Your responsibilities as a Tier 4 student
Understanding and complying with the conditions of your visa
Your responsibilities as a Tier 4 student

City, University of London has agreed to sponsor your Tier 4 student visa while you are studying with us. Before we issued your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) you agreed to our terms and conditions for Tier 4 students.

You have a responsibility to comply with the conditions of your visa and to help City meet its responsibilities to the Home Office. This guide will explain your responsibilities and the information that City, University of London will require from you while you are studying here.

The information contained in this booklet is correct at the time of going to print. Home Office regulations may change during your time at City and we will contact you directly if you may be affected.
Important City contacts

Visa Compliance team
The Visa Compliance team is responsible for ensuring that City, University of London is fully compliant with Home Office’s Tier 4 regulations. The Visa Compliance team may contact you periodically regarding your immigration records and the conditions of your visa.

@ visacompliance@city.ac.uk

International Student Advice team
The International Student Advice team can provide you with confidential advice and guidance on study-related visa and immigration issues. You can contact them via email or face-to-face in the Student Centre.

@ visaadvice@city.ac.uk

Your School
City, University of London has five Schools:

- Cass Business School
- School of Arts & Social Sciences
- School of Health Sciences
- School of Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering
- The City Law School.

Your School is responsible for all your academic matters and your Course Officer is the main contact person at your School.

Registration

As a new student at City, University of London you need to register for your programme.

Registration has two parts: Stage One: online registration and Stage Two: In-person registration which includes: verification of your identity, eligibility to study and issuing your City ID card. Online registration must be completed before you arrive at City and In-person registration must be completed when you arrive at City. You will be emailed directly with detailed information about registration.

We are required to verify that you have a valid visa to study at City, University of London and to keep a copy of your passport and Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) on file. You must bring your original passport and BRP to In-person registration so that a staff member can scan these documents. If you applied for your Tier 4 visa outside the UK you will need to collect your BRP before you attend In-person registration.

You must complete both parts of your registration on time. The specific registration deadline will depend on your programme and you should contact your School if you are unsure of the deadline date. If you do not register within the deadline, we are legally obliged to report this to the Home Office, who will then take action to curtail (cancel) your immigration permission.

Re-Registration for returning students

You will be required to re-register in person at least once per year during your studies. This will involve presenting your original passport and BRP in person.

Re-registration has to be completed within the strict deadline given. You will be emailed directly with detailed information about re-registration.

Students who do not complete re-registration are deemed not to be students and are not permitted to continue on their course. We will then report this to the Home Office who will take action to curtail (cancel) your visa.
Collecting your BRP

If you applied for your Tier 4 visa outside of the UK and entered the special code in your Tier 4 visa application, your BRP card will be delivered to City and we will email you when it is ready for collection. You will need to bring your original passport in order to collect your BRP card.

If you did not use the special code, your BRP will be sent to a designated Post Office. When the Home Office have processed your Tier 4 application, they will write to you with the outcome of your application and this letter will contain details of the Post Office where you will need to collect your BRP. You will need to make arrangements to collect this yourself within 10 days of your arrival in the UK. You will need to take your original passport and Home Office letter with you to collect this.

Failure to collect your BRP within 10 days of your arrival may result in you receiving a fine.

Type of permit: T4 GENERAL STUDENT
Remarks: – WORK 20HRS MAX IN TERM-TIME – P7VG4XCY7 (City, University of London’s Tier 4 sponsor licence number).

If you have applied for a Part-Time Tier 4 visa this should state ‘no work permitted’.

You should also check that the expiry date of your BRP is correct. The length of leave granted for your Tier 4 visa depends on the length of your programme. Check the programme end date on your CAS and ensure that your BRP is valid for the length of your programme plus an additional:
- Four months for all programmes lasting 12 months or more
- Two months for all programmes lasting 6 months or more, but less than 12 months.

If any information is missing or incorrect, please contact the International Student Advice team for assistance with correcting your visa.

Storing your BRP

After you collect your BRP you should keep it in a safe place alongside your passport. You do not need to carry it with you when you are inside the UK. When you leave the UK you need to carry both your passport and your BRP in order to re-enter.

Please be careful not to lose your documents while you are overseas as you would have to apply for a replacement before travelling back to the UK.

Lost BRPs and passports

If you lose your passport/visa or BRP card while you are either inside or outside the UK you will need to make the necessary arrangements to replace your missing documents.

Information about the steps you should take to replace your missing documents is available on City’s website at www.city.ac.uk/international/visa-immigration-advice/tier4/lost-passports-and-visas.

You should also contact the International Student Advice team for assistance by emailing visaadvice@city.ac.uk.

Checking your BRP

After you receive your BRP you must check that it correctly shows your name, date of birth and contains the following information:
- Type of permit: T4 GENERAL STUDENT
- Remarks: – WORK 20HRS MAX IN TERM-TIME – P7VG4XCY7 (City, University of London’s Tier 4 sponsor licence number).

You should also contact the International Student Advice team for assistance by emailing visaadvice@city.ac.uk.

Visa conditions

During your studies at City, University of London you must ensure that you comply with all of the conditions of your Tier 4 visa. If you breach a condition of your visa you place your visa at risk. If we become aware that you have breached a condition of your visa we are obliged to report this to the Home Office.

Contact details

You must provide City, University of London with your UK contact details (London residential address and mobile telephone number) and keep them up to date by making any changes to your e:Vision account.

You will be allocated a City email account and this is the primary way that we will contact you.

You must check this email account regularly.

If we make a report to the Home Office about your circumstances, we will inform you by email that we have done this and explain what this means for you.

Police registration

Nationals from certain countries may be required to register with the Police within 7 days of arrival in the UK.

You will be told if you need to register with the police on one of the following documents:
- Your entry visa vignette (the visa sticker issued in your passport if you applied for your Tier 4 visa outside the UK)
- Your BRP
- The Home Office letter that approved your application for leave.

It is important that you read any letters from the Home Office carefully to see if you need to register with the Police. If it is written in the letter then it is a legal requirement of your visa.

If you are required to register with the Police you will need to obtain a Police Registration Certificate (PRC) at the Overseas Visitors Records Office (OVRO).

You should keep your Police Registration Certificate in a safe place at home. You do not need to carry it with you every day, however, you must remember to take it with you if you travel outside the UK as you may be asked to show it at the UK border on your return.

If your circumstances change while you are in the UK you will need to tell the Police and update your Police Registration Certificate within 7 days. Failure to do this is a breach of your immigration conditions and you could face a fine or prison sentence.

If you are living in London and only need to change your address, you can update this information at a local police station. The nearest police station to City’s main campus is Islington Police Station, 2 Tolpuddle Street, London N1 0YY.
Attendance and engagement

You are expected to engage fully with your studies. You are expected to be present at all classes, lectures, seminars or other academic events that are a compulsory part of your programme of formal study at City, University of London. You are also expected to attend examinations, any other assessments and engage in activities which are provided to support the successful completion of your degree.

Attendance will be monitored until your Tier 4 sponsorship ends, or your degree ends, whichever is later.

If you are absent for any reason you must inform your Course Officer. You will be required to provide evidence of the reason for your absence. If you are absent without permission or supporting evidence you risk being withdrawn from your programme.

The Home Office requires City, University of London to monitor the attendance of all Tier 4 students. This includes all undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research students and Tier 4 students who are studying on a year abroad or who are on work placements. By monitoring your attendance we also aim to ensure that you are progressing successfully and to provide information, advice and guidance at the earliest opportunity to support your efforts in overcoming barriers to study.

If attendance issues are identified you will be required to attend a meeting with your Course Director or Supervisor to discuss the reasons. If your attendance does not improve, a formal written warning letter will be issued outlining the conditions under which you can stay on your programme. If there continue to be concerns about your attendance your case will be considered. If you are judged to not be actively engaging with your programme then you will be withdrawn from your programme. We are then required to report your withdrawal to the Home Office and your visa will be curtailed (cancelled).

If you are a Research student, you must meet with your supervisor on a monthly basis and log details of all your meetings on City’s Research and Progress system (RaP) promptly. Your attendance and engagement will be monitored throughout the whole period of CAS sponsorship including periods of writing up and waiting for external examiner reports.

Your responsibilities

- Understand and adhere to the conditions of your Tier 4 visa
- Attend and engage fully with your studies
- Register your attendance via: the class register, Moodle, Count Me In card etc. at all classes, lectures, seminars and other academic events that are a compulsory part of your programme
- Respond to emails from the Visa Compliance team and your School regarding attendance
- Inform your School at the earliest opportunity if you are unable to attend or engage with your studies
- Provide evidence for any periods of absence
- Complete and submit an Authorised Absence Form where relevant
- Complete and submit an Off Campus Study Form where relevant
- Complete and sign off forms on RaP following monthly meetings with your Supervisor and following approved activity (Research students only).
Off campus study

During your programme you may undertake off campus study for one of the following reasons:

- Work placement
- Study Abroad programme
- Study undertaken at another institution or location
- Personal study (such as dissertation or field work) away from City.

To undertake off campus study you need to complete an Off Campus Study form in conjunction with your School and ensure it is submitted to the Visa Compliance team before your off campus study commences. We will then inform the Home Office.

While you are undertaking your off campus study, we are required to continue monitoring your attendance. If we identify problems with your attendance during your off campus study we may need to report this to the Home Office.

During your off campus study you must:

- Remain in contact with your School
- Continue to check your City email account regularly
- Notify City if your circumstances change in any way.

There are additional requirements if you undertake a work placement or Study Abroad programme. We will inform you about these before you commence.

Authorised absence

City, University of London is able to grant a short period of authorised absence if you need to be away from your studies for reasons beyond your control (e.g. medical or bereavement reasons).

You can request a period of authorised absence of up to 20 working days. You must do this before the start of the period of authorised absence requested, so your request can be reviewed.

To make a request you must submit a completed Authorised Absence Form to your School, along with evidence for your absence. Forms are available from the City website and your Course Officer.

Your request for authorised absence must be reviewed and approved prior to your absence by both your School and City’s Visa Compliance team. Authorised absence requests cannot be approved retrospectively after the absence has occurred.

Please note that a request for a period of authorised absence will only be approved if your School is satisfied that you will not be missing critical elements of your programme and that on your return you will be able to resume your studies without having to repeat any previous period of study.

Authorised absence will not be granted for events such as holidays or weddings during term time. Other non-urgent travel will not be authorised.

During official City vacation periods there is no requirement for students to be present on campus, so you do not need to request an authorised absence during designated vacation periods.

If you are granted an authorised absence you will not receive a refund of tuition fees, nor will your expected end date of studies be amended to reflect the period of time away from your studies.

If your authorised absence is approved and you travel outside the UK, you should carry a student status letter in your hand luggage, along with your passport, BRP and Police Registration Certificate (if you were required to register with the Police) in case you are questioned at the UK border upon your return.

Annual leave

If you are a student on a work placement or a research student, you can take annual leave. Research students have to request annual leave by submitting an Annual Leave Form, which has to be approved by your Supervisor and the Visa Compliance team. Forms are available from the City website and your Course Officer.
Working during your studies

As a Tier 4 visa holder on a full-time course you are permitted to work in the UK, however, there are conditions and restrictions on the amount and type of work you can undertake. It is important that you understand these conditions and restrictions because if you breach these you will place your visa at risk.

If you are a Tier 4 student on a part-time course, please note that you are not permitted to work in the UK.

City’s International Student Advice team can advise on your rights to work in the UK and your immigration options in relation to working after you complete your programme.

Type of work

- You can only work on a temporary basis; you cannot be employed on a permanent contract
- You cannot be self-employed or set up a business
- You cannot be employed as a professional sportsperson or as an entertainer
- You can work as a Students’ Union Sabbatical Officer for up to two years.

Amount of work for Tier 4 students on a full-time course

- You can only work up to a maximum of 20 hours per week during term time. The Home Office defines a week as “a seven day period starting on a Monday and ending on a Sunday”
- You can only work full-time during vacation periods
- After your programme end date (the date stated on your CAS) has passed, you can work full-time until the end date of your Tier 4 visa
- You can work full-time during term time if you are on a work placement that is an integral and assessed part of your programme. Any work placement must not be longer than 50 per cent of the total programme length (unless there is a UK statutory requirement for the programme to contain a specific period of work placement which exceeds this limit).
- If you are a research student you cannot work more than 20 hours per week for the entire duration of your programme. City’s vacation dates do not apply to research students.

Changes in your circumstances

City, University of London is required by the Home Office to report any significant changes to your status within 10 days of being notified. Significant changes in your circumstances may affect your immigration status.

Changing your programme

Your Tier 4 visa has been issued for you to study a particular programme at City, University of London, so you can only change programmes under the same visa if you can complete the new programme within the validity of your current Tier 4 visa. You will also need to provide a personal statement explaining:

- Why you wish to change your programme of study
- How the new programme supports your previous studies
- How the new programme supports your future career aspirations.

You can only change programmes if it is approved by your School and the Visa Compliance team.

Early completion

If you complete your programme earlier than expected we will make a report to the Home Office and the end date for your visa will be brought forward.

Change in enrolment status

If you decide to suspend or withdraw from your programme, you must inform your School as soon as possible.

We will inform the Home Office if:
- You are required to repeat without attendance
- You suspend your studies
- You withdraw, or are withdrawn, from your programme.

This means the Home Office will curtail (cancel) your Tier 4 visa. You should therefore arrange to leave the UK at the first available opportunity. Once your visa is curtailed you will receive notification from the Home Office.

Please email the Visa Compliance team a copy of your travel bookings, as well as your boarding card once you leave the UK.

Change of immigration status

If you switch visa categories (obtain a different visa type) you must inform your course office and the Visa Compliance team as soon as possible, so that we can report the change to the Home Office.

If you obtain a new passport you must bring it to City for scanning and verification as soon as you receive it. You should also inform the Home Office.

Change of personal details

You must inform us and the Home Office of any changes to your personal details such as your name, gender, nationality, facial appearance or date of birth.
ATAS

ATAS is a certificate issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) which gives you security clearance to study certain postgraduate programmes at City, University of London. You will have already been informed by City if you had to apply for an ATAS certificate for your programme prior to applying for a visa to study in the UK.

An ATAS certificate is issued for a specific programme at City, University of London. You will need to apply for a new ATAS certificate if:

- Your programme details change, including the programme length
- The area of research or modules change
- You move to another institution
- You need to extend your stay to write up your thesis.

Graduation

You will need to have a valid visa to attend your own graduation ceremony and your family members may need to apply for visas to visit London as your guests at the ceremony.

If you leave the UK after the completion of your programme and want to return for your ceremony on your current Tier 4 visa, it must still be in date and you should carry in your hand luggage:

- Evidence that you have recently completed your programme at City, University of London
- Evidence of your graduation ceremony (e.g. your registration email from City)
- Evidence of your intention to leave the UK before your visa expires.

If you are a visa national and your current Tier 4 visa expires before your graduation date, you will need to leave the UK and apply for a Standard Visitor visa to come back to attend your graduation ceremony.

If you are a non-visa national (someone who does not need a visa to come to the UK for a short visit) and your current Tier 4 visa expires before your graduation date, you can request entry as a Visitor when you arrive at the airport but you should carry with you:

- Evidence that you have recently completed your programme at City, University of London
- Evidence of your graduation ceremony (e.g. your registration email from City)
- Evidence that you have sufficient funds for your visit
- Evidence of your intention to leave the UK within 6 months.

If you need assistance please contact City’s International Student Advice team.