

Switching to a student route visa from within the UK and enrolment conditions

Student
Services



International Student Support

UWS UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND

Switching to a student route visa

You may be eligible to apply for the student route visa in the UK if you currently have immigration permission in the UK, and if you are not on immigration bail. For example if you hold a graduate route visa or skilled worker visa you can switch to a student visa.

You can check if you are eligible to apply from within the UK by looking at the UKCISA website:
UKCISA - international student advice and guidance - Student route: eligibility and requirements.

When applying for the Student route from **inside the UK**, you are applying for '**permission to stay**', and when you are applying from **outside the UK** you are applying for '**entry clearance**'.

You cannot switch to a student visa in the UK if you have one of the following visa categories:

- visit visa
- a short-term student visa
- a parent of a child student visa
- a seasonal worker visa
- a domestic worker in a private household visa
- leave outside the immigration rules

For detailed information on how to apply for a student visa within the UK please look at our **Student Visa Guide from within the UK.**

Enrolment

If you submit your student route visa application on time before your course starts and you have a pending student visa application (still waiting a decision), you can enrol at your own risk if you have '**right to study**' conditions on your most recent visa permission.

Registry would require evidence of the student visa application (date of application) and previous visa permission in order to ensure that an in time application had been submitted.

For example:

On the skilled worker visa '**study is not restricted**', therefore you would be able to submit your student visa application and enrol at your own risk before your student visa application is decided.

Switching from a different student route sponsor to a UWS student sponsor would allow enrolment at your own risk if your student visa application is submitted on time before your current student visa expires, whilst you have a pending student route visa application.

On the graduate route visa **study is restricted**. You cannot study courses that are sponsored under the Student route. This means to enrol on a new course at UWS when switching from the graduate route visa you would need to wait for the student visa route decision to be granted. This would apply to any visa category which has restricted study or no study conditions.

Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)

The ETA scheme applies to people visiting or transiting via the UK who do not currently need a visa for short stays and do not have a valid UK immigration status prior to travelling. An ETA is not an entry clearance. It does not provide permission to enter the UK, nor does it provide permission to live, work or study in the UK. More information regarding ETA's can be found on ETA overview section on GOV.UK – Get an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) to visit the UK: Overview – [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/get-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta-to-visit-the-uk/overview)

If you enter the UK as a visitor using an ETA whilst your Entry clearance application (for a student visa) is still pending, you will be required to leave the UK. Or, if you enter the UK before the start date of your Student visa—you must leave the Common Travel Area (which includes the UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man) and re-enter during the validity period of your Student visa in order to activate your Student route permission.

Failure to do so before commencing your studies may result in a breach of your visa conditions. The start date of your Student visa is noted in your student eVisa.