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Student visa: how to apply

Erika Sella | Student Immigration Service | November 2024

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Student Immigration Service

Where to find us

- Contact us online: www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/immigration/contact-us

We provide free, confidential and impartial advice on:

- Your immigration status (rights and responsibilities)
- Visa applications
- Working during and after studies
- Dependants

Please note that the information in this session is accurate as of November 2024 and intended as general guidance only.



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You will need a Student visa if:

- You are **not** a UK or Irish national; and
- You do **not** already hold a valid UK immigration permission in another immigration/visa category that will allow you to study on your course; and
- Your main reason for coming to the UK is to study; and
- You are studying an on campus programme



Student visa requirements



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Student visa sponsorship | CAS

- The University of Edinburgh will act as your immigration sponsor
- The university will assign a **Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)** to you. You need a CAS to apply for a Student visa.
- The CAS number is an electronic document that UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) will be able to view when assessing your application.
- You need to copy the CAS course information and the CAS number into the application form sections where prompted for this.



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Student visa sponsorship | CAS

- A CAS can be issued to you:
 - up to 6 months prior to your programme start date if you are applying from your country of nationality; or
 - up to 3 months prior to your programme start date if you are applying from the UK.
- A CAS will be processed once **accept** your unconditional Offer and **request** for a CAS via the Applicant Hub.



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Supporting documents

You will need:

- Original valid passport
- Financial evidence
- Professional translations (if applicable)
- Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate (if applicable)
- Tuberculosis (TB) certificate (if applicable)

Exact requirements will depend on your country of nationality, the country you are living in, and your chosen programme of study.

Apart from your passport, all other supporting documents can be either copies or originals.

As you are studying a programme at above degree level, you are not required to submit evidence of your qualifications.



Financial evidence

How much do I need?

- **Tuition fees** as stated in your CAS +
- **Living costs: £10,224*** for programmes of 9 months or more. If you are doing a shorter programme, £1,136* x length of course in months.

If you are applying inside the UK and have lived here with permission for at least the previous 12 months, you will be exempt from the financial requirement.

**For Student visa applications submitted on or after 2 January 2025*

What money can I use?

- **Self-funded students:** money in your name or your parents'/legal guardians' names, or in your partner's name if they are present in the UK or applying at the same time as you.
- **Official financial sponsorship:** a scholarship from a government, a university, an international company or an international scholarship agency.
- **Educational loans:** a loan provided by your government or a government-sponsored student loan company. This must be part of an academic or educational loans scheme.



Preparing your finances

Self-funded students (your own/parents' funds):

- Bank statements in your name or your parents'/legal guardians' name, covering a minimum of **28 consecutive days** and ending **no more than 31 days** prior to the date of your application.
- If using your parents'/legal guardians' funds, you must also prepare a birth certificate/adoption certificate/court document to prove the relationship as well as a letter of consent.



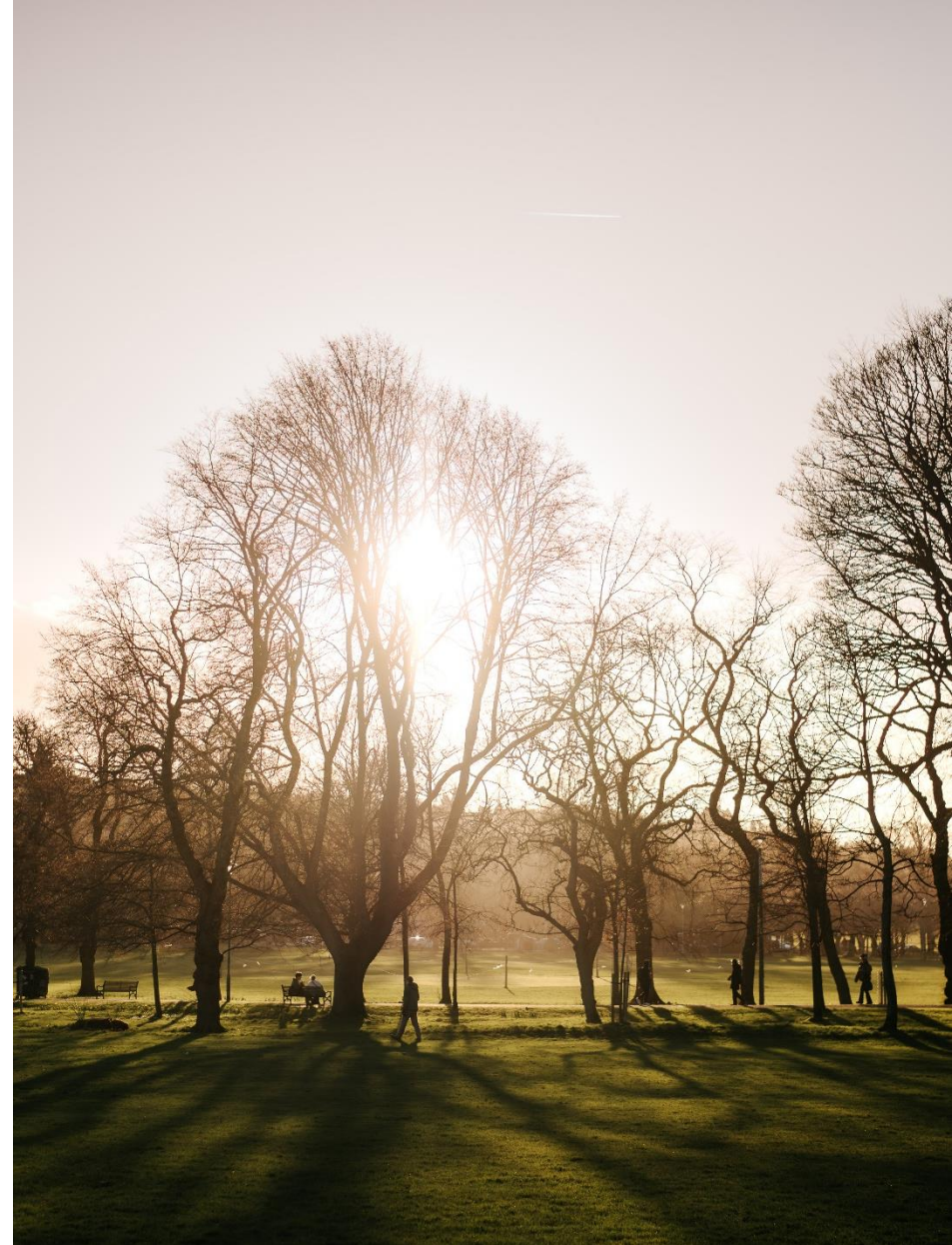
Preparing your finances

Official financial sponsorship/scholarship:

- University of Edinburgh scholarship: information on CAS
- Government/university/international company: letter confirming details of official financial sponsorship

Educational loans:

- Letter confirming details of your educational loan, dated within 6 months of application



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Professional translations

Any documents not in English must be accompanied by a full translation by a professional translator or translation company.

Your translation must contain all of the following:

- Confirmation from the translator that it is an accurate translation of the original document
- The date of the translation
- The full name and signature of the translator's/an authorised official of the translation company
- The translator's/translation company's contact details



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ATAS (Academic Technology Approval Scheme)

- An ATAS certificate is a form of security clearance processed by the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) needed for certain science and technology programmes
- Your offer letter should tell you whether you require an ATAS certificate for your programme. If unsure, please email futurestudents@ed.ac.uk
- If you are national of an EU/EEA country, or of Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore or the US, you don't need to apply for ATAS.
- You can apply online. **An ATAS application can take at least 6 weeks, so apply as early as you can** (you do not need a CAS), and at least three months before you intend to apply for your visa.
- If you are successful, your ATAS certificate will be emailed to you. You will need to provide this with your visa application.
- Once issued, an ATAS certificate must be used in a Student visa application within 6 months.



Tuberculosis (TB) screening

- A TB test is a chest x-ray looking for changes in the appearance of your lungs that are suggestive of Tuberculosis (TB).
- If your test shows that you are free of TB, you will be given a certificate that is valid for 6 months.
- You need a TB test if you are ordinarily resident in one of the countries listed in this government webpage: www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa/countries-where-you-need-a-tb-test-to-enter-the-uk
- You do not need to apply for a TB certificate if you have lived for at least six continuous months in a (no TB required) country and you have been away from that country for no more than six months. Ask us for advice if unsure.
- You must take the test at a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) approved clinic only.



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Differentiated applicants

Differentiated applicants do not need to submit the following documents on the date of application:

- **Financial evidence**

However, you must still prepare and hold these documents in correct format by the date of application. UKVI may request for these at later date before a visa decision is issued.

Whether you are a differentiated applicant will depend on your nationality.



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Differentiated applicants | nationalities

- Australia
- Austria
- Bahrain
- Barbados
- Belgium
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Croatia
- Republic of Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- The Dominican Republic
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Kuwait
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Oman
- Peru
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Romania
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- United Arab Emirates
- United States of America
- Taiwan**
- Hong Kong SAR*
- Macau SAR*
- British National (overseas)*

**Those who hold a passport issued by Taiwan - if it includes their national ID card number.
*Where the applicant is the rightful holder of a passport that has been issued by the relevant competent authority, and applying for leave to remain in the UK/entry clearance in the territory, related to the passport.



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Student visa application process



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How much does it all cost?

- Visa application fee: currently £490*
- Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS): £776 GBP** (per year charge) | £388 (periods less than 6 months)
- IHS payment allows you to access state medical care in the UK. IHS is chargeable for the full duration of visa granted. Calculate how much you will need to pay at: www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/type
- Fees are charged in your local currency

*accurate in November 2024. Check <https://www.gov.uk/visa-fees> for updated information

** accurate in November 2024. Check <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/how-much-pay> for updated information



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How long does it take?

- **Standard service visa** processing takes **3 weeks** following your submission of biometric information.
- **UKVI priority services** may also be available to you (extra fees apply)
 - Priority service: decision within 5 working days of submission of biometric information
 - Super-priority service: decision within 1 working day of submission of biometric information

Timelines not guaranteed – delays can happen.



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How do I apply?

- 1) Obtain a valid CAS and prepare supporting visa evidence
- 2) Complete the online Student visa application form
- 3) Pay both the visa application and IHS fee
- 4) Provide biometric information and supporting documents:
 - EU/EEA/Swiss nationals with a biometric chip passport can apply using 'Immigration ID Check' mobile app to scan passport and upload documents online (no appointment)
 - All other applicants must give their biometrics (facial photograph and fingerprints) at an appointment if applying from outside the UK
 - US nationals may also need to upload/post ID documents depending on the appointment type
- 5) Wait for email with visa decision and passport collection instructions (in some locations passport may be returned by post/courier).



What will my visa look like?

You will be issued with a visa which will have a start date in which you have permission to enter to the UK as a Student. You must not enter the UK prior to this date.

Your visa start date will start 1 month or 7 days before the CAS course start depending on how early you apply and your intended date of travel.

Visa format will depend on your nationality:

- EU/EEA/Swiss nationals who use the 'UK Immigration ID check' mobile app to apply: full visa permission would be issued as an online digital status (eVisa).
- Other types of applicants: a visa vignette (sticker) in passport (90 day) in order to first enter the UK and activate visa permission. You will also be given instructions on how to register for an online digital status (eVisa). The eVisa will cover the full duration of your studies + the relevant wrap-up period.



What if there is a mistake?

- Visa duration dates will be confirmed on your initial UKVI visa grant letter or eVisa.
- If the error is in your vignette and could prevent you from entering the UK (e.g. an error with your name, visa duration, nationality or the 'valid from' date) you must contact the visa application centre where you initially submitted your biometrics. They can request for a visa correction to be made with UKVI.
- If the error is with your eVisa, report it here:
<https://www.gov.uk/report-error-evisa>

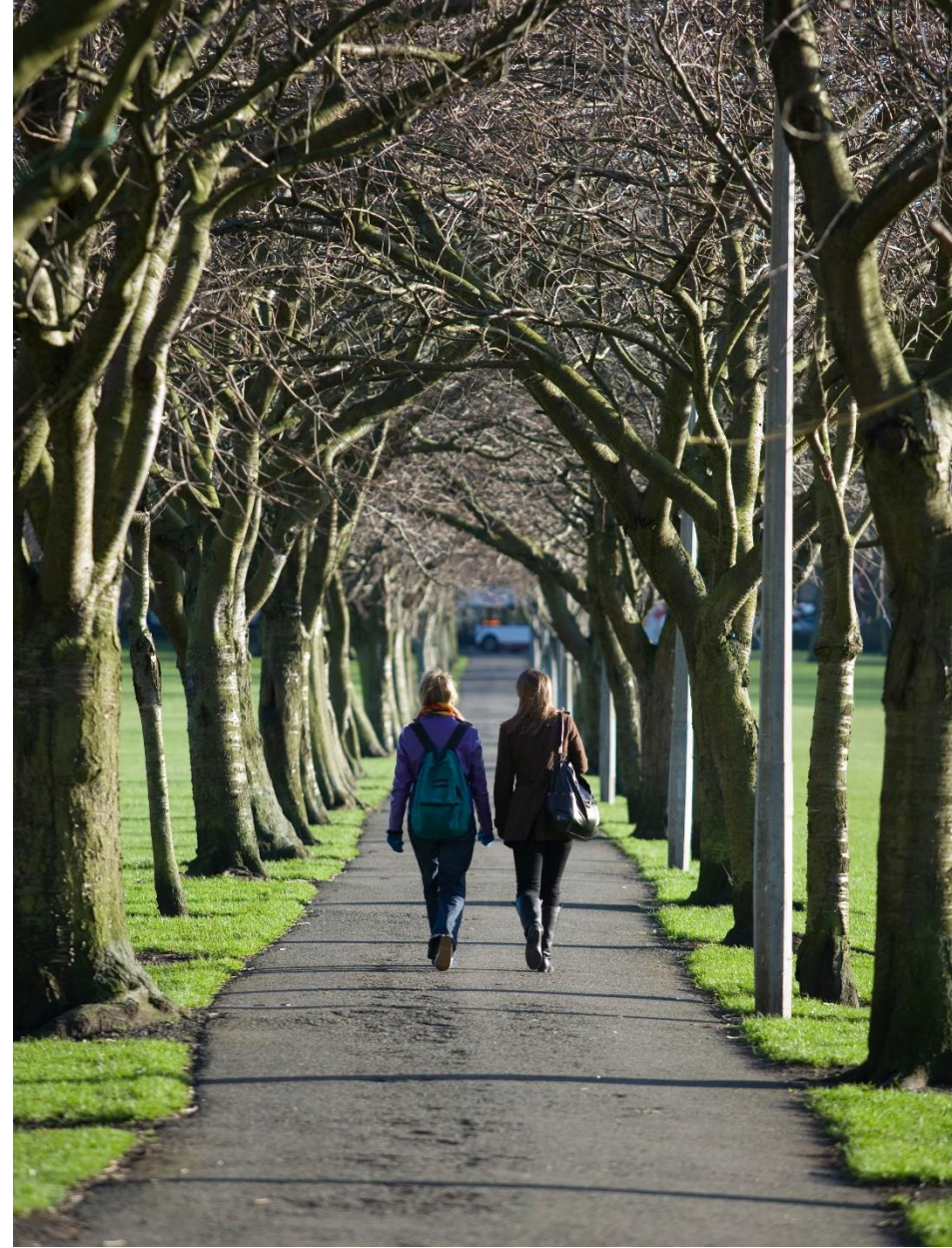


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Travelling to the UK

- When you arrive at the UK border, you may meet with a UK border force officer, who will check your passport and visa vignette details.
- You may also be asked to present supporting documents relating to your studies (your CAS, unconditional offer letter, your finances (bank statements), TB test certificate and accommodation booking details).
- If you have a Student visa and you travel into the UK via an e-Gate or the Republic of Ireland, or if you are an EU/EEA/Swiss national, you **must** keep evidence of your date of entry to the UK (such as flight tickets/boarding pass).
- If you hold a Student visa, you are **not** required to hold an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA).



Your rights and responsibilities



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What am I allowed to do?

- Study a full-time programme with your immigration student visa sponsor (University of Edinburgh)
- Take supplementary studies with your sponsor or other institution (providing it does not interfere with your main programme as stated on your CAS)
- Undertake certain types of permitted work for up to 20 hours per week during your term time, and up to full-time hours during your official vacations/holidays
- Bring dependants to the UK **where eligible**.



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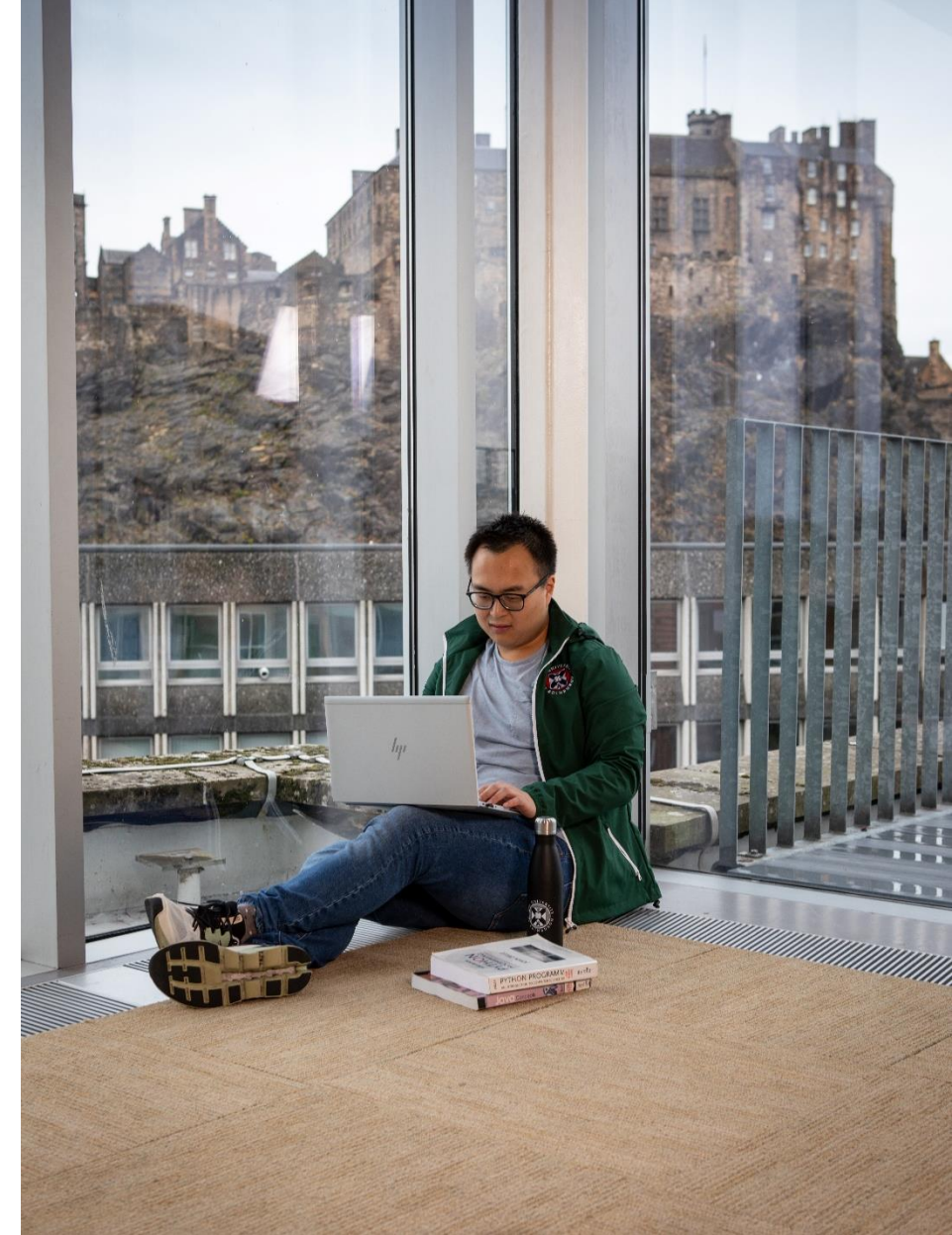
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What kind of work can I do?

- You can work 20 hours per week in term time. Your visa grant letter or eVisa will confirm your work conditions.
- You can work full time during your official vacation periods and after official completion of studies, up until visa expiry date.

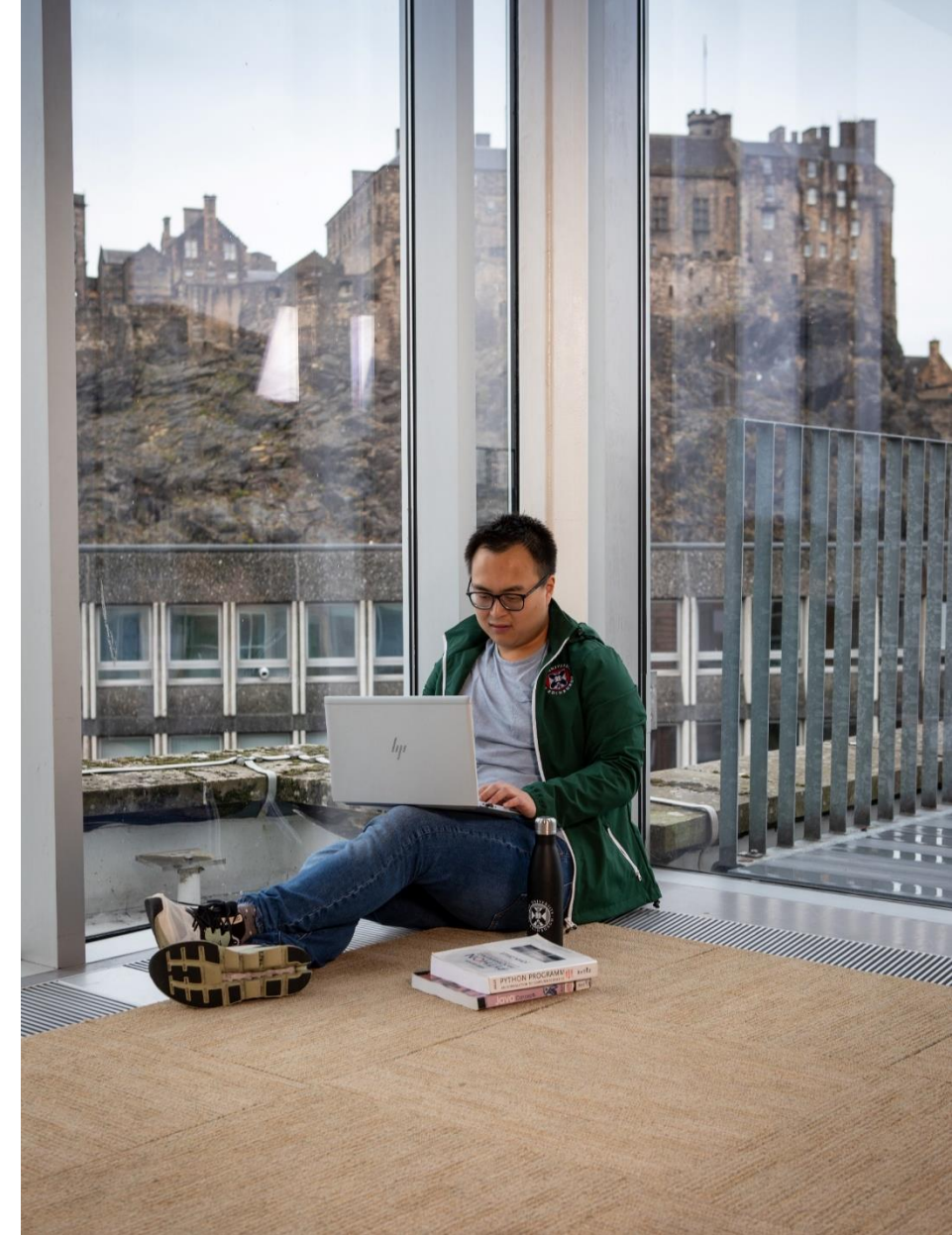
Be mindful of work restrictions:

- You cannot take a permanent, full-time job
- You cannot be self-employed or engage in business activity (this includes freelance/contractor work)
- You cannot work as an entertainer, professional sportsperson (including sports coach) or doctor/dentist in training



What do I need to watch out for?

- You should comply with all conditions of your Student visa (no public funds, self-employment/permanent job, work as an entertainer or sports person)
- You must contact us for advice if there are any changes to your studies or personal circumstances (changing programme, resits, taking a break from studies etc.)
- You must leave the UK before your visa expires (unless you have made a valid application to extend your stay/visa)



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Bringing your family



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Can I bring my family to the UK?

You can bring dependants if:

- You are studying a PhD or other doctoral qualification or a research-based higher degree (such as a master's by research); or
- You are studying a full-time programme of at least six months and are receiving a national government issued financial scholarship or sponsorship

Who is a dependant?

- Your spouse or civil partner;
- Your unmarried partner (if been in a relationship for at least 2 consecutive years prior to application and can evidence this);
- Children under 18



Can I bring my family to the UK?

How do dependants apply?

- Your dependants can apply at the same time as you, but will need to complete their own visa application form.
- Dependants must meet a number of requirements, including a financial requirement.
- Guidance is available on our website: <https://registryservices.ed.ac.uk/immigration/dependants>

What can a dependant do in the UK?

- Study (subject to ATAS requirement)
- Work (not as a professional sportsperson)
- Attend state primary/secondary school



Useful resources



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How to get in touch & guidance

Contact us: <https://registryservices.ed.ac.uk/immigration/contact-us>

How to apply for a Student visa:
<https://registryservices.ed.ac.uk/immigration/applying-for-visa/student-visa>

Working during studies:
<https://registryservices.ed.ac.uk/immigration/working-in-the-uk/during-studies>

Working after studies:
<https://registryservices.ed.ac.uk/immigration/working-in-the-uk/after-studies>

Dependants: <https://registryservices.ed.ac.uk/immigration/dependants>



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<https://virtualvisits.ed.ac.uk/pg>



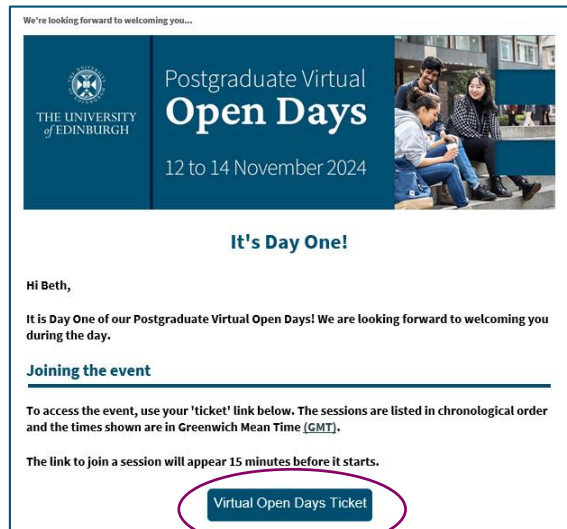
Contact details for follow-up questions

- We apologise if we did not get through all of your questions in the time allotted for this session. If you have further questions that have not been answered, please email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk
- *Alternatively, provide Programme/Department/Service/School/College contact details as appropriate*

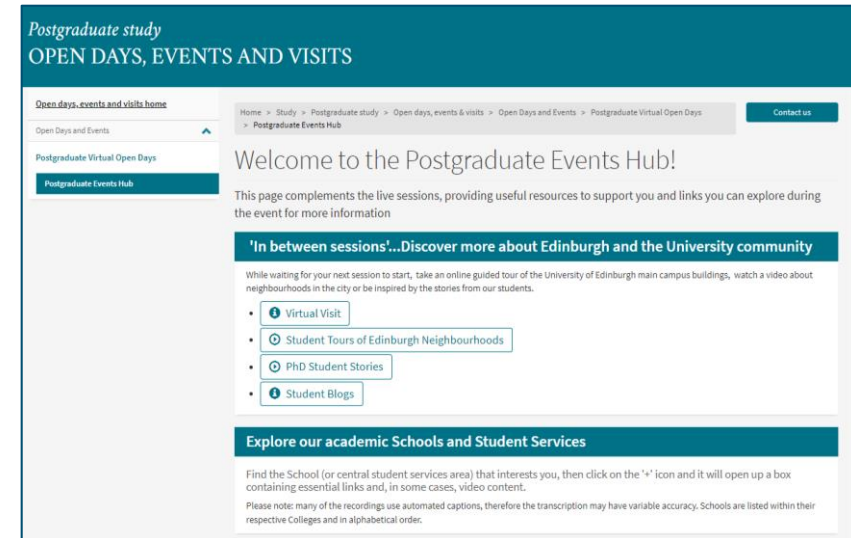


Thank you – click ‘Leave’ when the session ends

- Return to your ‘e-ticket’ to find and attend other sessions you’ve booked – by clicking on the button in the email we sent you...



- ...and visit the events hub:
- <https://edin.ac/4gZuP3G>





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Thank you

Erika Sella, Student Immigration Service

Studentimmigration@ed.ac.uk