

EXTENDING YOUR STUDENT VISA

From 31st March 2009 the UK Border Agency is making some changes to the way immigration in the UK works by introducing the Points Based System. The information below will help to explain how the changes will affect you if you need to extend your student visa.

Main changes that will affect you!

- The cost of making a Student Visa extension application will rise to £357 (by post), £565 (in person) **plus** £50 for each dependent.
- There is a new rule about how much money you need to be able to show in **your** bank account depending on how long you need an extension for.
- If you are in the UK on a student visa and your visa expires more than one month before the start –date of a new course of study. You will now have to leave the UK and make a new application for entry clearance. Your new application must be made in the country where you made your original student application. If you apply from inside the UK your application will be refused.

There are now two different types of application – both requiring different amount of available funds

1) You finished a course more than 4 months ago and you are starting a new course no more than 1 month after your current visa expires.

Length of course	Where study will take place	Money needed
Nine months or less	Outside London	Course fees and £600 for each month of the course
More than nine months	Outside London	First year of fees and £7,200 to cover the first year in the UK

2) You finished your course (that was more than six months long) in the past four months or you are still studying and need more time in the UK to complete your studies.

Length of course	Where study will take place	Money needed
Nine months or less	Outside London	Course fees and £600 to cover living cost is the UK for each month of the course up to a maximum of 2 months
More than nine months	Outside London	First year fees in full and £1,200 to cover the first two months in the UK

For both the above situations you need to be able to claim 40 points as listed below;

POINTS	WHAT YOU GET POINTS FOR	PROOF REQUIRED
30	Doing a course (at the right level) with an approved education provider – the University of Bolton is an approved education provider	Visa letter from the University of Bolton
10	Having enough money to cover your course fees and monthly living cost (see below)	Bank statements or letter confirming that you have enough money available to cover your course fees and monthly living costs (see below)

How long can I extend my stay in the UK for?

Type of course	Length of course	Length of stay allowed
Degree level or above	12 months or more	The full length of the course plus 4 months after the end of your course
Degree level or above	Six months or more, but less than 12 months	The full length of the course plus 2 months after the end of your course
Course to prepare you for study	Less than 6 months	The full length of the course plus 1 months after the end of your course
Other course (not one to prepare you for study)	Less than 6 months	The full length of the course plus 7 days after the end of your course
Below degree level	12 months or more	The full length of the course (up to a max of 3 years) plus 4 months after the end of your course
Below degree level	Six months or more, but less than 12 months	The full length of the course plus 2 months after the end of your course