

Immigration Health Surcharge

If you are applying for a Tier 4 (General) student visa from 6th April 2015 onwards you and your dependents will be required to pay an 'immigration health surcharge' in order to access the UK's National Health Services in the same way as a UK permanent resident would.

This means that any application submitted on or after 6th April 2015 will be subject to an additional £150 surcharge per year (or £75 for each 6 month period) that the visa will be issued for. This will allow those holding a Tier 4 (General) student visa to receive **most** National Healthcare Service (NHS) treatment for free. Please note, as with UK residents, you will still need to pay for certain services provided by the NHS, such as when you receive a prescription.

Q1. How will it affect students and their dependents?

The cost of the health surcharge will be £150 per year plus £75 for any additional period of 6 months or less. The charge will be calculated based on the length of leave, not the length of the programme. For example, if you are on a course over 12 months in length, you will have an additional 5 months to pay for. This is due to the 30 days you are given before your course start date and the 4 months you are given afterwards. Please see the table below for guidance:

Length of Course	Maximum Length of Leave	Surcharge Amount per applicant
1 year	1 year 5 months	£225
2 years	2 years 5 months	£375
3 years	3 years 5 months	£525

You can find out the exact amount you will be required to pay for yourself and any dependents by using the online Immigration Health Surcharge checker:

<https://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/type>

Q2. When will I have to pay the surcharge?

If you are making your Tier 4 (General) visa application online or through the premium service centre you will pay the Immigration Health Surcharge as part of the application or when you book an appointment.

If you are applying for your visa application via post you must pay the healthcare surcharge online before you send your application via the following website:

<https://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/payment/start>

If you are applying for your visa via post you will need to include the IHS reference number on your application form.

Q3. Is it optional?

No, the surcharge will be a compulsory requirement as part of a visa application to enter or remain in the UK for more than 6 months.

However, there are exceptions...

Students and dependents who are nationals of Australia or New Zealand are exempt from paying this charge, however if you are making your visa application by post you must still go through the above payment system as you will need an Immigration Healthcare Surcharge (IHS) reference number (see above description).

There are some other categories which only affect a very small number of our students – see [Schedule 2](#) of the draft Order – if you think that you fall into one of these categories please contact an adviser for further guidance.

Q4. What Information do I need to pay the Health Surcharge?

In order to pay the correct Health Surcharge amount you will need your exact course start and end dates. These will be stated on the CAS statement you receive from the University of Chester. If you do not have this information please contact applyinternational@chester.ac.uk.

Q5. What happens if I pay the wrong amount?

Your visa application will be delayed if you do not pay the correct amount. You will be contacted by UK Visas and Immigration if you didn't pay the health surcharge or didn't pay enough as part of your visa or immigration application. You will receive a visa refusal if you do not pay the full amount:

- within 10 working days if you are inside the UK
- within 7 working days if you are outside the UK

Q6. What happens if I have paid the Health Surcharge twice?

If you think you have paid the surcharge twice you should first check if you have two separate payment confirmations.

If you have applied for your visa from overseas, you should notify the visa application centre when you attend your biometric appointment and they will process your refund alternatively, ways in which the UKVI can be contacted from outside the UK can be found by using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-outside-uk>

If have applied for your visa from within the UK If you have applied for your visa from inside the UK, you should request a refund through the health surcharge payment website. In addition the ways in which the UKVI can be contacted from outside the UK can be found by using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi/overview>

Q7. If my visa application is refused will I get a refund?

Yes, if your visa application is refused you will automatically get a refund of your health surcharge fee.

Q8. Will I get any money back if I do not use the NHS whilst I am here or if I leave the UK early?

No, you will not receive any refund of the health surcharge in any circumstances if your visa is granted, even if you leave the UK early or do not use the NHS whilst you are here.

Q9. What if I suspend my studies?

If you suspend your studies you must leave the UK and apply for a new visa to return when you are ready to resume your studies full-time. In these circumstances, based on the information provided by the Home Office, you would be expected to make a new visa application to return to the UK and you would be required to pay the surcharge again as part of your new application.

Q10. I would like some more information about the surcharge, what should I do?

To read more about the immigration health surcharge and how it will affect you visit the Home Office website:
<https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application/overview>