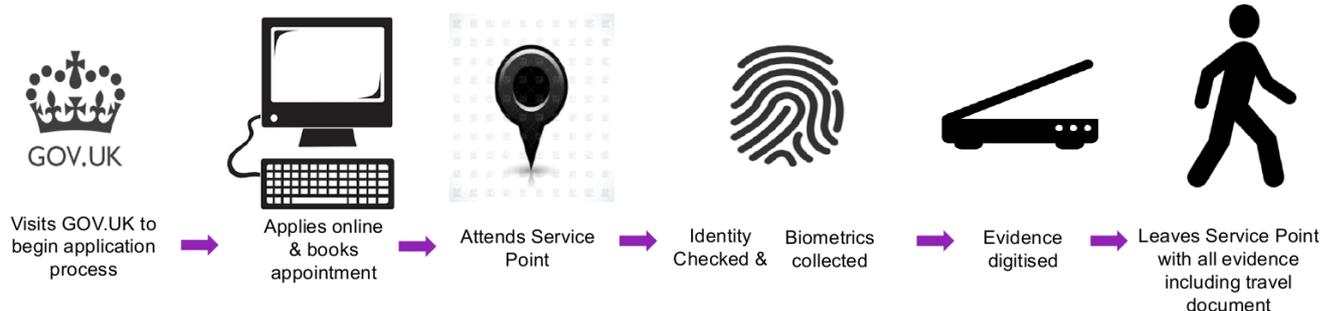
12.11.2018

1. The UKVI to open new Visa and Citizenship Application Service Centres for Tier 4 and related visa applications made in the UK during November 2018

The Home Office is changing the way Tier 4 visa applications are processed in the UK. A new service is being launched in November 2018 in conjunction with their commercial partner Sopra Steria and 57 new Visa and Citizenship Application Service Centres (UKVCAS Centres) are being opened around the UK during November 2018.

It is expected that the Core Service Centre in Birmingham (near Birmingham International train station) & the Enhanced Service Centre in Warwick town will open w/c 12 November 2018, and the Enhanced Service Centre in Coventry (city centre) will open w/c 19 November 2018.

We understand that if you use the new service, from 5 November 2018, photos will no longer be required as part of the Tier 4 visa application process. You will no longer need to post your original documents including passport to the Home Office as part of your visa application. Instead, you will be required to make your Tier 4 visa application (including replacement BRP and TOC applications) online, book an appointment, and attend a UKVCAS centre to submit your biometric information including photos, fingerprints, and signatures as well as your supporting evidence at a single appointment.



The premium service currently offered by the 8 Premium Service Centres around the UK will cease to offer service to Tier 4 students from 29 November 2018. However, you will continue to have the option to use a chargeable service for a quicker decision on your visa application (standard, priority and super-priority service).

It is important to note that you will be unable to travel outside of the UK and the Common Travel Area while your visa application is in-progress (even if you have your passport), as doing so will automatically withdraw your visa application and this may affect your ability to continue studies and/or re-enter the UK.

The Policy Guidance that reflects the changes has not yet been published but there will be a transitional period from 2 November to 29 November for you to choose which system to use. The Immigration Service team will continue to offer face-to-face appointments to those who require a Tier 4 visa extension in the UK (including replacement BRP applications) and support you during this transitional period. The information on the [Immigration Service website](#) will be updated as and when more information becomes available.

2. Immigration rules change which affect ATAS (Academic Technology Approval Scheme)

This change only affects students who are currently studying on a course that is subject to ATAS. If you have never heard about ATAS, then you do not need to worry. Some basic information about ATAS can be found here:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/study/international/immigration/tier4/applying/atas/>

From 1 January 2019, a CAH code will be required for an ATAS application instead of a JCAS code. This is an administrative change and does not affect students.

You do not need to make a new ATAS application if you have not had a course change or any significant change on your research area since you received your last ATAS certificate.

If you do require a new ATAS certificate, at this stage, all you need to know is that, if you receive your ATAS certificate using the statement that contains a JCAS code from the University before 1 January 2019, your ATAS certificate will continue to be valid for use in a visa application made or decided from 1 January 2019. This means you do not need to make a new ATAS application just because of the change of code system on 1 January 2019.

3. IHS Surcharge for Tier 4 students expected to double to £300 per year in December 2018.

The Home Office announced on 11 October 2018 that the cost of the Immigration Health Surcharge is to double for Tier 4 students to £300 per year, and it is likely to take effect in December 2018 (we don't know exactly when yet).

Once the new fees take effect, it will affect both Tier 4 students and their dependants who need to make a new Tier 4 visa application either in the UK or outside of the UK.

If you will require an extension of your Tier 4 visa in order to complete your course (for example, because you have recently changed to a longer course or have been granted a period of academic

extension), you may wish to consider preparing for your visa application before the changes come into effect to avoid having to pay the higher fees.

The Immigration Service team at Warwick will continue to offer face-to-face appointments if you require a visa extension while in the UK. If you are an enrolled student, a CAS will be assigned as part of your appointment request process and you do not need to request a CAS separately. However, if your course require ATAS, and your current ATAS certificate is more than 6 months old, then you will need to obtain a new ATAS certificate before making your Tier 4 visa application.

4. EU Settlement Scheme - Information for students

The Government has announced that a second pilot for the roll out of the EU Settlement Scheme will be open to EU staff at all HEIs registered as Tier 4 sponsors (this includes the University of Warwick) from 15 November 2018.

The EU settlement scheme will allow EU citizens residing in the UK and their family members to obtain UK immigration status, which will be required to remain here permanently in the UK.

The second pilot scheme will be open to EU staff members only from 15 November 2018 (i.e., those on monthly payroll from H.R. including those on STP, but not employees of Unitemps or Warwick SU). Staff members should refer to the [Brexit Guidance for Staff page](#) for more information.

EU Students at Warwick will be able to apply for the scheme in March 2019 when it is fully open and the Immigration Service team will be able to offer some practical guidance and assistance then.

The Immigration Service has introduced a new EEA webpage which contains useful information for non-UK EEA students and the webpage will continue to be updated as and when more information becomes available: <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/international/immigration/eea/>

If you are from the EEA, you may wish to 'subscribe' to the webpage so that you are notified when changes are made. You may also wish to read the '[Brexit Flyer for Students](#)' which is published by UKCISA on 1 November 2018.

If you have any questions about this update, please [contact the Immigration Service Team](#) for more information.