



CAS Issuing Policy at LSE – October 2024

This info sheet explains who will issue your CAS. It also explains why, in accordance with the formal School policy and [Student Sponsor Guidance](#), in some instances a CAS may not be issued.

Does receiving my CAS guarantee that I will be granted my Student visa?

Receiving a CAS does not guarantee your visa will be granted. It is your responsibility to ensure you meet the requirements of the rules before you apply for your visa. You may meet the academic conditions of your offer and be issued with a CAS. However, the requirements of an academic offer are separate to the requirements of the Immigration Rules and you must satisfy both of these. You must read the guidance and ensure that you have the correct documents before submitting your visa application.

Who issues my CAS? – New Applicants

Your CAS will be automatically issued by the Admissions team managing your application after:

- You have an unconditional offer;
- You have completed the Financial Undertaking Form;
- They have made the necessary checks to see if you are eligible for a CAS in accordance with the Student Sponsor Guidance. These checks are made at the point a student has an unconditional offer. It is your responsibility to provide the information required by the admissions teams. An offer of study does not guarantee that you will be issued a CAS if you do not meet the requirements of the Student Sponsor Guidance.

Who issues my CAS? – Enrolled students, students on a double-degree with year two at LSE, students returning for re-sit/deferred assessments, students on a CEMS/MBA exchange.

Your CAS will be issued by the Student Advice and Engagement Team after checks are made to assess you meet the requirements of the Student Sponsor Guidance. It will not be issued automatically and you are required to [complete a form](#) to request your CAS.

I want to study a programme on a lower level than my current degree. Am I restricted by academic progression?

Study at a lower level is not permitted [by the UKVI](#). Study at the same level is only permitted if it is complementary to your previous studies and supports your career aspirations.

Furthermore, you cannot apply for a visa within the UK if you currently have a Student visa and are not going to successfully complete the programme your visa was issued for.

Some academic progression rules are not applicable to applications made outside the UK, however this will have been taken into consideration when the decision was made about issuing a new CAS.

I am a PhD student and I have a new thesis submission date set after the expiry date of my visa. Will I be able to extend my student visa?

If you have a new thesis submission date that is later than the expiry date of your current visa, the Immigration Rules permit you to extend your visa. Your ability to receive a CAS will need to be checked e.g. ATAS requirements.

However, it is not detrimental to your immigration history or a violation to extend in these circumstances, despite what you may have heard.

I am a PhD student and my viva has been set after the expiry date of my visa. Will I be able to extend my student visa?

LSE will be able to sponsor an extension of your Student visa for your viva if it is set outside the expiry date of your visa. Your supervisors will have to send an email to the PhD Academy confirming that you need to remain in full-time study to prepare for your viva. You should note that confirmation that you are in full time study will mean that you are no longer considered to be on vacation and you will therefore not be able to work full-time in the additional time remaining on your current visa.

I'm a PhD student and my examiners have informed me that I have been given corrections. Can I get an extension of my Student visa for my minor/major corrections?

If your department confirms to the PhD Academy that you are required to be on campus to complete your corrections, you will be able to extend your Student visa. Your new period of study will be considered as term-time because it will be a further period of study and you will no longer be able to work full time. Please [contact SAET](#) for advice on how to obtain your CAS and the requirements for a Student visa to ensure you can apply. You can find further information in the section on minor/major corrections in our [Guide to Applying for a Student Visa for Research degree students](#).

I am an Undergraduate or Masters student, can I get a CAS to extend my visa for my resit/deferred assessments?

You will be unable to obtain a CAS to apply for a visa extension for re-sits/deferred assessments if there are more than 60 days between your last academic engagement and the re-sit exams. Students are usually required to leave the UK if they are not registered for teaching prior to the re-sit exams. [Contact SAET](#) for advice.

I am a Masters student with assessments during the January RDAP assessment period. Can I get a CAS to extend my visa?

Yes, you will be able to be sponsored for these assessments. 9/10 month MSc students should note that sponsorship dates is likely to mean you will be granted a visa that expires prior to your results being released. This may impact your eligibility for the Graduate Route.

I am a dual national and have a full, British passport. I want to use my non-British nationality. Will LSE issue a CAS?

If you are British, you are not required to apply for a visa to study in the UK. When you apply for your visa, you must declare all nationalities within the visa application. If you declare your British nationality, your application will be voided by the UKVI because you should not require a visa. LSE will not issue a CAS to an individual who holds British nationality.

My employer has asked me to extend my Student visa until they are able to sponsor me. Is this possible?

A Student visa is for the main purpose of study. Unfortunately, we cannot issue a CAS for you to extend your visa to be able to work.

I was previously studying on a Student visa but I didn't really enjoy the programme, so I just stopped attending and my visa was cancelled. Can I have a CAS for a new programme?

If there are concerns that you will not use the visa for its intended purpose, which is to study, LSE may choose not to sponsor you. There may also be issues with the time limit and academic progression, so an assessment will need to be made on an individual basis.

I previously attended LSE and breached the School's regulations. Can I have a CAS to do a new programme?

This will be assessed on an individual basis. [Contact SAET](#) for advice about your specific circumstances. LSE is highly unlikely to issue a CAS if there is significant risk of further breaches in the future.

I am concerned that my previous immigration history may affect my eligibility to obtain a Student visa. Can I try and apply anyway?

This will be assessed on an individual basis. Please [contact SAET](#) for advice about your specific circumstances. LSE are unlikely to issue a CAS if there is significant risk that a new application will be refused.

Can I receive a CAS if I have previously breached the conditions of my visa?

This will be assessed on an individual basis. Please [contact SAET](#) for advice about your specific circumstances. LSE are unlikely to issue a CAS if there is significant risk of further breaches or if it is likely that a visa application will not succeed.

Will I be informed if I am unable to receive a CAS?

If it is considered that you are ineligible to receive a CAS in accordance with the formal School policy and [Student Sponsor Guidance](#), you will be given an explanation of the reason and advised who you can contact to discuss the decision further.

I have been informed that I am unable to have a CAS because I have exceeded the time limit on a Student visa. What does this mean?

There is a [cap on the amount of time](#) you can spend studying on a Student visa at undergraduate degree level in the UK. If further study on a Student visa will exceed the time limit, LSE will be unable to issue you with a CAS unless in exceptional circumstances if you are a registered student e.g. serious health issues affecting your studies.

My lawyer told me that LSE must give me a CAS, so can I receive a CAS now?

Student visa sponsorship is at the discretion of the Student Sponsor license holder (LSE). The School is not legally obligated to provide every student with a CAS and may refuse to issue a CAS in accordance with either LSE's or the Home Office's regulations.

Why is LSE concerned about avoiding Student visa refusals?

The UKVI set a limit on the number of refusals that an institution can receive before they lose their Student Sponsor licence. LSE is unlikely to issue you a CAS if there is a high risk your application will be refused, or it is not in line with the requirements of the Student Sponsor Guidance.

I am unhappy with the decision not to issue the CAS. How do I challenge this?

The team who informed you of the decision can tell you who to contact to challenge the decision. If this is unclear, you can [contact SAET](#) for assistance. We will only discuss your case directly with you and not with a legal representative.