

## Student Route Visa FAQs

Following the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union, all students who do not hold British or Irish citizenship will require a student visa to study.

This does not apply to those who hold pre-settled/ settled status or those on the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme. If you hold a different visa and are unsure whether you are permitted to study, please contact [visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com](mailto:visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com) for guidance

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## *Making your visa application*

### **When is the best time to make my visa application?**

If you are applying from outside the UK you should submit your visa application as soon as possible to ensure that you have enough time for your visa to be processed and travel to the UK.

If you are applying from inside the UK you must submit your application before your current visa expires and send evidence of making your new Student Route visa application to [visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com](mailto:visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com).

### **Where can I make my visa application from?**

You should submit your visa application from a country where you are living as long as you are not there as a short-term visitor. You can also apply from any country you have citizenship.

If you are applying in a country where you do not hold citizenship, you may be asked to prove your immigration status for that country.

If there is not a Visa Application Centre (VAC) where you are living, you will need to travel to the designated VAC on the UKVI webpage.

If you are planning on applying from within the UK, please check whether your previous visa allows you to switch into the Student Route.

### **How long will it be until I receive my visa outcome?**

The standard processing time for overseas applications is 15 working days. If you have a complex application or have received any previous visa refusals it may take longer to receive your visa outcome.

Applications from the UK can take up to eight weeks.

You may be able to purchase 'Priority' or 'Super Priority' services at an additional cost which will allow you to receive your visa outcome quicker. If you have previously received a visa refusal you will not be able to receive a quicker outcome through a priority service.

### **What is a CAS? Can I use it more than once?**

Your CAS is a unique reference number that you will need to use in your visa application and is only valid once. Your CAS tells the UKVI that Istituto Marangoni London (IML) have agreed to sponsor your studies and contains details of your course. It is important that your CAS is correct- if you believe there to be any errors you must inform us immediately.

### **What if I do not know my UK address?**

During your visa application you will be asked about your accommodation plans while you are in the UK. If you have secured private accommodation you will need to provide this information. If you have not yet arranged your accommodation, you should enter how you plan to do this.

### **Do I need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge if I am planning on using private healthcare?**

The Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) is a fee that all international students must pay which allows them to use the NHS. This is paid at the same time that you make your visa application. This needs to be paid even if you do not plan on using the NHS.

Failing to pay the IHS can lead to your visa application being refused.

### **Do I need a new visa if I already have a Student Route visa with another university?**

A Student Route visa is linked to your course and sponsor and this information cannot be transferred.

If you hold a Student Route visa with another university you will need to make a new visa application with the CAS number that IML provides to you. Please note, you may not be able to make your new application from the UK and may be asked for evidence that you have returned to your home country of residence before receiving your new CAS.

### **Can I study on a Graduate route visa?**

The Graduate visa only permits study on courses which are not eligible for a student visa. If you are undertaking a BA, MA, or MBA course you will need to switch to a Student Route visa.

## *While you are waiting for your visa*

### **Can I travel while I am waiting for my visa?**

If you have submitted your visa application from within the UK, you must not leave the Common Travel Area until you have received your new immigration status.

If you have applied from overseas using the 'UK Immigration: ID Check App' or purchased the additional service 'Keep My Passport' you will be able to travel while you are waiting for the outcome of your visa application. If you have paid to keep your passport, you may be required to mail your passport to the VAC (Visa Application Centre) to receive your entry clearance vignette.

### **What happens if I haven't received my visa before my course starts?**

If you are experiencing a delay and you have not received your outcome three weeks after submitting your visa application, please contact [visa.london@istitutomarangoni](mailto:visa.london@istitutomarangoni) for advice.

It is important that you do not travel to the UK until you have received your visa outcome as you will not hold the correct immigration permission to start studying.

### **Can I study online while waiting for my visa?**

Students cannot study online if they are on a Student Route visa.

## *Arriving in the UK*

### **How do I register onto my course?**

Before you start studying on your course you will need to attend registration where IML will make copies of your immigration documents and take your contact details. Prior to welcome week, you will receive an email

informing you of when you will need to attend registration in person with your physical documents. If you miss your designated registration session, you will need to attend late registration

### How do I generate a Share Code?

If you have been granted an eVisa, you will need to generate a 'Share Code' to prove your immigration status. You will need to do this for 'Another Reason' when you are providing a share code to IML.

### How do I collect my BRP?

If you have been granted a BRP you will need to collect this within 10 days of arriving in the UK or before your vignette expires, whichever is later. The address of the Post Office you will need to go to will be written in your decision letter.

### My BRP/eVisa has an error

When you receive your visa you must check it carefully to ensure that it is correct as usually errors need to be reported within a short timeframe. This can include but is not limited to your personal information, visa end date, and working conditions.

If you have noticed an error on your visa, please contact [visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com](mailto:visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com) for further advice on how to correct this. You will also need to provide a copy of your amended BRP/eVisa to IML.

### What is a 'wrap up period'?

Depending on the length of your course you will receive additional time added to your visa known as your 'wrap up period'.

- Courses over 12 months will receive **4 months** wrap up
- Courses less than 12 months but more than 6 months will receive **2 months** wrap up
- Courses less than 6 months will receive **7 days** wrap up

### Why does my BRP expire on 31/12/2024?

The UK is currently in the process of changing its immigration system. From 2025, the intention is all students will be granted an eVisa rather than a physical BRP. All BRPs which have leave entering 2025 have been short dated to 31/12/2024 as you will need to register for an eVisa before this date. Please contact [visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com](mailto:visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com) if you want assistance changing your visa into an eVisa.

## *While you are studying at IML*

### Am I allowed to work while I study?

Students studying on a degree level course are entitled to work up to 20 hours during term time. Students on a Foundation course are only permitted to work up to 10 hours per week during term time. Outside of term time, students can work full time.

There are strict restrictions on what type of work is permitted while on a Student Route visa. This includes but is not limited to engaging in self-employment and working in a permanent position. It is your responsibility to ensure that the work you plan to undertake is permitted on your visa.

### **I have lost my BRP**

If you have lost your BRP in the UK you will need to report this and apply for a replacement. If you lost your BRP overseas you will first need to apply for a 'Replacement BRP Visa' which will be a new entry clearance vignette which will allow you one time travel to the UK where you can then apply for your replacement BRP.

### **I need to update my contact information**

If any of your contact information changes while at IML please email [studentrecords.london@istitutomarangoni.com](mailto:studentrecords.london@istitutomarangoni.com) with your new contact details.

### **I have renewed my passport**

If you have an eVisa you will need to update your travel document on your UKVI account. You will also need to send a copy of the ID page to [visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com](mailto:visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com) so that your student record can be updated.

### **I have opted into the sandwich year and need a visa extension**

Students who undertake a placement year as part of their sandwich course will be able to extend their visa during the summer break after their placement. Please contact [visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com](mailto:visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com) 2 months before your visa is due to expire for further information on your visa extension.

Please do note that all of this advice is based on how the Immigration Rules currently stand and is subject to change. If you require further information or wish to meet the team to discuss anything in relation to your visa status or Student Route application, please do not hesitate to contact us at [visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com](mailto:visa.london@istitutomarangoni.com) and we will be happy to assist.