

Important information for Tier 4 (General) Visa Students only:

The UK Border Agency has updated the immigration rules and regulations for Tier 4 students coming to the UK to study or to extend their visa.

You will still need to pass a points-based assessment before you are given permission to enter or remain in the UK. Under Tier 4 (General student), 40 points will be required. 30 points will be awarded for having a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) from an approved education provider and 10 points will be awarded if you can show that you have enough money to cover your course fees and living costs for up to 9 months of study.

The CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) has replaced the Visa letter, which are no longer valid. The CAS is NOT a paper document, it is a computer database record. The CAS contains details of the course of study for which it has been issued, personal details and passport information and has a unique reference number which you must write on your visa application form.

The UKBA have raised the minimum level of English Language course that Tier 4 (General) students can study, to level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Before you can apply to study an English Language course in the UK, you will need to show that your English language skills are at CEFR level B1 or higher. (There are exceptions if you are a government-sponsored student)

Please note: If you want to study English as a Foreign Language at a level below B2 (CEFR) you must apply for a student visitor visa and can only study in the UK for a maximum of 6 months. Please ask for further details or go to: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/student-visitors/>

If you are applying for leave to remain inside the UK, you must refer to the UKBA's website for all up to date information on these changes and how to apply for your visa:

- <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/adult-students/applying/>

You must read:

- **Tier 4 (General) Application Form**
- **Help text for the Tier 4 (General) applications**
- **Tier 4 policy guidance**
- **Photo Guidance**

If you are applying for entry clearance from outside of the UK, you must refer to the UK Visas website for all up to date information on these changes and how to apply for your visa:

- <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/infos/inf29pbsstudent>

You must read:

- **Visa application guidance** click **Points Based System Tier 4 General Student (INF 29)**
- **Photograph guidance for applicants**
- **Visa application centres overseas**
- **Apply online (check to see if your home country will allow you to)**

or

- **Application forms if you are applying from outside of the UK:**

<http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/vafs/> You must complete both forms:

1. **Form VAF9 – PBS Migrant and**
2. **PBS Appendix 8 : Tier 4 General Student Self Assessment Form**
Read PBS Migrant Guidance Notes when completing these forms

In particular please be aware of the following when completing your visa application forms:

- **Type of visa**

In order to study at Wyke College on the English as a Foreign Language course at CEFR level B2 or above you must apply as a General (Adult) Student under the Tier 4 route. The minimum age of entry is 16 years.

**If you would like to study at CEFR level B1 or below, you must apply for a student visitor visa and can only study for a maximum of 6 months in the UK. Further details are available on request or at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/student-visitors/>

- **Approved education provider**

You will be required to obtain a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) from an approved education provider. Wyke College is an approved education provider and is listed in the 'tier 4 register of sponsors'. It holds a 'Highly Trusted Sponsor' licence.

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points/whatisthepointsbasedsystem/sponsoringstudents/

- **Biometric identity card**

All students applying for an extension of stay, or entry clearance to the UK under Tier 4 will now be issued with a Biometric Identity Card. This will replace the visa sticker that was previously placed in the passport. It is important to read the information on '**photographic guidance**' mentioned above otherwise your application may be refused if you do not comply with the rules.

- **Money (or maintenance) requirements**

You must prove that you have enough money to cover your full course fees for the first year and living expenses of £600 per month for every month of the course.

You will be able to use the Points Based Calculator to check if you are likely to score enough points to qualify for Tier 4 before you make an application. The calculator can be found at:

[HTTP://WWW.UKBA.HOMEOFFICE.GOV.UK/POINTSCALCULATOR](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/pointscalculator)

If you are extending your current permission to stay and have just completed a course less than 4 months ago (that was more than 6 months long) you may need a lower amount of money in your bank account - course fees for the year plus living expenses of £1200. Please confirm that you qualify for this lower financial requirement.

If you are applying from either outside of the UK or in the UK, the required maintenance amount must be in your bank for at least 28 days before you apply for your visa. This evidence (ie. Bank statements) must be dated **no more than one month** before the date of your visa application.

If you are being sponsored by your home government, your Cultural Bureau must;

- 1) provide written consent to confirm that they agree for you to study in the UK and,
- 2) must also provide a Financial Sponsorship Certificate to confirm that they will cover the full amount required for your course fees and living costs for the whole year.

- **Course at an acceptable level**

The English as a Foreign Language course we offer leads to an approved qualification - City and Guilds International ESOL and it is delivered at levels ranging from A2 – C2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, which are acceptable levels. In order to comply with the Tier 4 regulations, you must study at level B2 (CEFR) or above.

** If you would like to study at CEFR level B1 or below, you can not apply under the Tier 4 student route, you must apply for a student visitor visa and can only study for a maximum of 6 months in the UK. Further details are available on request or read:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/student-visitors/>

Disclaimer: Whilst we try to ensure the accuracy of the information and advice given, the requirements relating to visas are complex and change frequently. You should therefore check the requirements which apply to you on the UKBA website www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk. Wyke College cannot therefore accept responsibility for any inaccuracy or error in its information or advice.

How do I obtain a CAS from Wyke College?

1. Application Form

You must complete, sign and return the EFL course application form and the Additional Application Information form.

2. Assessment of study level

You will be required to complete an English diagnostic test to assess your study level either at interview or, if you are applying from outside of the UK, online or by post. If you wish you can also send us any original copies of English Language or IELTS Certificates you may have.

Please note: The UKBA has raised the minimum level of English language course that Tier 4 (General) students can study, to **level B2** of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Before you can apply to study EFL at Wyke College, you will need to show that your English language skills are at **CEFR level B1 or higher**. (*There are exceptions if you are a government-sponsored student – the minimum level of English level study is A2 CEFR).

3. Passport

You must bring your passport to your assessment interview (or if you are applying from outside of the UK) send a copy of your passport showing your full name, passport number, expiry date of passport and all visa stamps.

4. Course Deposit

All Tier 4 students must pay a deposit to Wyke College at the time of application before the CAS can be assigned. This deposit will be 75% * of the course fees due. This payment can be in the form of cash, credit card or, if applying from overseas, an International Bankers Draft, made payable to Wyke College in pounds sterling. Alternatively if you have friends or family living in Hull, they can pay this amount for you on your behalf by cash or credit card.

*If your immigration application is not successful, part of the deposit will be refunded on production of the visa refusal notification. Please note: **a non-refundable portion of £500 will be retained by the college.**

5. Financial Guarantee Certificate (Government Sponsored Students only)

If you are a government sponsored student, you will be required to provide a Financial Guarantee Certificate to Wyke College showing that your Embassy will cover the course fees for the **whole study period – from enrolment to May**.

6. CAS Statement

If all of the above conditions have been successfully carried out, Wyke College will provide you with a CAS statement to confirm your unique CAS number and all of the other information that was used to assign the CAS ie. course details, fees, documents used to assess your study level, your personal details etc. You will need this information to accurately complete your Tier 4 visa application form.

Please do not hesitate to contact Sandra Stokes if you require more information, or if you want to discuss your application in more detail.

Tel: 01482 346347 or email: sandra.stokes@wyke.ac.uk