

Please find below information on changes to procedures if you wish to apply for a General Student Visa (GSV) to study in the UK. GSV's are intended for students from visa national countries who either wish to study in the UK for more than 26 weeks or intend to study and work part-time (10 hours per week maximum) for any period of time. The following also applies to non-visa nationals from outside the EEA and Switzerland who wish to study in the UK for more than 26 weeks. For a breakdown of visa national, non-visa national and EEA countries, please see [here](#).

Tier 4: The New System

From 22 February 2010, visa letters are no longer valid for the aforementioned students. An electronic system, using a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) is to be introduced. This is not an actual certificate – it is a number on the UK Border Agency (UKBA) website. The procedure will be as follows:

- Apply for your course in the normal way
- We send you back the normal course confirmation documents, but instead of a visa letter we send you the CAS reference number
- Please quote the CAS reference number on your application

A CAS costs £10. This is a fee which we, the school, are obliged to pay to UKBA and which we will pass on to applicants.

None of these changes affect Student Visitor Visas (SVV) which are intended for visa national students who wish to study in the UK for shorter courses, up to 26 weeks. These will continue to be processed using visa support letters.

Proof of Level

From 3 March 2010, the UKBA requires that British Study Centres, as an organisation licensed to sponsor students, ask for documentary proof to show that an applicant has a minimum English language level equivalent to CEFR B1. For further information on CEFR please see [here](#). Please note that students sponsored by overseas Governments are exempt from these rules and may study at any level. BSC will continue to follow UKBA guidelines on what constitutes satisfactory proof of level. Currently this can include the following:

- An English language written level test taken under test conditions in one of our approved agent offices. On completion of this test, applicants will be interviewed by Skype by one of our academic team to assess the level of spoken English.
- A secondary school attendance or leaving certificate showing the student has had English classes for 3-5 years
- A secondary school examination certificate showing a level of English achievement
- An attendance certificate from evening classes in the English language
- College or University certificate showing attendance and achievement on an English course
- Previous IELTS test score
- University of Cambridge ESOL certificate
- Proof of level certificate from an authorised University of Cambridge ESOL examination centre
- TOEFL or TOEIC certificate
- A reference from an appropriately qualified person to state that the student has previously studied English, citing course name and dates. The referee must also give their contact details on headed paper and interview the student to confirm their level of English is sufficient for the course.

Please do not hesitate to ask if you are unsure of your level and would like guidance on the above.

In order to encourage applicants to have an 'official' level or score, we will happily reimburse the cost of any of the above exams to those who don't already have a level or score, up to the value of £100. Students will be reimbursed on arrival at the school.

Please note: as we only have a certain number of CAS to issue per year, we will not be able to allow students to make changes to dates/flight times etc once we have issued a CAS as this will involve issuing a fresh CAS.

Proof of Identity

In order to satisfy new UK government regulations, we are now obliged to request a scanned copy of students' passports at time of application. Please send this to us with the students' applications.