

FAQs from the Study UK Malaysia Pre-Departure Briefing, 22 July 2020

Disclaimer: The responses provided in this document are a compilation of those provided to audience questions during the Study UK Pre-Departure Briefing on 22 July 2020. Coronavirus is an evolving situation and these responses will be subject to change. Please check the [Study UK](#), [Home Office](#) and [UKCISA](#) websites for the latest updates.

Covid-19 Measures

1. Will it be compulsory to carry out the 14-day self-isolation on our university or can we carry it out with a family in a hotel/ Airbnb? Will students have to go through quarantine in the UK upon arrivals?

To keep the number of transmissions in the UK as low as possible, all international arrivals (including students) are currently required to supply their contact and accommodation information.

A large number of students will be required to self-isolate in their accommodation for 14 days on arrival into the UK.

People who arrive in England on or after 10 July will not have to self-isolate if they are well and have come from one of the countries listed in Coronavirus (COVID-19) travel corridors.

It is your previous location, not your nationality or usual country of residence, that is important. You will have to provide details of your location in the UK. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors> (Full details about self-isolation are in government guidance on how to self-isolate on arrival in the UK).

In summary, you will have to provide your journey and contact details on an online form 48 hours or less before you travel to the UK and you will not be allowed to leave the place where you are staying in the UK for your first 14 days, except in very limited situations.

This means that if you intend to come to the UK for study, you must take into account these extra days of not being able to attend classes, see other people or leave your accommodation except for very limited reasons. There is no end date yet for these measures.

It is very important that you contact your education provider before you decide to travel to the UK. This is so that you can check what support you will receive during these first 14 days, including accommodation, food, online facilities for induction, orientation, meeting tutors and other students and many other matters.

Universities, colleges and schools are in the process of thinking about how best they can help you during this time and it's vital that they know what you plan to do and where you will be staying.

2. What happens if Malaysia closes border by September or October?

Lectures will be delivered online in semester 1 and universities will offer other teaching and learning activities, such as seminars and practical on campus, if it is safe to do so and following UK Government advice.

We are aware that there may be some students unable to join us on campus, for example due to travel restrictions or medical advice. To ensure that those students are not excluded or disadvantaged in any way, we will have online options in place to enable those students to study wholly online for semester.

3. Are we able to do essential stuff (open bank account, collect our BRP from uni, buying groceries...etc) during our 14 day self-quarantine period in UK?

You are expected to stay in one place for the whole of 14 days without going out to the bank, buy groceries etc, so do find out what support you can get to have items delivered (student councils, apps, etc). Your university will likely have support in place for self-isolating students so do check with them what this will look like.

4. Does the student requires to do the Covid test before departing to the UK?

No Covid test required to enter the UK border. For Malaysia, please refer to the latest updates from the local authority for international students studying abroad.

5. Even as the university offers free accommodation for the 14 day quarantine, how is the laundry and food going to be covered?

Please do check in with your institution as to their plans for supporting international students during the 14-day period.

6. Can the quarantine location be your student accommodation or are there designated hotels? And how will the food be provided?

Yes, it can be any location you are most convenient with, do research any support you might be able to get from your institution's international office or student union on how to get food delivered.

7. Are parents/ family members allowed to accompany students to the UK?

Yes, but it is likely they will need to arrange their own accommodation in the UK if you are planning on staying in university provided accommodation as universities are likely to only be providing accommodation for the students themselves. This is something you can check with your university.

8. Are students given the option to start their courses online instead of face-to-face?

UK universities are preparing to welcome new students in autumn 2020. Almost all universities are preparing to deliver some in-person teaching this autumn term. Most will blend face-to-face teaching with online technology and tools to enhance student education and ensure teaching is

delivered in a safe environment. If you are unable to be on campus, you will be able to study virtually until you are able to travel.

9. If I were to get infected by covid-19 in UK, will a proper medical treatment provided? How much will be the cost?

NHS treatment for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is free of charge for everyone. If you have paid the immigration health surcharge and your immigration permission has not expired, you continue to be entitled to free NHS treatment for other illnesses and conditions. If you have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), you can use it to receive free NHS treatment, at least until 31 December 2020.

10. Malaysia is not in the travel corridor and need to be quarantine upon arrival to University. Will there be a Covid19 screening at the airport?

There won't be Covid-19 tests at the airport in the UK. Some institutions are arranging pick up for international students to the university - please liaise with your university to find out if this is on offer for you. More info on travel to your institution can be found here:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Preparation-and-Arrival/Travel-to-your-institution>

11. If there is a quarantine rule for Malaysia, does it mean the student have to be there the orientation starts and they are not able to come up during this quarantine?

Universities and student unions are organising virtual orientation and freshers' weeks so that everyone can attend.

The Graduate Route

Here is everything you need to know:

The Graduate Route will be available to international students who have a valid Tier 4 visa at the time of application and have successfully completed a degree at undergraduate level or above at a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance.

Successful applicants on this route will be able to stay and work, or look for work, in the UK at any skill level for a maximum period of two years if they have successfully completed an undergraduate or master's degree. PhD graduates will be able to stay for three years.

Graduates will be able to switch into skilled work once they have found a suitable job.

The new route will be launched in the summer of 2021, meaning that any eligible student who graduates in the summer of 2021 or after will be able to apply for the route. This includes students who have already started their courses.

The Graduate Route will require a new visa application. It will include the payment of a visa fee and the Immigration Health Surcharge. The exact fee will be set out in due course.

Those who graduate and whose Tier 4 leave expires before the route is introduced will not be eligible, however, most of these students will have had no expectation of benefitting from such a route when they applied to study in the UK.

For more information, please visit: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/after-your-studies/post-study-work>

12. Will UG students who defer their studies to next year (after April 2021) be still eligible to look for work for 2 years in the UK after they graduate?

Yes - From summer 2021, international students who have successfully completed an undergraduate or master's degree will be able to benefit from two years' work experience in the UK upon graduation, through the new Graduate Route. Students who complete their PhD will be able to stay for three year.

13. How do we apply for the 2-years graduate route?

They will be introduced in Summer 2021 and you can apply then from in the UK.

Visa and Immigration

14. I got extension from the University till Sept 2024; however, my visa is ending on Jan 2024. Do I have to apply new visa? How would that cost me? Does UKVI consider auto extension Free of Charge?

Please do consult with your university's international office nearer the time before Jan 2024 if there will be provisions to extend the visa within the UK.

15. May I know how long does it takes usully for VISA to be completed after documents submission?

UKVI aims to process standard applications in 15 working days from date of biometric submitted.

16. If I plan to go to UK in January to embark my studies on campus, when should I apply for my VISA? Should I apply around November? December?

You can apply for the visa from 3 months in advance before you plan to arrive in the UK

17. How soon should students apply for their Visas? How long should we give/expect if schools start in mid-September

You can apply for the visa as soon as you receive your CAS if you plan on departing within 90 days from when you submit an application.

18. The student visa vignette validity has been changed to 90 days due to the pandemic, would like to know this extension will valid until when?

At present they will be 90 days until further notice, keep checking the Tier 4 Provisions on gov.uk

19. Are there any changes on visa application processing time? Standard and priority.

At present we are only offering the 15-day standard processing time, we are actively looking into when we can offer the Priority Visa in the future.

20. Is there a standard letter for the banks to write for the proof of funds if we do not want/ are unable to use the bank statement?

Please check this info here: <https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa> generally any wording must prove you have funds available that has been kept continuously for 28 days before you apply for the visa, ideally we would like to see a breakdown of the transactions and balance daily for this period, or other statements such as a deposit stating the funds have been kept continuously for 28 days and are available to take out at any time. The accounts must be in your name or you parents or legal guardian's name.

21. After receiving CAS no from university, I should proceed for visa application (temporary), right? My question is, for how long the temporary visa will be valid if my university allow for distance learning fir the first 3 months?

If you wish to travel shortly after receiving your CAS you may apply for the visa immediately after. The vignette (visa) you receive will be for 90 days, you can use to travel within that time.

22. Do we need to translate our SPM certificate?

Any documents that do not have an English translation should have a translated attached.

23. How do I collect my BRP within 10 days if I have to self-quarantine for 14 days?

You can collect it ASAP after your 14-day self-isolation ends.

24. When is the last day for us to apply for the student visa?

You should consider UKVI processing time of 15 working days and the 14-day self-isolation before you apply for the visa, if you have urgent travel.

25. Will there be any sort of delay in our tier 4 visa application process? Will it be slower than usual, thus affecting our flight dates?

UKVI aims to process standard applications in 15 working days, we advise you do not confirm your flights before you get the visa.

26. As Malaysian names have Bin/Binti or S/O D/O, is it going to be a problem if in ATAS we have Bin,Binti,S/O,D/O while not inside our CAS?

The name should be the same as what is printed in your passport.

27. Do you need IELTS to apply for a UK visa or is my english language 0500 (oral endorsement) A sufficient as proof as my english proficiency. My english language paper was without the oral section and had coursework instead.

UKVI leave it to the Higher Education Institutions on your level of English required, do check with your course provider as this varies.

28. Are we required to show proof of medical check-ups upon arrival at the immigration centre?

You will not usually be asked this at the border, you will be asked to provide a TB certificate as part of the UK visa application upon submission.

29. Do UK visa application accepts Duolingo English Test? Or as long as our university accepts it then its fine for visa application.

If your university is registered as a Higher Education Institution, they are able to set the level of English they require for Tier 4 for undergraduate levels or above.

30. Because I had to resubmit my ATAS application, I was given a new decision date (middle of August). I worry that this could impact my VISA application. Should I be concerned?

The Home Office will take a pragmatic approach to different dates on your ATAS/CAS.

31. Once we get our CAS, where do we go to apply our visa? I've been trying to get in touch with VFS but they are unreachable.

You can apply for your visa once you have your CAS online from www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa

32. Since I'm in Kuching Sarawak, I know there are many students from Sarawak are planning to have their further study. I would like to know when will the Visa center in Kuching open?

At present only the VAC in KL and Sabah are open, you can travel to one of these locations.

33. I understand by subscribing to NHS insurance I am entitled for free treatment at gov hospitals in the UK, but does it also include free prescription?

Whilst treatment is covered for many conditions, prescriptions are paid for by the patient. More info here: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Health-and-healthcare#layer-4061>

34. What types of financial evidence are required when applying for a Tier 4 visa? My parents are paying for my university - will they need to declare their salary, assets etc on top of bank statements?

If you are a Malaysian national, to submit the visa application you do not have to submit bank statements with the application online, but you are expected to have the funds available that has been kept for 28 continuous days in a bank account in your name or your parent's/legal guardian's name before you submit an application, please refer also <https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa>

35. I was in U.K. for my A Level from Jan 2019 to March 2020. Do I still need to go for a TB test for the new VISA application as I will back to U.K. before the 6 months?

Depending when you apply as you have returned from UK for a while now, you're required to submit a TB test if you have lived in Malaysia in the last 6 months.

36. I took a TB test as required under JPA (government hospital), do I still NEED to take a separate TB test just for the Visa application? Is there any way for me to waive this requirement since I took the test already? Speaking on behalf of government scholars.

We can only accept a TB certificate from hospitals appointed by UKVI, from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tuberculosis-test-for-a-uk-visa-clinics-in-malaysia>

37. Can students submit biometric at Sabah / Sarawak in August / September?

Students can submit biometrics in Sabah at present. We have no set date yet for if /when the Sarawak location will open. You should make plans to travel to either Sabah or KL if you want to apply this year.

38. Who do I contact in regards with my visa? Is there any phone number or email that I can contact if there is any question or problem with my visa application? Like if I need to reschedule my appointment, who do I get in touch with?

You can contact UKVI through www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi if you need to escalate an issue. If you want to reschedule an appointment you can do so by logging in to your application.

39. Will the amount of maintenance fund for visa application be reduced? As there was a reduction in our family incomes and we were forced to use the money in our bank account due to covid-19 pandemic.

At present there is no change in the Immigration Rules for maintenance requirements (funds).

40. For the proof of maintenance funds and tuition fee, can I show bank statements for two different accounts? Can it be in form of an Fixed Deposit?

If you are a Malaysian national you will not need to submit proof of funds attached with your application but should have the funds available in the bank accounts or deposits before you apply for a visa. If you are not Malaysian and not an Appendix H national, you will need to submit this document, it can be from different accounts under your name or your parent's/legal guardian's name.

41. I am holding a Tier-4 visa which is gonna expire in October 2020 and I am currently staying in UK. As I am gonna study master in the upcoming September, I am just wondering what is the process to renew my visa.

Do check with your institution's international office regarding provisions to extend the visa within the UK. Generally announcements on covid-19 provisions for extensions are also published on www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents

42. Are our parents allowed to apply for visiting visa and come with us? if we are under quarantine for 14 days how are we able to do the latent tb test required?

If your parents are Malaysian nationals they don't require a visa to visit you in the UK. But if they are visa nationals who require a visa then yes, parents can apply for the Visitor visa and are required to self-isolation for 14 days, they don't require a TB certificate.

43. How much money should I bring to the UK initially?

You can find more info about money and budgeting here:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/How-much-will-it-cost-to-study-in-the-UK>

44. Do we need a certificate of good conduct to apply student visa? Have seen mix comment about this. I'm studying BEng, MEng mechanical engineering.

No need for this certificate.

45. Is tier 4 priority visa available in Aug / September? Any possibility of super priority visa to be available due to social distancing requirement at VFS KL?

At present we are only offering standard 15-day processing times, we are actively looking at when we will introduce again the Priority Visa, keep checking the VFS website.