

Required documents to study in the United Kingdom

Last reviewed 16 October 2026. Requirements depend on your nationality, university, programme and circumstances, and embassies can ask for more. Items marked If Applicable or University-Specific are not needed by every student. Confirm with your university and the official sources before applying.

Required	Needed by every applicant on this route.
If Applicable	Only needed in some situations, for example your age, nationality, funding or course.
University-Specific	Depends on the university or programme you apply to.

University admission documents

- ☐ **Valid passport**
Required
The bio-data page, plus copies of previous visas if you have travelled before. Make sure it stays valid for the whole application and visa process.
- ☐ **Passport-size photographs**
Required
Recent photos taken against the size and background rules of the university or embassy you are applying to.
- ☐ **Matric / SSC certificate and transcript**
Required
Your secondary school results. Postgraduate applicants are often asked for their full academic history as well.
- ☐ **Intermediate / HSSC certificate and transcript**
Required
Your FSc, FA, ICS, ICom, A Level or equivalent results. Used to check you meet undergraduate entry requirements.
- ☐ **Bachelor's degree and complete transcript**
Required | Master's and PhD
Your degree certificate and the full mark sheet for every semester or year. Needed for master's and PhD applications.
- ☐ **English language proof**
Required
An IELTS, TOEFL, PTE or other test the university accepts. Some universities accept a Medium of Instruction (MOI) letter instead; check each programme.
- ☐ **UCAS application and academic reference**
Required | Undergraduate
Most undergraduate applications go through UCAS and include a personal statement and a reference from your school or college.
<https://www.ucas.com/>
- ☐ **Master's degree and transcript**
University-Specific | PhD
Most PhD programmes ask for a relevant master's degree. Some admit outstanding bachelor's graduates directly.
- ☐ **CV / Resume**
University-Specific
A short summary of your education, work and achievements. Commonly requested for postgraduate programmes.

- ☐ **Statement of Purpose (SOP) or personal statement**
University-Specific
A written statement explaining why you chose the course and university and how it fits your goals. It must be your own work.
- ☐ **Letters of Recommendation (LORs)**
University-Specific
Letters from teachers or employers who know your work. The number and format depend on the university.
- ☐ **Application form and fee receipt**
University-Specific
The completed online application and proof of any application fee paid.
- ☐ **Direct application to the university**
University-Specific | Master's and PhD
Postgraduate applications are usually made on each university's own website, with its own document list.
- ☐ **Research proposal**
If Applicable | Master's and PhD
An outline of the research you plan to do. Usually needed for PhD and research-based master's programmes.
- ☐ **Portfolio or work experience certificates**
If Applicable
Needed for creative subjects such as art, design or architecture, or for programmes that require professional experience.
- ☐ **Attestation, translations and legalisation**
If Applicable
Some universities and embassies ask for HEC degree attestation, IBCC equivalence, certified translations, notarisation or an apostille. Arrange these early as they take time.
<https://www.hec.gov.pk/>

Student visa and immigration documents

- ☐ **Valid passport**
Required
A current passport or other valid travel document.
<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/documents-you-must-provide>
- ☐ **Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)**
Required
A reference number your university gives you after you accept an unconditional offer. You need it to apply for the Student visa.
<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/documents-you-must-provide>
- ☐ **Online visa application and fees**
Required
The Student visa application on GOV.UK, the visa fee and the Immigration Health Surcharge.
<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/apply>
- ☐ **Proof of money**
If Applicable
Evidence that you can pay your course fees and living costs. Whether you must submit it depends on your circumstances; funds must usually be held for 28 consecutive days.
<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/money>

☐ Tuberculosis (TB) test certificate

If Applicable

Needed if you are applying from a country on the UK's TB test list, which includes Pakistan. The test must be done at a UK-approved clinic.

<https://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa>

☐ ATAS certificate

If Applicable | Master's and PhD

An Academic Technology Approval Scheme certificate, needed for some science and technology courses depending on the course and your nationality.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme>

☐ Financial sponsor's consent

If Applicable

Written consent if a government or international scholarship agency paid your fees and living costs in the last 12 months.

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/documents-you-must-provide>

☐ Parental consent (under 18)

If Applicable | Undergraduate

Written consent from your parents or legal guardian and a birth certificate showing their names, if you are under 18.

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/documents-you-must-provide>

☐ Certified translations

If Applicable

An official translation of any document that is not in English or Welsh.

Financial documents

☐ Student's bank statement

If Applicable

Statements showing funds for tuition and living costs. Some countries require the money to be in the student's own account.

☐ Sponsor's bank statement

If Applicable

If a parent or relative is paying, their statements, where the country accepts sponsored funds.

☐ Sponsorship letter or affidavit

If Applicable

A signed statement from your sponsor confirming they will pay, how much, and for how long.

☐ Sponsor's passport or CNIC

If Applicable

Identity document of the person sponsoring you.

☐ Proof of relationship with sponsor

If Applicable

For example a NADRA Family Registration Certificate (FRC) or birth certificate showing how you are related.

☐ Sponsor's income documents

If Applicable

Salary slips and an employment letter, or business registration documents if self-employed.

☐ Tax returns or income certificate

If Applicable

Recent tax returns or an income certificate, where the embassy asks for them.

☐ **Scholarship or education loan letter**

If Applicable

An official award or loan letter, where the destination accepts it as financial evidence.

☐ **Tuition fee deposit receipt**

If Applicable

Proof of any tuition already paid to the university.

Need a personal checklist?

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