



The University is an authorised Start-Up endorsing body which means we can issue endorsements to enable students to apply for the Start-Up visa. In order for us to endorse you, you will need to follow the LSBU Start-Up process of endorsement and meet the UKVI and LSBU criteria.

Endorsement for the Start Up Visa through LSBU

LSBU provides support for 24 months to those who are successful in securing endorsement for the Start-Up visa, which includes office space, access to networks and workshops. This support is led by the Student Enterprise team. You can find more information on the [International Graduate Support page](#).

If you have a business idea that is innovative, viable and scalable and are interested in applying for endorsement then you should first contact the [Immigration and International Student Advice](#) team.

Apply for the Start-Up visa

Where can I apply?

- You can apply from inside the UK if you are extending an existing Tier 1 Graduate Entrepreneur visa (if applicable) or if you are switching from one of the permitted categories (Tier 4 General is one of these – see the website for a list: www.gov.uk/start-up-visa/switch-to-this-visa)
- You can apply from outside the UK for entry clearance as long as you still meet the requirements: www.gov.uk/start-up-visa/apply

What will I need?

- [Read the Start Up Policy Guidance](#). This is the Home Office's official guidance – please read this in full.
- **Application form.** You will need to [apply online](#).
- **Current application fee:**
 - Outside the UK: £363
 - Inside the UK: Postal application: £493
- **Current passport and visa.**
- **UK recognised bachelor's degree, master's degree or PhD.** One of the LSBU criteria to apply for endorsement is to be an LSBU graduate. You will need to submit an original certificate or official transcript to confirm that you met Knowledge of English criteria.
- **Original endorsement letter from LSBU.** This is a letter issued by the International Office once your application for endorsement has been successful.
- **Signed consent for the University to endorse you.** We will ask you to sign a consent form when you are issued your endorsement letter.

Updated: April 2019

Immigration and International Student Advice

Admissions & Recruitment Centre (ARC), Southwark Campus

T: +44 (0)20 7815 7037 / 6156

E: international.advice@lsbu.ac.uk

W: www.lsbu.ac.uk/international/visas-and-immigration/advice-team



- If you have been financially sponsored by a government or international scholarship agency that has paid your course fee and living costs during the past 12 months, you must obtain their written unconditional consent permitting you to re-enter or remain in the UK.
- **Evidence of money.** You need to show that you can support yourself while in the UK. The money you need to show needs to have been in your bank account for 90 days before you apply.
 - You will need £945 in savings.
 - **Documents to show you have money available:**
 - Documents which are not in English need to be officially translated. You can use:
 - Bank statements in your name (including joint accounts)
 - Building society pass book
 - Letter from bank or building society
 - **These documents must:**
 - Show that the amount required has been maintained for a period of at least 90 days.
 - Be no older than 31 days.
 - Be on official headed paper of the bank/building society or have an official stamp on every page
 - Include your full name and account number.
- **Immigration health surcharge.** You will be required to pay £400 per year for the immigration health surcharge (IHS), which will allow you to use the National Health Service (NHS).
www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application
You need to pay this surcharge before submitting your application.
- **Medical certificate** confirming you have undergone screening for tuberculosis (if you are applying from outside of the UK and only if it is applicable. Only certain countries are required to do this – see the [Home Office website](#) for a list of countries.)

Submitting your application

- Applications from inside the UK – complete online application form: <https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/start-up-and-innovator-ic>
- Applications from outside the UK - Completed online application form: www.gov.uk/start-up-visa/apply. (If you are a national of North Korea then you will need to complete the paper-based form.)
- You will also need to submit biometric information (fingerprints and photo). You will have to book an appointment at a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services (UKVCAS) if you are applying in the UK or you will have your biometric taken at the visa application centre if applying from overseas.

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How long will it take?

- Applications made from inside the UK will be decided within 8 weeks. Applications from outside the UK will depend on the country you are applying from. See the Home Office website for further details: www.gov.uk/visa-processing-times. Once you have received your visa, please provide a copy of it to the University.

Your dependants

Your dependants can apply for a visa to come to join you in the UK:
www.gov.uk/start-up-visa/family-members.

- A dependant is your husband, wife or partner, or your child under 18.
- You will need to show that your dependants can be supported financially while they are in the UK by showing that money is available. This is in addition to the money that you need to show for your application. The money your dependants need to show must have been in your bank account or your dependant's bank account for at least 90 days (see above for more information about documents you can use). Each dependant need to show £630 in addition to the £945 you need to support yourself.

Guidance on applying for dependants:

- Applying from outside the UK: [apply online](#). You can find the guidance here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-uk-visa-for-pbs-dependant-form-vaf10

Any questions?

- Contact Immigration and International Student Advice: international.advice@lsbu.ac.uk
- Home Office: www.gov.uk/start-up-visa
- UKCISA: www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Working-after-studies

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