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Many congratulations to your child on securing a place at Taunton School. We are delighted that they will be joining us and we look forward to welcoming them to the school soon.

Without 'Settled' or 'Pre-Settled' Status, all students from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein must now have a **Child Student Visa** to enter and study in the UK.

The information in this document will provide guidance on the Child Student Visa application and what you need to do to successfully secure your child's visa.

### **Child Student Visa Overview**

A Child Student Visa is for students between the ages of 4 & 17 years old who wish to study at an independent school in the UK.

To qualify for a Child Student Visa your child must have:

1. An unconditional offer of a place on a course at an independent school
2. Have the consent of his/her parents or legal guardian to study in the UK – you will need to provide written evidence of this when you apply.

Please note that EU and EEA nationals are deemed as 'low risk nationals' and will **not** be required to provide financial evidence in support of their visa application. For the full list of low risk nationals please click on the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-child-student>

If your child is 18 years of age or older at the time of submitting their visa application they will need to apply for a 'Student Visa', not a 'Child Student Visa'. The process is exactly the same but please do email [admissions@tauntonschool.co.uk](mailto:admissions@tauntonschool.co.uk) for further information/guidance.

### **Visa Costs**

The cost of a Child Student Visa is currently set at **£348.00** if you are applying *outside* of the UK, or **£475.00** if you applying *within* the UK.

In addition to the above visa fee, you will also be required to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) which will give you full access to the UK's National Health Service for the duration of your visa. The cost of the IHS for a student is currently **£470.00 for each 12-month period the visa is granted** e.g. For a Two Year GCSE course you will need to pay a total IHS amount of £940 (£470 x2).

From time to time the cost of UK visas can change so please refer to this link for updated information - <https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa>

## When to apply

If you are applying for a Child Student Visa outside of the UK you can apply for a visa up to **6 months** before the course start date.

If you are applying for a Child Student Visa *within* the UK you can apply for a visa up to **3 months** before the course start date.

## The Visa application process

- 1) To start your Child Student Visa application you must first obtain a Confirmation of Acceptance to Study (CAS) letter from the school. This CAS letter will have the child's full passport information, course details as well as include a unique CAS reference number. Without this CAS reference, you cannot start the visa application.

To enable the school to send you the CAS letter we must first receive:

- a) A copy of your child's passport
- b) A copy of your child's Birth Certificate + English translation
- c) A signed Parental Consent Letter (we will send you a template letter to complete and sign)

Please note that the duration of your visa will be determined by the length of your course. For example, if you are coming to Taunton School to study the 2 Year IB Diploma then your Visa will also be for 2 years. If you are attending our Summer School before your main course of study then the CAS letter will include your Summer School start date as the start date of your course and therefore your visa start date will reflect this also.

- 2) Once you have the CAS letter you can start the online visa application by clicking here and following the visa application steps: <https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa/apply>

EU and EEA nationals can use the free UK Immigration ID Check app to upload and scan your child's passport, biometrics and upload a photo – To do this please download the below app onto your IOS or Android device.



If you do not have a phone you can still continue with your application online by clicking this link: [https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/dashboard/landing-page/new/STUDENT\\_CHILD](https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/dashboard/landing-page/new/STUDENT_CHILD)

- 3) Once you have submitted your online application you will usually get a decision within 3 weeks. The decision letter will be emailed to the email address you provided during your online visa application and the decision letter will confirm your visa start and end date. For further information on visa decision waiting times please click here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visa-decision-waiting-times-applications-outside-the-uk>
- 4) When you receive your decision letter/email from the UK Home Office you will then need to share your visa details with the school. To do this please click the following link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status> to obtain a 'share code'
- 5) Send this share code to [admissions@tauntonschool.co.uk](mailto:admissions@tauntonschool.co.uk) where we can then download proof of your child's immigration status.

Please note it is UK Visa and Immigration law that we hold proof of all students' immigration status, therefore please ensure you send us the share code as soon as you receive your visa decision letter.

- 6) Your visa will be held electronically, this means that you *will not* have a Biometrics Residence Permit (BRP)/visa card. Instead your immigration status will be held electronically and when you pass through UK border control your visa details will automatically appear on the Border Controls database.

**We hope this guidance provides a little more clarity on the Child Student Visa application, however, should you have any further questions at all please contact our admissions team on [admissions@tauntonschool.co.uk](mailto:admissions@tauntonschool.co.uk)**