



Tips on how to avoid a Tier 4 Visa Application Refusal

Applying for a Tier 4 Visa

If you are coming to the UK to study a course of more than six months, or a pre-sessional course, you will need to apply for a Tier 4 (General) visa. You must apply for this in your home country before travelling to the UK up to three months before the start of your course. It is important that you understand the immigration requirements for students planning to study in the UK.

Please read the **guidance** produced by the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA). This website contains very useful information for all new students traveling to the UK. Read as much of it as you can!

You are also advised to read the information on the **UKVI website**, with particular reference to the Tier 4 Policy Guidance which is contained in a link on the right hand side of the page.

Tips on how to avoid a Refusal

One of the two main reasons for Tier 4 visa refusals is proof that you meet the financial maintenance requirements; the second is failing the credibility interview which is covered in the next section.

Following the advice below will help you minimise the risk of your visa being refused for either of these reasons. When preparing your financial documents:

- Make sure that you are holding the correct amount of money necessary for the required period. For students coming to Newcastle this is currently £1,015 for each month, or part month, of study, up

to a maximum of 9 months. You must also show that you have either paid your tuition fee or have the full amount in your bank account

- The funds must have been available to you for 28 days prior to your visa application
- The financial documents you are using should meet the UKVI's requirements – see **UKVI website**. All documents used must be original and must not be more than one month old.
- Your financial documents must be from a reputable financial institution and not on the UK Visas and Immigration lists of **those that are unacceptable**.
- If your financial documents are not in your name, they must not be from any family member except for your parents or legal guardian. Using documents from an uncle, brother, sister or close family friend will be refused as these are not eligible.
- If you are using your parents', or legal guardian's, bank statements, you must provide your birth certificate (or other official document confirming your relationship) and a letter from your parents, or legal guardian, confirming they are supporting you.
- If you are being supported by a company or organisation, they must have an international presence. This means an office or branch in another country other than your home country.
- Any educational, or other, loans should be in your name, or the name of your parents.
- If the money you have is in a currency other than Sterling/British Pounds/GBP you should check the current exchange rate and provide a currency conversion from OANDA with your bank statements. If the money converted to GBP does not meet the required amount you will be refused.

Credibility Interviews

Credibility Interviews will be carried out as part of the visa interview procedure. The credibility interview is designed so that the UKVI can decide if you are a 'genuine' student or not.

It's essential that you are well-prepared as questions can cover a wide variety of subjects and you may be asked something you were not expecting to be asked – on the structure of your chosen course or the type of jobs you will apply for once your study is finished. In order to help you prepare, we have prepared a guide to the interviews which includes the type of questions you may be asked. You can find this [here](#).

This is not an exhaustive list but please use it as a guideline and ensure that you are confident in answering certain questions before you attend the interview.

Universities UK (UUK) have produced a video outlining the visa process. This video shares the experience of a Chinese student but will have relevance to any student making a Tier 4 application overseas. The video can be watched below on [Youku](#).



Disclaimer:

The information provided on this page is given in good faith and has been carefully checked with **[The UK Council for International Student Affairs](#)** and **[UK Visas and Immigration](#)**. Please note that the University accepts no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Immigration law is subject to regular change and it is important that you ensure you have the most up to date information by checking the websites listed above before you apply for your visa.

Contact the Welfare, Immigration and Funding Team

Visit us at an Ask4Help point

At City Campus

Drop in to speak to an Adviser:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
(10am – 4pm), Wednesday (1 – 4pm)
Student Central, City Campus Library,
Ground Floor

At Coach Lane Campus

Bookable Appointments
Student Central, Coach Lane Library,
Ground Floor

At London Campus

Ground Floor

At Amsterdam Campus

Fraijlemaborg Building

Tel: 0191 227 4127

sv.welfareandinternational@northumbria.ac.uk

Current Northumbria students should make enquiries via the Student Portal:

<https://myportal.northumbria.ac.uk>



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT

Visit an Ask4Help point
northumbria.ac.uk/internationalsupport

