

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](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 [Overseas Entry Requirements](#). If your qualifications is not shown in this list please contact the NSCD Admissions Team who 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.)  
and
- Evidence that you have sufficient funds available to pay your tuition fees and support yourself and meet UKVI requirements. **If you accept our offer NSCD will provide full details of what we require you send us in order for us to issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). In the meantime you can find full details at [Tier 4 of the Points Based System – Policy Guidance](#)**

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

Access & Undergraduate candidates must have an average 6.0 in IELTS test, minimum 5.5 in all components to enrol on the programme.

Postgraduate candidates must have an average 6.5 in IELTS test, minimum 6.0 in all components to enrol on the programme.

**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 **2018/19** this calculates as:

- a. your course tuition fee of £6000 (Access to HE) / your first year of course tuition fee of £17,500 (BA) / £17,500 (MA)
- 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 £1500 course fee deposit with your acceptance, but need to show that you do have the funds available.*

**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.

## • 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](mailto: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. (NSCD will send you the exact format we require of this proof)

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 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>

5

- 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](mailto:admissions@nscd.ac.uk) at any point if you have any questions.