

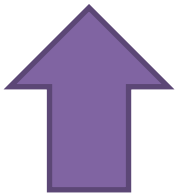
Tier 4 Visas

Integrated Masters Courses

Changing your course of study may require you to apply for a new Tier 4 visa. This includes if you are changing your level of study as part of an integrated masters course. If, when, and where you must apply for a new visa will depend on when your current visa was issued and the specifics of your course change.

Please read the information below before changing course. This information is only applicable to integrated masters courses.

If your current visa was issued before 6 April 2016

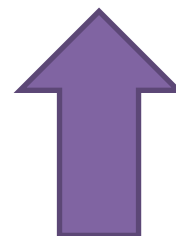


If you move to the higher level of an integrated masters course (e.g. BEng to MEng) and your visa was issued before 6th April 2016 you can change course and continue to study on your current visa. However you may need to obtain an ATAS clearance certificate before changing course. Your School can confirm if your course change requires you to apply for ATAS clearance successfully before you can change. You will need to apply for a new visa before your current one expires. You can apply for your new visa in the UK or from your home country. If you apply in the UK you should use our Check & Send Service in the Student Services Centre so we can check your application and send it to UKVI for you.

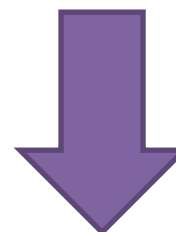


If you move to the lower level of an integrated masters course (e.g. MEng to BEng) and your visa was issued before 6th April 2016 you can change course and continue to study on your current visa. You do not need to obtain a new visa.

If your current visa was issued after 6 April 2016



If you move to the higher level of an integrated masters course (e.g. BEng to MEng) and your visa was issued after 6th April 2016 you must obtain a new Tier 4 visa before you can study your new course. You cannot officially change course until you have received your new visa. You may need to obtain ATAS clearance before you start the new course so you need to check with your School if you require an ATAS certificate. If ATAS is required you must obtain your ATAS certificate before you start your new course. You can apply for your new visa in the UK or from your home country. If you apply in the UK you should use our Check & Send Service in the Student Services Centre so we can check your application and send it to UKVI for you.



If you move to the lower level of an integrated masters course (e.g. MEng to BEng) and your visa was issued after 6th April 2016 you must obtain a new Tier 4 visa before you can study your new course. You cannot officially change course until you have received your new visa. You must return home during a vacation period and apply for a new Tier 4 visa to return to the UK. You cannot apply in the UK.

Further considerations



Changing course multiple times

As stated above, if your current Tier 4 visa was issued after 6th April 2016 and you change your level of study as part of an integrated masters course you must apply for a new Tier 4 visa. Therefore if you change your level of study more than once during your course you will need to apply for a new visa and pay the required application fees each time. Where possible you should try and avoid changing your level of study multiple times.



Immigration Healthcare Surcharge

If you apply for your new Tier 4 visa from outside the UK you will not receive a refund for any money you previously paid for the Immigration Healthcare Surcharge as part of your Tier 4 visa application. You will have to pay this again for your new visa.

If you transfer from the bachelors to the masters level of your integrated masters course then you can apply for your new visa in the UK. If you apply in the UK you should receive a partial refund for your previous Immigration Healthcare surcharge payment. You should be refunded for any overlapping period of time on your visas of more than 6 months.

Adding a placement year or year abroad

Please note that if you add a placement year to your course e.g. industrial experience, or a study abroad programme, you can now apply for your new visa from the UK as well as from home. If your current visa was issued after 6th April 2016 is still the case that you need to have obtained a new visa before you can officially change to your new course at the University, even if you apply in the UK.

Applying for your new visa in the UK

Where you are eligible to apply for your visa to change course in the UK you should use the University's Check & Send Service. This is where we check your application form and documents before you complete it, and then post your application to UKVI for you. We are based in the Student Services Centre.

Please see our website for more guidance on how to use our Check & Send Service.

How to apply for your new visa

For more information about course changes please see this webpage:

<http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/immigration-and-visas/visas-and-applications/tier-4/changes-during-your-studies/changes-to-your-studies/>

For more information about how to apply for your new visa please visit our website:

<http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/immigration-and-visas/visas-and-applications/tier-4/>

If you have any questions after reading this information and our website please contact us:

Email: visa@manchester.ac.uk

Phone: 0161 275 5000 (option 1)

Visit: Student Services Centre