



International Student Advice Team
Student Centre
visaadvice@city.ac.uk
020 7040 7040

International Student Advice Service: Statement of Service

Our Mission

We aim to provide high quality, free, confidential immigration and advice and guidance to prospective and current City, University of London students. We can advise you on Tier 4 Entry Clearance and in-country extension applications, Short Term Study applications, visa corrections and replacements, ATAS, dependant rules and applications, working during study and options to remain in the UK after your study. If you are coming to City, University of London to take up a job offer or undertake work with us, you should approach our Human Resources department. We are unable to advise on visa procedures for other countries.

Application check and send

If you are making an immigration application in the UK (e.g. to extend your visa or obtain a replacement BRP) we can check your documents and post the application to the Home Office on your behalf provided it is complete and correct. There is no extra charge for this service.

We reserve the right to withdraw or limit service in, but not limited to, the following situations: you consistently fail to attend appointments; you are abusive to our staff; you are untruthful about your situation, meaning we are not able to give you accurate advice; you fail to take action agreed with an adviser.

Our Advisers

Our team (Alan, Vicky and Polly) are all trained advisers with many years' experience of advising students on Tier 4 visa applications, extensions and other student and student-related immigration matters. We are the only City staff authorised by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) to provide immigration advice and services to students.

How to contact us

We can be contacted by email on visaadvice@city.ac.uk Emails are checked regularly during our opening hours, and you should usually expect to receive a reply within two working days.

If you would like to chat to an adviser you can attend one of our drop-ins. There is no need for an appointment – just come along to the Student Centre (2nd Floor, University Building, Northampton Square) between these times:

Tuesday: 14.30-16.30

Thursday: 10.30-12.30

You can also reach us by telephone on 020 7040 7040.

If you would like a longer appointment to have an application checked you can email us to request an appointment.

What to expect from us

- ✓ You will receive a prompt reply to your query – we aim to respond to all emails within two working days of receipt
- ✓ You will be treated in a courteous and non-judgemental manner
- ✓ If you attend an appointment or drop-in you will be interviewed in a comfortable and confidential space
- ✓ We will follow up on any action points as agreed in the meeting
- ✓ We will do our best to assist with your enquiry and strive to provide up to date, detailed and accurate advice and information, though we cannot ever guarantee the success of an immigration application as these decisions rest with UK Visas and Immigration
- ✓ If we are unable to advise on a particular matter we will inform you and refer you to someone who can

What we expect from you

- ✓ You will arrive on time for your appointment and will let us know if you're unable to attend your appointment or are going to be late
- ✓ You will provide us with all the relevant information about your situation, and let us know promptly if anything changes
- ✓ You will follow any action points which we agree with you

The OISC and the regulation of immigration advice

The provision of immigration advice is regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC). The OISC sets the principles to which immigration professionals must comply in a Code of Standards and The Commissioner's Rules: <http://oisc.homeoffice.gov.uk/> Higher Education institutions are authorised under a Ministerial Order (Part V of the Immigration and Asylum Act, 1999) to provide immigration advice and services and should adhere to the OISC Code of Standards.

City, University of London is a member of the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) and operates in accordance with the UKCISA and AISA (Association of International Student Advisers) Code of Ethics for those advising international students: www.ukcisa.org.uk/code-of-ethics

Only the International Student Advice team are qualified and authorised to provide immigration advice to students at City, University of London. DO NOT take immigration advice from academic staff, other administrative staff or other students. If the level of immigration advice you require is beyond our competence we will refer you to appropriately qualified external legal professionals. Any consultation fees charged by external agencies would need to be met by you.

Confidentiality and your data

The Student Centre operates within the University's Data Protection Policy, as outlined in the Data Protection Act 1998. Further information can be found at <http://www.city.ac.uk/about/city-information/legal/data-protection-notice>

You have the right to confidentiality when you use our service. We define confidentiality as a "circle of confidentiality" within which Student Centre members may discuss information about you, in an appropriate environment, e.g. to help resolve your case as efficiently as possible, or to assist with staff training and development. Any information we receive from or about you will not be disclosed

to others outside our team, and we cannot talk to anyone else, such as a parent or friend, about your case without your explicit permission. The only exceptions to this are:

- When you have given your explicit consent to disclose information to an individual or organisation
- Where we are required to discuss your situation with Visa Compliance staff to help resolve your query
- If you or others are in immediate danger
- If the provision of such information is required by the law
- If there is any risk to the institution's Tier 4 Licence

We may decide it is in your best interest to contact an external organisation such as the Home Office or the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) for further advice or opinions about your case. We will not usually give your personal details, such as your name, when doing this, and whenever possible we will advise you if we intend to do this. However, sometimes this may not be practical and we would generally assume that by coming to us for help, you are allowing us to resolve your queries in the best way we can.

To help protect confidentiality, advice will be delivered in a private space.

The OISC requires that we keep a record of any documents we submit to the Home Office and of our interactions with students. Where possible these are held electronically. Any physical documents will be kept securely within the Student Centre. Passports and other documents that are returned to us will be locked away until you are able to collect them from us.

Conflicts of interest

Under OISC rules, an adviser must not act where there is a real or potential conflict of interest between them and the client. Advisers must act objectively and in the client's best interests, even where they may hold different personal views or beliefs from the client. In such situations we would explain the circumstances fully and clearly to you. It may be appropriate to refer your case elsewhere or transfer it to another member of the team.

Referrals

Sometimes we are unable to help with your enquiry as it is outside our area of expertise and training. We work closely with other services in the university such as Careers and Counselling and can signpost students to those services if appropriate.

Giving us feedback

We are always keen to improve our service so would appreciate any feedback you have about your experience of contacting us. We welcome feedback by email or in person. If you have a complaint about our service please let us know and we will do our best to resolve the matter quickly. You can do this by writing directly to the member of staff concerned, or to the Senior International Adviser (polly.penter@city.ac.uk). If you are not comfortable contacting the service directly, or you have done so but do not feel your complaint has been satisfactorily dealt with, you can contact the Student Centre Manager (Alison.Jacobs.1@city.ac.uk).

As members of the Student Centre we participate in the WOW! Awards. If you have been especially impressed by the service you have received from a member of the team you can nominate them for an award at www.city.ac.uk/wow