

INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT VISA
TUITION FEES
FINANCIAL EVIDENCE
ACCOMMODATION
NEXT STEPS 2025



YOU'RE ONE STEP CLOSER

"As a young person leaving home for the first time, the whole process of moving overseas was daunting, and the International Team's support gave me a place to start and a better sense of what I needed to do and when.

My best advice to you is to take things one day at a time. Applying for visas and accommodation can get really overwhelming, but as long as you read everything carefully and ask the International Team for help when you need it, you will be fine. Once you get to LIPA, you'll see that all of the work you put in was worth it. You'll find your footing and some of most wonderful people you'll ever get the pleasure of meeting."

Haiven (She/her)
BA (Hons) Music (Songwriting & Performance) (2024)
USA

As you prepare to join us, we know you'll be excited, but also have lots of questions. This booklet will help support you through the practicalities and important tasks you must do.

While every care has been taken, this is only a guide and does not replace official advice and guidance from UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).

You can find out more about the Student visa process at www.gov.uk/student-visa.

We also recommend The United Kingdom Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA), a charity devoted to protecting the interests of international students studying in the UK: www.ukcisa.org.uk.

We are always on hand to answer any questions you may have and to support and guide you, but you must take responsibility for the next steps.

Ryan, Darren and Katie
LIPA International Team

Email: international@lipa.ac.uk
Telephone: **+44 (0) 151 330 3118**

Your International Team have lived, travelled and worked around the world, and have years of experience in supporting students just like you. If you've got a question please get in touch - if we can't answer it, we can point you in the right direction.

APPLYING FOR A STUDENT VISA

You must apply to UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) unless you have one of the following: a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland passport; a Republic of Ireland passport; or EU Settled Status (EUSS). Before you can begin the Student visa application process, there are a number of steps which you must follow.

1. ACCEPT YOUR OFFER

You must do this by the date in your offer letter.

2. HOLD A VALID PASSPORT

We recommend your passport is valid for at least three months beyond 1st September 2025. If you haven't already provided a copy of your passport, please email one to international@lipa.ac.uk.

3. PAY YOUR TUITION FEE DEPOSIT

Your tuition fee is in your offer letter. The majority of students are required to pay a tuition fee deposit to guarantee your place, which must be paid by the date confirmed in your offer letter. See Page 8 - 9 for more information.

4. PREPARE YOUR DOCUMENTATION

Before you can proceed we will check your documentation. If your offer is conditional, you must provide evidence that you have met the conditions set. For some students, UKVI requires evidence of funding to cover both tuition fees and living costs, although the requirements vary depending on how you are funding your studies and which country you are from. More information can be found in this booklet or by visiting www.gov.uk/student-visa/money.

You cannot progress further until we are confident your visa application will be successful.

6. APPLY FOR A STUDENT VISA

Once you have your CAS number, you should apply for your Student visa as soon as possible. Obtaining a Student visa is your responsibility and failure to do so will result in you being unable to enter the UK or enrol with us.

5. OBTAIN A CAS NUMBER

A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) is an electronic document that generates a reference number you need to be able to apply for a visa. The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts will act as your sponsor and issue you a unique CAS number once you have completed steps 1 to 4.

TOP TIP

Before you begin, make sure that you fully understand the process and have read the guidance provided to you by us and UKVI. If you have questions or concerns, please get in touch.

WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR MY STUDENT VISA?

If you are applying for a visa from outside of the UK, the earliest you can do this is six months before your course starts.

Processing times for all visa applications can take longer at peak times and an early application is highly recommended.

HOW MUCH WILL MY APPLICATION COST?

The Student visa application fee is £490. In addition to the application fee, you are required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge, which gives you access to the UK's National Health Service (NHS).

Once your course starts, any medical treatment you require in the UK will be free of any further charges if you use the NHS, just as it is for UK nationals. The surcharge is compulsory, even if you hold private healthcare insurance.

Surcharge costs are as follows:

- Foundation and Certificate of HE programmes: £776
- Undergraduate (BA) programmes: £2,716
- Postgraduate (MA) programmes: £1,164

The surcharge will give access to NHS healthcare services from your arrival in the UK until the date your visa expires.

HOW DO I PROVE MY IDENTITY?

In the early stages of your Student visa application you'll be asked to prove your identity.

If your passport is from an EU, EEA (including Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) country or Switzerland and has a biometric chip, typically you'll be able to use the 'UK Immigration ID Check' app to scan your identity document.

If your passport is from a country outside of these, or does not have a biometric chip, you'll need to book an appointment to attend a Visa Application Centre in person to submit your documentation and have your biometric information taken (finger prints and photograph).

WHEN WILL I KNOW THE OUTCOME OF MY STUDENT VISA APPLICATION?

You'll typically be notified of the outcome of your visa application within four weeks of applying (if you apply from outside the UK) or eight weeks of applying (if you apply from within the UK).

CONFIRMING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

We strongly recommend you do not make any travel bookings until your Student visa is granted. See our International Arrival Guide for more information.

TOP TIP

Remember to double check all information you have provided before submitting your application. A member of the International Team can help you do this.



TUITION FEES

The majority of new students are required to pay a tuition fee deposit, although how much you are required to pay varies depending on how you are funding your studies. Any deposit payment is deducted from the remaining tuition fee balance.

SELF-FUNDING STUDENTS

If you are self-funding your studies, you must pay a tuition fee deposit of £2,000, due by the date confirmed in your offer letter. Instructions on how to pay this are given in the email sent with this guide.

The remaining balance is due in full by 31 August 2025, or in two equal instalments due 31 August 2025 and 31 December 2025, subject to providing a letter of guarantee from a party acceptable to LIPA. Please note the guarantor becomes liable for the debt if instalments are not received.

To agree these arrangements please contact our Finance Team: **finance.team@lipa.ac.uk** quoting your LIPA ID number.

FUNDED STUDENTS

If you are receiving a student loan or financial sponsorship (as determined by UKVI) you may be eligible to pay a reduced tuition fee deposit. This includes Norwegian students receiving funding from Lånekassen and Icelandic students receiving funding from the Icelandic Student Loan Fund.

If applicable, you must pay a tuition fee deposit of £500 due by the date confirmed in your offer letter.

Instructions on how to pay this are given in the email sent with this guide.

Please note Lånekassen do not typically fund Foundation Certificate students.

Students who take out US government approved education loans (Direct Loans, Sallie Mae loans or Earnest loans) are not required to pay a tuition fee deposit.

The International Team will write to all US students before the deposit due date to advise on the loan certification process.

If you are in receipt of student loans or financial sponsorship, you can pay your tuition fees in accordance with the terms of your funding provider.

TOP TIP

We operate a reserve list for all our courses, and greatly appreciate you notifying us of your intention to join us, or not, as early as possible. Your place may be offered to someone else should you not meet the deadlines set.

FINANCIAL EVIDENCE

UKVI requires all new students applying for a Student visa to provide evidence of funding to cover both tuition fees and livings costs, although the requirements vary depending on how you are funding your studies.



HOW MUCH FUNDING AM I REQUIRED TO EVIDENCE?

You are required to provide evidence of funds for both:

- The full cost of your tuition fee for one year, minus any deposit paid

PLUS

- £10,224 to cover your living costs, calculated at a rate of £1,136 per month, up to a maximum of nine months (for students studying outside of London)

How you evidence this will vary on how you are funding your studies.

SELF-FUNDING STUDENTS

Funds must be in either your own account, or that of a parent or legal guardian, for at least 28 consecutive days. The end date of the 28-day period must be within 31 days of the date you apply for your visa.

The funds can be held in any form of personal or building society account, not including an overdraft facility. Stocks and shares and pensions are not accepted as sufficient evidence.

There is no requirement for funds to remain in your account once you have received your visa. UKVI rules allow you to use funding held by a parent or legal guardian, however there are strict rules about how this must be evidenced.

Students from a country listed under the UKVI differential evidence requirement do not routinely need to present all the supporting documents for maintenance, however the UKVI reserve the right to ask for these at any time.

As your sponsor, we may choose to not issue you with a CAS until we are satisfied that you have the correct documentation, in the correct format, to be compliant with UKVI rules.

FUNDED STUDENTS

For example, you might be funding your studies through:

- FAFSA, Sallie Mae or GI Bill (USA)
- Icelandic Student Loan Fund (Iceland)
- Lånekassen (Norway)

If so, you must provide evidence of this from your loan or sponsorship company.

More information on the funding evidence required by UKVI can be found at:
www.gov.uk/student-visa/money.

ACCOMMODATION

Student accommodation in the UK may differ to that in your home country. Our Accommodation Guide gives you some more information on options available in Liverpool, but as an international student, here are our top tips.

Most students live within a 10 - 15 minute walk of LIPA. Living nearby is encouraged so that you are close to your classes, our social events and all the city has to offer. It also means you are not reliant on public transport or long journey times between your accommodation and classes.

Most student accommodation is a single (non-sharing) study bedroom. In the UK a typical student bedroom will include a minimum of a bed, desk, chair, wardrobe and storage.

In some accommodation students have their own kitchen and bathroom facilities and share social spaces. In others students share bathroom and kitchen facilities with a small number of students (typically three or four).

Most halls of residence will be inclusive of bills (gas, electricity, water, Wi-Fi etc.) and included in your rent.

Most accommodation providers try to group LIPA students together but occasionally you'll be living with students from other universities across the city. You'll be fully integrated with students from across the UK and around the world.

Prices vary and you should be mindful of your budget before signing a contract.

TOP TIP

The International Team have experience of working with accommodation providers, as well as hearing first-hand from our current students who live in the accommodation we recommend. If you have any questions - please get in touch: international@lipa.ac.uk.

TOP TIP

All accommodation is self-catered - if you haven't got much cooking experience, try to practice your cooking skills prior to joining us.



ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

We recommend in your first year choosing student accommodation recommended in our Accommodation Guide, or student accommodation from another reputable provider. Occasionally students may choose to rent from a private landlord - this tends to be further away from LIPA and may be unfurnished and not inclusive of bills, which can be a lot to manage, particularly if you're moving away from home for the first time.

From time to time some students may choose to move into temporary accommodation. This is not something we recommend and if you choose to do this please discuss it with the International Team who can help you.

PAYING FOR YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Some accommodation providers may request a deposit, a guarantor or payment in fewer, larger instalments. LIPA are unable to act as a guarantor.

INSURANCE

We recommend all students obtain contents insurance against theft and loss. Endsleigh Insurance is a specialist student insurance company affiliated to the National Union of Students: www.endsleigh.co.uk.

Endsleigh also offers specialist insurance policies for musical instruments and equipment.

TOP TIP

Check the length of contract offered by a landlord before signing any tenancy agreement, particularly for privately rented accommodation. The International Team is happy to support and advise you. Let us know where you are thinking of living and we will share our thoughts and knowledge.

TOP TIP

Bring a few photos of your friends and family back home - photos are easy to fit in your luggage and you can use them to decorate your room and to remind you to phone or email them from time to time.



Mount Street
Liverpool
L1 9HF
United Kingdom

QUESTIONS

international@lipa.ac.uk
Instagram - @lipaliverpool
+44 (0)151 330 3118

lipa.ac.uk