

Tier 4 (General) Student Visa Information

International students coming to the UK to study full-time must apply for a student visa. This is called a Tier 4 Student Visa, and criteria are set by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) <https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa>

Northern School of Contemporary Dance (NSCD) is a licensed Tier 4 sponsor www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-students

You can check whether you need to apply for a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa at: www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa. You will not need a visa if you are from the [European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#) or Switzerland.

The process and conditions for attaining a student visa are subject to frequent changes. Please refer to www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa for the most up-to-date information and read the [Tier 4 of the Points Based System – Policy Guidance](#) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/606685/T4_Migrant_Guidance.pdf for a detailed explanation of every stage of the process

You can apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa to study in the UK if you're 16 or over and you:

1. have an unconditional offer* on one of the following NSCD courses

- Access to Higher Education Diploma: Contemporary Dance
- BA(Hons) Dance (Contemporary)
- MA Contemporary Dance Performance
- MA Dance and Creative Enterprise

*Conditional offers are made following a successful audition and selection process. Confirmation of an unconditional offer will only be made after submission of proof of

- Academic entry qualifications (See Entry Requirements. The NSCD Admissions Team will let you know if the qualifications you have gained in your country meet the entry requirements.)
and
- English language entry qualifications (see point 2.)

2. can speak, read, write and understand English to the required level to access your course:

- Equivalent to CEFR (Common European Framework for languages) level B2 (IELTs 5.5 or equivalent)

3. have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course:

The chapter **What money does a Tier 4 (General) student need?** of the [Tier 4 of the Points Based System – Policy Guidance](#) outlines that you need to show proof of funds for

- a. your course tuition fee
- and
- b. living costs for 9 months (£1015 x 9 = £9135).

For **2017/18** this calculates as:

- a. your course tuition fee of £6000 (Access to HE) / £17,500 (MA) / your first year of course tuition fee of £17, 500 (BA)
- and
- b. living costs for 9 months (£1015 x 9 = £9135).

A total of £15,135 (Access) or £26,635 (BA/MA) therefore needs to be shown by

- a loan letter (the loan must be provided by your national government, state or regional government, or by a government sponsored student loan company or be part of an academic or educational loans scheme); or
- proof of official financial or government sponsorship available to you; or
- a bank statement in your name or of a parent/carer that shows the required funds being available for at least 28 consecutive days and that is not older than 30 days. If the bank statement is a parent/carer bank account we need a statement from them that the funds outlined above are available to you for these purposes. *Please provide a scan of a current bank statement.*

You will not be required to pay the total tuition fee in advance, apart from a £250 course fee deposit with your acceptance, but need to show that you do have the funds available. Fees are usually paid at the start of each of the three terms (refer to your offer letter for specific dates). Equally rent is usually paid monthly; please see the Accommodation Information for an indication of weekly local rent costs. You will note that rent local to the school is well within the Tier 4 Policy Guidance required amount so you might possibly be able to live on a smaller budget than you are required to show available funds for.

You can extend your existing Tier 4 (General) student visa in the UK if

You are progressing from a UK undergraduate degree course to a new course at a higher academic level e.g. to a postgraduate programme and have successfully completed your previous course (received your results).

You will still need to meet the conditions required for applying for a first Tier 4 (General) student visa with the exception of further proof of English language entry requirements.

Full information, including a link to the on-line application form, is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/extend-your-visa>

You must apply:

- within 6 months of getting a [confirmation of acceptance for studies](#) (CAS)
- before your current visa expires - but no more than 3 months before the course start date on your CAS

You can stay in the UK until you get your decision.

Conditions of Tier 4 (General) Student Visa

1. You must meet the attendance requirements of your full-time course. Non-attendance on your course will mean being reported to the UK border agency and potentially having your visa revoked. We do, however, have a *Tier 4 International Student Authorised Absence Form* through which you can request leave in advance under certain conditions.
2. You must keep NSCD informed of any changes to your term-time and home contact details (address, telephone number etc.)
3. You may need to register with the police on arrival. It will clearly state this on your visa if this is the case
4. You can work up to 20 hours a week during term time and unlimited number of hours during holidays
5. You will be able to stay in the UK for the duration of the course plus four months after the end of the course or longer if you secure employment.

We recommend viewing the following website for useful information:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Tier-4-eligibility-and-requirements>

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

You must have a valid Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) reference number to apply for your Tier 4 student visa.

- You must enter the CAS number on your visa application form.
- UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) staff will retrieve the information about you and your course from their computer system.
- You will need a new CAS number every time you make a student visa application.

You will receive your CAS number from NSCD once you have submitted your

1. Academic entry qualifications
2. English language entry qualifications (not required for students extending their Tier 4 (General) student visa)
3. Your evidence that you have sufficient funds available to support yourself and meet UKVI requirements.

The earliest we can issue a CAS is 3 months before the course start date. Please submit these documents by mid-June, if possible, so that we can process the evidence and provide your CAS to allow you to start your application.

All required documents should be scanned and sent to: admission@nscd.ac.uk

You will usually get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks. You can check visa processing times for your country at <https://www.gov.uk/visa-processing-times> .

• Guide to the Tier 4 (General) student visa process

1

- Once you have successfully auditioned and have been offered a conditional place you need to formally accept as explained in your offer letter.

2

- Email NSCD (admissions@nscd.ac.uk) with
 - your academic entry qualifications
 - your English language qualification
 - your evidence that you have sufficient funds available to support yourself and meet UKVI requirements.

3

- Receive your CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies) and unconditional offer letter from NSCD by email. The earliest we can issue a CAS is 3 months before the course start date.

4

- Make a Tier 4 application and pay the fee of £335 at <https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/apply>. You will also have to pay a compulsory surcharge to use our National Health Service <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/pay>

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- Credibility checks: When you make your application you may be asked to undertake an interview, either in person, or on the telephone. If as a result of this interview the Home Office is not satisfied that you are a genuine student, or you cannot speak English to the required standard the application will be refused. If you are asked to undertake an interview but do not attend without reasonable explanation being given, your application will be refused.

6

- A travel document called a '30 day vignette' will be attached to your passport. You must arrive in the UK before it expires.

7

- On arrival at the UK border you will be asked to show your passport with visa. You should also carry all documents relating to your studies in your hand luggage. Border officials may ask to see the following: CAS statement; offer letter; financial documentation to prove you can support yourself. These are the same documents that you will have used in your visa application but you may be asked to present them again as a final check.

8

- Collect Biometric Residence Permit within 10 days of arrival from the nearest participating post office (We will contact you once the location is known). Failure to do so can result in a financial penalty or at worst have your permission to leave revoked.

9

- Enrol at NSCD and present your passport and Biometric Residence Permit.

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- Ensure you meet your Tier 4 (General) student visa conditions and responsibilities.
- Contact admissions@nscd.ac.uk at any point if you have any questions.

