



CHILD STUDENT VISA

Visa Application Guidance for Prospective Boarding Pupils

October 2020



Dear Parent

Visa application guidance for prospective boarding pupils

Congratulations on your child being offered a place at Taunton School. As an overseas applicant this place is dependent on successfully obtaining a UK visa. We have issued a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) required by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to sponsor your child to come to our School. You will find details of the course in your child's CAS attached to this letter, please keep this safe as it contains information which you will need to complete your child's online application.

We understand that your child will be attending our School as a boarding pupil. If this is not the case, please contact the admissions office immediately.

You must apply for your child's visa no later than six months after the date of issue of the CAS, but no earlier than six months before the course start date given on the CAS (if applying from outside of the UK).

We understand that the visa application process can be confusing, but we hope that this pack will successfully guide you through the process.

KEEPING THE SCHOOL INFORMED

Travel arrangements

If your child is travelling independently to the UK, please provide arrival / travel information to the admissions office in due course.

Missing information

If you do not have all the information in the application checklist we ask that you **do not submit the application**, but instead seek assistance from your local British Embassy, High Commission or your visa application centre.

Receiving a decision from UK Visas and Immigration

As soon as you have received a decision from UKVI about your child's visa application, please let the admissions office know.

Before you proceed

We strongly advise you to consult UKVI's Child Student Visa guidance which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa> prior to submitting your visa application.

Should you require any assistance with your application, please contact the admissions office who will be happy to help.

Please note: our team are happy to answer questions where possible but cannot provide immigration advice.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming you all to Taunton School.

Best wishes

Helen Kingaby
Head of International Admissions



CHILD STUDENT VISA: VISA APPLICATION GUIDANCE PACK

Boarding Pupils

This guidance is provided by the School for information purposes only and is not official guidance provided by UK Visas and Immigration. It is general guidance that is not intended to amount to legal or other professional advice. It should not be treated as a substitute for obtaining independent legal or other professional advice relevant to your circumstances.

Where this guidance contains links to websites and resources provided by third parties, these links are provided for information purposes only and the School has no control over, nor takes any responsibility for, the content of any such websites or resources. The School makes no representations, warranties or guarantees, whether express or implied, that the content of this guidance is accurate, complete or up to date. You are advised to obtain legal or other professional advice if you require assistance with specific immigration queries.

Taunton School shall not be liable for any loss or damage arising out of, or in connection with, any use of or reliance on this guidance, or any websites or resources referred to in it.



PART 1 - GUIDANCE FOR ALL CHILD STUDENT VISA APPLICANTS

Introduction

As your child is aged between 4 and 17 years of age and is to be educated in an independent fee paying school, you need to apply for a Child Student Visa (under the UKVI points-based system) on their behalf.

Your child must be able to show UKVI that they meet the full requirements of the immigration rules and have enough money to cover the course fees and monthly living costs to stay in the UK whilst they are studying at our School.

Information on applying for a visa is available at <https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa>. The information provided below will guide you through the criteria and entry requirements needed to apply for a Child Student Visa.

Overview

The eligibility requirements for a Child Student Visa are that you have:

- An unconditional offer of a place on a course at an independent school
- Be able to show you'll have access to enough money to support you in the UK and pay for your course
- Have the consent of your parent or legal guardian to study in the UK – you'll need to prove this when you apply

See sections 1 to 3 below for more information on each of these requirements.

1 “An unconditional offer of a place on a course at an independent school”

By coming to our School for full time education, your child has a “place on a course”. The CAS reference number provides your child with an official, unconditional offer of a place on a course and will act as evidence of this when prompted during the online visa application. The School meets the UKVI requirement of teaching a course in line with the independent school education inspection standards.

2 “Be able to show you'll have access to enough money to support you in the UK and pay for your course”

As a boarding pupil, “course fees and living costs” mean “school fees”. School fees, in your child's case, include both course fees and living costs. You must be able to show the remaining annual school fees as stated on the CAS (NB all nationals of countries listed on Appendix CS are not required to submit financial evidence as standard, however you may still be asked for it. Appendix CS can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/appendix-cs-child-student>)

If you have already paid your child's school fees in full for the first year, the information contained in the CAS will provide sufficient evidence of this for the application.

Please also note that you do not need to prove you have money to support yourself if you've had a valid UK visa for at least 12 months immediately prior to the date of your Child Student visa application - you must currently be in the UK.

For full guidance on the financial requirements please refer to this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/financial-evidence-for-student-and-child-student-route-applicants>

3 “Have the consent of your parent or legal guardian to study in the UK – you'll need to prove this when you apply”

All parent(s) / legal guardian(s) must complete the Parental Consent Letter. Please note that you will not receive the CAS letter until the school has received the completed Parental Consent Letter.

The consent letter must consent to:

- The student's visa application
- The student's living arrangements and care in the UK
- The student's travel to the UK

Important: The application must be supported by both parents, or legal guardians, or by just one parent if that parent has sole legal responsibility for the child. It is important that the correct people sign the letter.

You must attach a notarised copy of your child's birth certificate, adoption certificate or other court document to the letter as proof that you are their parent(s) / legal guardian(s).

A copy of the letter and a copy of the notarised copy of the relevant birth certificate, adoption certificate or other court document must **also** be sent to the admissions office at our School as UKVI require us to hold a copy on file.



COMPLETING THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM

Part of the Child Student Visa application must be completed online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa/apply>

Important: Any documents which are in support of your child's application, but are not in English or Welsh must be accompanied by a full translation that can be independently verified by UKVI. The original translation must contain confirmation from the translator / translation company:

- that it is an accurate translation of the original document
- that it was completed on the date the translation was completed; and
- be signed (full name and signature) by the translator or an authorised official of the company.

Contact details of the translator / translation company must also be provided should UKVI need to verify the documents.

Even though the application form will be completed online, you will need to print it out and your child will need to sign it if they are old enough to do so. Both parents, or the legal guardian will also need to sign and date the form.

As part of the online application, you will be directed to make an appointment at an appropriate visa application centre or visa section so that your child's biometric data can be obtained; a digital photograph and their fingerprints will be taken during the appointment.

The online system will also tell you how and where to send the hardcopy of the application form and the necessary supporting documentation once it has been completed.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) TESTING AND CERTIFICATES

Applicants from some countries are required to provide a medical certificate to prove they have been clear of tuberculosis for more than six months.

Check here if your child is from one of these countries: <https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa> and find out how to obtain the certificate.



BIOMETRIC RESIDENCE PERMITS (BRPS)

By applying for a visa to enter the UK, your child will be applying for a BRP (which contains full permission to stay in the UK) at the same time.

If your child is successful in obtaining a visa he / she will be issued with a vignette in his/her passport which is valid for 30 days from the date indicated as the intended travel date on the visa application form. It is this vignette which allows your child to enter the UK.

A decision letter from UKVI will accompany your child's passport containing the vignette. This decision letter will give details of the date from which your child's BRP should be available for collection in the UK. **Please send a copy of your child's vignette and UKVI decision letter to the school once received.**

Your child's BRP/visa will be in the UK ready for their arrival, your child has 2 options to collect their BRP, these are:

Option 1: The BRP is sent directly to the school as an alternative collection centre

Taunton School has an agreement with UKVI whereby you can opt for your child's BRP to be sent directly to the School. The School will normally issue the BRP to your child within ten days of the permit arriving at the School.

If you wish the School to receive your child's BRP, you will need to enter the following ACL code: 3SC592 when prompted in the Alternative Location field during the online application process.

Please note that your child should collect his / her BRP from the School within ten days of arrival in the UK. If the BRP remains uncollected for a period of 60 days the School will be obliged to return it to the Home Office.

OR



Option 2: School not as alternative collection centre

Taunton School can collect the BRP from a designated Post Office, please choose the Taunton Branch at:

**52 North Street,
Taunton,
Somerset
TA1 1ND**

Once you have your home office decision letter and 30 day travel vignette, please ensure a copy is emailed to admissions@tauntonschool.co.uk so we can make the necessary arrangements to collect the BRP card if necessary.

IMMIGRATION HEALTH SURCHARGE

The Immigration Health Surcharge is a financial contribution to the UK's National Health Service. This is payable during the online Child Student Visa application. You will need to pay a fee of £470 for each period of 12 months leave granted when you make the visa application. Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application>

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION AND DOCUMENTATION

You cannot submit your child's application until you have attended an appropriate visa application centre or visa section to have their biometric data taken.

Once you are satisfied that you have all the relevant supporting documentation, you will need to submit it together with a hardcopy of the appropriately signed and dated application form to the relevant visa application centre or visa section as explained at the end of the online process.

Important: You will be required to prove the relationship between you and your child. You must do this by providing, as part of the application, your child's original birth certificate, certificate of adoption or court document naming you as legal guardian (as appropriate) or a notarised copy of such.



INTERVIEWS

When you make your application for a Student Visa or if you are aged 16 or 17 and applying for a Child Student Visa, you may be asked to undertake an interview, either in person, or on the telephone to check that you are a genuine student. If as a result of this interview the Home Office is not satisfied that you are a genuine student, or your application is shown to fall for refusal under the General Grounds for Refusal, the application will be refused.

As a result of the interview your child may be refused a visa. If they fail to attend the interview without reasonable excuse their application will be refused.