

Student Route visa

How to apply for a Student visa in the UK

This guide is for students who are applying to either extend their student visa in the UK or switch to this visa from a different visa type under the Immigration Rules. Not all students can extend their Student visa or switch to this type of visa while remaining in the UK, and it is important that you understand this to avoid your application being refused.

Extending your visa

To extend your visa you must:

- Already be in the UK on a valid Student visa that expires no more than 28 days before the course you are starting
- Have an unconditional offer to study at AUB, and have successfully requested a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)
- Show that your studies are at a higher academic level than your current course (called the 'academic progress requirement'); this will normally be stated on the CAS. Please note: there is a limited number of circumstances that will allow you to study at the same level as your previous course.

If you are progressing from an undergraduate (BA) course, studied at AUB or elsewhere in the UK, to a postgraduate (MA) course at AUB, you will normally be able to extend your visa in the UK. The same usually applies if you have completed A-Levels in the UK and are joining a BA or Foundation course at AUB.

Foundation students progressing to an undergraduate (BA) course are not normally able to extend, as the gap between the end of the old visa and the start of the new course is generally too long.

You can read more about extending your visa [here](#).

Switching to a Student visa in the UK

You may be able to switch to a Student visa if you already have permission to be in the UK.

To switch to a Student visa you must:

- Already be in the UK on a valid, eligible visa, such as a dependant visa
- Have an unconditional offer to study at AUB, and have successfully requested a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

It is not possible to switch to a Student visa if you are in the UK as a visitor, on a short-term visa, or you have leave (visa, permission to be in the UK) outside the Immigration Rules.

You can read more about switching to a Student visa [here](#).

If you are still unsure if you are eligible to apply for your visa from within the UK, please [contact us](#), ideally before requesting your CAS. It is important that you are honest about your circumstances, so that we can make sure we give you the right information.

In complex cases, you may need to consult with an Immigration Adviser; you can find a register of advisers [here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a CAS?

The CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) is a code that you will need to apply for a Student visa. You must request this from AUB (you can find more details on how to do this by clicking on the 'Requesting your CAS' pop-up [here](#)). Once issued, we will email you your CAS; it will contain details of the course you are going to be studying; course start and finish dates; and any tuition fees and/or accommodation (Halls of Residence) fees you may have paid for.

When can I apply to extend my visa?

You can apply for your visa extension during the last 3 months of your current permission to remain in the UK, and no more than three months before the start of your course.

If I extend my visa in the UK, or switch to a Student visa, can I travel outside the UK while I wait for the decision?

No, you should not travel as leaving the UK is likely to result in your application being automatically rejected. We strongly advise that you do not make any travel plans or arrangements until your visa has been granted, in case there are any delays processing your application.

Can I start my new course at AUB before I submit my application?

No, you can only begin your new course at the AUB if you have submitted your application for your new permission to remain in the UK. You will not be able to enrol onto your course until this has been done.

Can I start my new course at AUB before I receive my new visa?

Yes, you can enrol onto and begin attending your new course before receiving your new visa, but only if you have submitted your application in-time.

How can I get a decision on my visa application sooner than the 'Standard Service' offers?

Making a visa application in the UK is likely to take longer than you may have experienced applying for a visa from outside the UK. The STANDARD processing time is eight weeks. If you want to receive your decision quicker, you might prefer to choose the PRIORITY or SUPER PRIORITY services.

The PRIORITY service should take five working days, whereas the SUPER PRIORITY service should take just one working day. Both of these come at an additional cost; UKVI publish a table of fees [here](#).

If you have any further questions, please contact the Compliance team on StudentVisas@aub.ac.uk