

Immigration Guidance

Official financial sponsorship

Tier 4 Financial Requirements



An official financial sponsor is:

- A University
- Your home government or the British Government
- An international scholarship agency (e.g. Chevening, the British Council, CONACyT)
- An international company (defined as having a physical presence in more than one country)

Other sponsors, such as relatives, are not considered to be official financial sponsors.

If you are receiving education loans from your government or from another institution, please refer to our 'Educational loans' guidance.

>How much money do I need?

You will need to show that you have enough money to pay for your tuition fees for the first year of your studies, plus £1,015 per month for living costs, up to a maximum of 9 months.

For example, for a one-year programme, you will need to show that you have £9,135 for living costs.

If you have already paid any tuition fees to the University, you can deduct the amount you have paid from the money you need to show in your sponsorship letter.

If you have already paid money for your accommodation fees to the University you can deduct the amount you have paid, up to a maximum of £1,265, from the total amount of living costs you need to show in your sponsorship letter.

>How can I prove this?

You will need a letter from the sponsor. This letter must bear the stamp of the organisation and be less than 6 months old. It must show:

- Your name;
- The name and contact details of your official financial sponsor;
- The date of the letter;
- The length of your sponsorship; and
- The amount of money the sponsor is giving you or a statement that your official financial sponsor will cover all of your fees and living costs

>Financial sponsorship from the University of Edinburgh

If you are receiving financial sponsorship from the University of Edinburgh, you do not need a letter. Instead, the information should be included on your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).

If the information is not included in your CAS, please contact studentimmigration@ed.ac.uk before applying for your visa.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the information is included in your CAS.

>Partial financial scholarship

If your sponsorship only covers part of your tuition and/or living costs, you will need to show the outstanding amount by other means. Please see our relevant guidance for more information.

>Other requirements

If you have been fully sponsored (all fees and living costs) by a Government or international scholarship agency within the last 12 months, you will need to get a letter from your sponsor giving unconditional consent for you to remain in the UK and to make a visa application. If your sponsorship is time-limited, your visa will be granted to match the time allowed by your sponsor, plus a relevant wrap-up period.