

FAQ

Pilot scheme

The University of Edinburgh has been selected by UK Visas & Immigration to participate in a Tier 4 visa pilot scheme which streamlines the visa application process. The scheme offers the following advantages to eligible students:

- You will be granted 6 months of additional leave on your visa from your programme end date. This is useful if you would like to remain in the UK to look for work or undertake an internship.
- You will submit the same evidence as a low risk applicant for immigration purposes: this means that you won't need to submit evidence of your qualifications or financial evidence with your visa application. Please note these documents can still be requested part of the visa process as spot-checks will occasionally happen. It is therefore very important that you prepare these documents even if you don't need to submit them with your visa application.

Who is eligible?

Students applying for a Tier 4 visa to commence a Master's degree of **13 months duration or less**. Postgraduate certificate or diploma students are not eligible for the scheme.

Do I need to complete a different application form?

No. You will need to complete the same form as students that are not eligible for the scheme. The form will recognise that you are applying under the scheme and won't ask you for your financial documents or qualifications.

So I don't need to submit financial evidence with my application: does that mean I don't need to hold the required funds for 28 days before I apply?

No. It is essential that you meet all Tier 4 requirements when submitting your Tier 4 application. Although students under the pilot will not have to submit these documents to UK Visas and Immigration, the caseworker can request to see them if required and may do spot-checks on applicants applying under the pilot. If you are asked for documents and cannot provide them, your application will be refused.

What happens if I submit my evidence of my qualifications or finances in error?

The caseworker looking at your application will assess all documents you have submitted. If they do not meet the Tier 4 requirements, your application will be refused.

Do I still need to submit an ATAS certificate or a TB certificate if required?

Yes, if your programme requires ATAS or if you need to undergo a TB test you will need to submit these.

I am planning to bring my family to the UK as my dependants. Will they also benefit from the scheme?

If your dependants are applying at the same time as you, they will be granted the same length of visa as you, and will not need to submit evidence of their finances. If they apply at a different time, they will need to submit financial evidence with their applications. They will however still get extra time so that their visa expires at the same time as yours.

Will I be eligible if I am applying for a Tier 4 visa from the UK?

Yes, if you are making your application in the UK following the successful completion of another programme, you will still benefit from the scheme.

I am attending an English language pre-session programme before my master's programme: am I still eligible for this scheme?

Yes, as long as your master's lasts for 13 months or less. If your entry to the master's programme is conditional based on successful completion of your pre-session course, you will get an initial visa for the pre-session course only. You will then benefit from the pilot once you make your visa application for the main master's course. If you have a joint CAS and are undertaking a pre-session programme, your application will be considered under the pilot scheme.

I have received my visa and I do not have additional time. What do I have to do?

If possible you should contact the centre where you applied for your visa straight away and ask that this document be corrected before you travel. You will be collecting your Biometric Residence Permit (or BRP, which is your visa) when you arrive in the UK and the end date on the BRP will be in line with the information in the letter you received. If you do not have time to do this, upon arrival in the UK and when you have collected your BRP please contact **visahelp@ed.ac.uk** to get assistance on how to have this amended

Can I opt out of the scheme?

No. If you are applying for a Tier 4 visa to undertake an eligible programme, your application will automatically be considered under the pilot.

Does this mean I am exempt from credibility interviews?

No, UK Visas and Immigration can still request to interview you as part of the Tier 4 application process.

Will the application be processed more quickly?

The process is more streamlined as caseworkers will be assessing fewer documents, but faster processing times are likely to be the same as standard applications.

How much will I have to pay for the Immigration Health Surcharge?

The Immigration Health Surcharge is calculated on the basis of the total length of your visa, and costs £150 per year and £75 for periods of less than 6 months. If the total length of your visa is 18 months or more, you will need to pay £300.