



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Visa Brake – Information for Students

The UK Government has announced a “visa brake” affecting work and study visa applications made from outside the UK for four nationalities.

We understand that immigration changes can cause concerns, and we want to reassure our students about what this means. Please read the information below carefully to understand how it may affect you.

Who is affected?

From 26 March 2026, the visa brake will affect new visa applications made from outside the UK by nationals of the following countries:

- **Afghanistan**
- **Cameroon**
- **Myanmar**
- **Sudan**

Student visa applications submitted on or after 26 March 2026 from outside the UK will be refused.

Skilled Worker visa applications submitted on or after 26 March 2026 from outside the UK will be refused for Afghan nationals.

This change only applies to main applicants applying for entry clearance from overseas.

Important dates

Applications submitted **before 26 March 2026** will remain unaffected and will be considered under the Immigration Rules in force at the time of application.

Applications submitted **on or after 26 March 2026** by affected nationalities on the specified routes from outside the UK will be refused.

What is not affected?

The visa brake **does not affect**:

- Students applying for Graduate visa after successfully completing their programme
- Students who are already in the UK with a valid permission
- Visa extensions or switching applications made inside the UK
- Visitor visa
- Child Student visa
- Short-Term Study visa
- Dependants applying under eligible routes
- Other UK visa routes

How long will the visa brake last?

The government has stated it will be reviewed after 18 months and may be either released or extended after that date.

Current students in the UK on a Student visa

If you are already in the UK with a valid Student immigration permission or visa, this change does not affect your current immigration status.

- Your current visa remains valid.
- You can continue studying in line with your visa conditions.
- You can apply to extend your Student visa or switch to another immigration category or route from within the UK, provided you meet the relevant eligibility requirements at the time you apply.
- The visa brake does not cancel your current visa and does not apply to applications made from inside the UK.

We understand that some students may have some further questions, and our advice team is here to support you.

Important considerations for current Student visa holders

While the visa brake does not affect current students studying in the UK already, it is important to carefully consider any changes to your studies (for example, resits/repeats, programme changes, interruptions of studies), as some situations or changes may require you to apply for a new Student visa from outside the UK.

As an example,

- If you interrupt your studies for more than 60 days, your Student visa may be cancelled in line with the visa compliance requirements.

- If this happens, you may need to leave the UK and apply for a new Student visa from overseas before returning to continue your studies.

Students from affected nationalities who need to make a new Student visa application from outside the UK after 26 March 2026 even if they are returning to complete their programme after an interruption will be impacted by the visa brake.

For this reason, it is important that current students already studying in the UK carefully consider any changes to their programme of study as these decisions may have immigration consequences.

If you are considering making a change to your studies, we strongly recommend that you seek immigration advice before making a decision.

Contact us

If you are a current student from one of the affected nationalities and would like to discuss your situation or any concerns, please contact the Student Immigration Service for immigration advice, guidance and support.

[Contact us | Student Immigration Service](#)

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared by the **Student Immigration Service** on **06 March 2026**. The information contained in this guidance was correct at the time of creation.

UK immigration rules and policies can change at short notice. While we aim to keep our information accurate and up to date, students are strongly advised to seek individual advice from the Student Immigration Service before making any decisions that may affect their immigration status.