



Obtaining a UK Study Visa

Guide to making a Tier 4 Visa Application

This document aims to provide a guideline to Overseas/International prospective students seeking to come to the United Kingdom on study.

Goldsmith International Business School [Goldsmith IBS] remains fully committed to supporting genuine applicants by ensuring that they are properly informed and guided, to ensure that their study visa application stands the very best chance of approval at first attempt.

Goldsmith IBS
[July 2009]



1. BACKGROUND:

The new UK Border Agency's **Points-Based System (PBS)** has made the study visa process a lot **smoother** and **more predictable** than before. Tier 4 visa applications are now assessed **using points**.

The new Tier 4 (Study Visa) category is specifically designed to be **fair, transparent** and **objective**, to enable potential migrants to the UK to **assess their likelihood of making a successful application**. This means that it should help to **reduce the number of failed applications** and provide some level of **certainty** and **assurance** prior to making a study visa application.

The **onus of proof** is now placed on the **applicant** who must demonstrate that he/she meets **each** and **every** requirement of the Points-Based System to be awarded the relevant points on offer. Proof will be in the form of required documents which must be in the form of **original documents** in **all** circumstances.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A TIER 4 UK STUDY VISA:

The new UK Immigration rules are **points-based** and **strict adherence** to the requirements is expected. Any variations will lead to the refusal of points and the application.

The **strict requirements for the issue of a study visa** from **01 April 2009** are:

- a. **30 Points** for admission to a **Home Office Tier 4 Educational Licensed Institution** such as Goldsmith International Business School (we are A-rated), and;
- b. **10 Points** for **Proof of Maintenance Funds**.

The **strict guidelines** for **proof of maintenance funds** [i.e. **£800 x length of the course** - up to a **maximum of 9 months** plus **any outstanding tuition fee for the first year** still due to Goldsmith IBS).

The fund must be in:

- Cash in bank account **in the name of the sponsor applicant** (this may include a joint account in the names of **the applicant and his/her sponsor**); or
- A bank loan in the **name of the applicant** , or;
- Official government sponsorship [national, state or local government institution in that country]
- From 01 October 2009, funds must be held in the account at least **28 days before the application**.

This means **you must have**:

1. Paid Goldsmith IBS the **full tuition fee stated above prior to application** or **50% at least**, plus;
2. Prove you have **£7,200 (£800 x 9 months) in cleared funds** PLUS any **amount still unpaid** to Goldsmith IBS [from 1 above] as tuition fee for the first year.

3. OUR ADMISSION PROCESS:

The **admission process** at Goldsmith International Business School [Goldsmith IBS] is quite simple. It entails:

- Completing an **Online Application Form** available at <http://www.goldsmithibs.com/sign-up.aspx>
- Completing our **Interview Form** [a sample is provided as Appendix 1 in this document], and;
- Sending us **your first school leaving certificate and highest academic/professional qualification**

These documents may be scanned and sent to us as an attachment to info@goldsmithibs.com

Upon receipt of your completed interview form, we may need to contact you by telephone as part of our initial assessment for admission [if necessary] to assess further so please provide us with:

- A **valid contact number** [a personal mobile number is preferred]
- A **preferred calling time** [with **country time difference** in relation to GMT e.g. GMT +6 or GMT -2].

The maximum number of candidates in our lectures does not exceed 25 at any one time. Our tuition fees include all relevant study texts necessary to undertake and successfully complete each course and we deliver our lectures using Microsoft PowerPoint slides.

4. DOCUMENTS WE WILL SEND TO YOU:

Upon admission and initial payment, you will be issued with an **Unconditional Admission Letter**, a **Visa Letter** and a **Letter to be used to purchase Foreign Exchange** from your local banker. These documents may be used in making a valid student visa application.

We send these documents to you through our appointed agents – DHL so please ensure you have provided a valid physical address and contact number to facilitate smooth and timely delivery.

If you meet the strict UKBA Tier 4 Points-Based System (PBS) requirements stated in (2) above, your study visa application should be a smooth process by all indication.

5. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION AND WEBLINKS:

- To review the courses we offer: <http://www.goldsmithibs.com/courses.aspx>
- To make an online application: <http://www.goldsmithibs.com/sign-up.aspx>
- To review Frequently Asked Question: <http://www.goldsmithibs.com/forms/faqs/FAQ.pdf>
- Information for Overseas applicants: <http://www.goldsmithibs.com/international.aspx>
- To download application forms etc. <http://www.goldsmithibs.com/downloads.aspx>
- Our Contact Details: **+44[0] 207 820 8212 or +44[0] 79 8484 4762**

APPENDIX 1: SAMPLE INTERVIEW FORM

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Gender: M F
Contact No: _____ Email: _____
Nationality: _____ Assessment Date: / /
Assessed by: _____ Issued: _____ Returned: _____

OUR ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

In line with the UK immigration guidelines relating to the assessment of overseas applications for the issue of a study visa, Goldsmith IBS has developed our point-based system to assess overseas applications for the issue of an original 'Letter of Sponsorship'. Goldsmith International Business School is committed to open access to education and training and we remain committed to providing equal opportunities to all aspiring students.

The followings represent the primary assessment criteria applied to assess overseas candidates making an application to Goldsmith international Business School. To be successful, applicants must achieve at least **60 points** or more from the list below; points for each criteria is based on an '**all or nothing**' criterion. For example, for the criteria "past academic history and performance", the minimum and maximum point possible is 30.

By completing this questionnaire, you consent to us carrying out formal checks on documents and assertions you have made in this document as part of our process of assessing your application.

List of Criteria	Max. Points	Points Awarded
1. Proficiency in English Language [N1]	15 Points	
2. Past academic history and performance [N2]	30 Points	
3. Relevance to course being applied for [N3]	10 Points	
4. Registration with relevant institute [N4]	05 Points	
5. Admission to other UK institutions of HE [N5]	05 Points	
6. Future career aspirations after this course [N6]	05 Points	
7. Motivation for selecting the chosen course [N7]	10 Points	
8. Motivation for studying in the UK [N8]	10 Points	
9. Motivation for choosing Goldsmith IBS [N9]	05 Points	
10. Confirmation: Secured financial sponsor [N10]	05 Points	
TOTAL SCORE	100 Points	

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING OUR INTERVIEW FORM TO OBTAIN ADMISSION:

N1: Proficiency in English Language [15 Points]

Holder of IELTS [6.0] or TOEFL award; GCE or higher with at least a credit grade from a country where English Language is the sole or primary medium of communication will suffice. All qualifications may be scanned and emailed to info@goldsmithibs.com to enable us expedite checks.

By completing this questionnaire, you consent to a check with the relevant awarding authority. We reserve the right to contact you by telephone to have a formal interview which should last no more than about 5 minutes.

Your Comments: _____

N2: Past academic history and performance [30 Points]

A minimum of a GCE with five credit passes which must include English language but not necessarily Mathematics [in certain cases] is required to achieve this criteria. Other post-compulsory professional and/or academic qualifications will be an advantage.

Your Comments: _____

N3: Relevance to course being applied for [10 Points]

You must demonstrate the relevance of your current and/or previous work experiences, academic and/or professional qualifications to the course.

Your Comments: _____

N4: Registration with relevant institute [05 Points]

If you are registered with any relevant institute such as the ACCA, IAM, AAT etc., it indicates your commitment to your chosen career development and will be awarded with 5 points.

Your Comments: _____

N5: Admission to other UK institutions of Higher Education [05 Points]

Gaining admission on a similar programme at other bona fide UK institutions of Further or Higher Education [HE] will be rewarded.

Your Comments: _____

N6: Future career aspirations after this course [05 Points]

You must demonstrate a clear career pathway and how this programme will enhance your knowledge and skills in your chosen career path [e.g. become a lawyer, Chartered Accountant etc.]

Your Comments: _____

N7: Motivation for selecting the chosen course [10 Points]

You are required to describe your motivation for selecting your programme of study; your competence and ability to complete the course successfully and within a reasonable time frame.

Your Comments: _____

N8: Motivation for studying in the UK [10 Points]

Provide a very brief description of why you have chosen to study in the UK rather than study in your local country or elsewhere [USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa etc.]

Your Comments: _____

N9: Motivation for choosing Goldsmith IBS [05 Points]

You need to demonstrate a genuine interest in studying at Goldsmith IBS through your responses. If the course is a change of direction from your previous qualification/work experience or if it is at a lower level than your previous qualifications; please explain your reason for making the change.

Your Comments: _____

N10: Confirmation: Secured financial sponsor [05 Points]

Please provide details of who interviewed you, where and when the interview took place, and provide documentary evidence to support this.

Your Comments: _____

ENDS

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