

University of Essex - Tier 4 Pilot Scheme

Frequently asked questions

Do I need to opt in to the pilot scheme?

No. When you make your visa application through the Access UK platform, you will be asked to specify the start and end dates for your course. These dates (as well as the fact that you will be studying at the University of Essex) will identify that you are eligible for the pilot scheme.

We will also specify on your CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) that you are eligible for the pilot scheme.

Can I opt out of the pilot scheme?

No. It's not possible to opt out of the scheme. However, you are not obliged to remain in the UK after you've successfully completed your course

Do I need to state that I am applying through the pilot scheme when I make a visa application?

As above, when you make your Tier 4 (General) visa application through the Access UK platform, you will be asked to specify the start and end dates for your course, and this will identify that you are eligible for the pilot scheme.

Does this mean that I do not need to meet the Tier 4 requirements relating to financial/ English language/ qualification documents?

No. You **must** meet **all** the Tier 4 requirements on the date you submit your Tier 4 application online.

You **should not** submit financial and qualification documents (including proof of English language, if applicable). The Home Office may request these proofs, so you must ensure that you have the original documents ready to send by the deadline, if you are asked.

You must submit all other mandatory documents, for instance a [TB certificate](#) if it is required.

I intend to take a pre-sessional English course – will I still be eligible for the pilot scheme?

Yes. However, if you are not eligible for a linked CAS, you will only become eligible for the Tier 4 pilot scheme when you have passed your pre-sessional course and, have a CAS to make your Tier 4 application to study an eligible masters course with us.

If you are eligible for a 'linked CAS' covering both your pre-sessional course and your masters course (of up to 13 months long), you will be eligible for the scheme when you make your initial Tier 4 application. Your CAS will state that you are eligible for the Tier 4 pilot scheme and confirm the start and end dates for your masters course.

I want family members to join me in the UK while I study. Will my family members also be eligible to apply for a Tier 4 dependent visa without showing financial proofs?

Yes, if their application is made at the same time as yours. However, it is important that you have the required finances in place and are able to provide the original documents if you are asked to do so by the Home Office.

If they apply later than you they must provide all the original documents required.

I am already studying a masters at Essex, will this scheme apply to me?

No – this will only apply to students who are starting a masters course from October 2018.

Will I still need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)?

Yes, you will still need to pay the [IHS charge](#), and the amount that you pay will be based on the length of your visa, not your course.

Will I still need ATAS?

There aren't currently any masters courses at Essex which require ATAS.

Will I still need a Tuberculosis (TB) certificate?

Yes, if you would normally need a [TB certificate](#) then you will still do so.

If I leave the UK after having successfully completed my course, but during the additional 6 month period, will I be able to return?

Yes, you will be able to leave and return to the UK as long as your Tier 4 visa is still valid. However, be prepared to explain your reasons for seeking re-entry to UK Border Force.

What will I be allowed to do in the UK after I've completed my course?

You will be able to use the additional time for tourism or to work (within your Tier 4 conditions), seek future employment or studies in the UK.