

Always read the relevant and most up-to-date guidance on <https://www.gov.uk/> and seek advice from a trained and regulated immigration adviser. Our guidance documents are specific to Bournemouth University (BU) students and have all been carefully checked but we accept no legal responsibility for their accuracy after the date of publication.

The [Immigration Health Surcharge \(IHS\)](#) is a financial contribution to the UK's National Health Service (NHS).

The surcharge needs to be paid, if you are applying for either a Student (or a Dependant of a Student):

1. permission to enter (i.e. a visa you get from outside the UK) for more than 6 months; or
2. permission to stay (i.e. a visa you get inside the UK) for any length of time.

The IHS fee must be paid during the visa application. The UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) online visa application system automatically directs applicants to the IHS payment portal to make that payment before the visa application fees is paid and the visa application is truly submitted. You can use the [IHS calculator](#) to see how much IHS you will have to pay.

IHS is paid for the total length of a visa and not just for the length of a course. A Student (or Dependant of a Student) visa is always meant to be longer than the course itself.

Example: you apply for a Student visa from outside the UK to study a BU degree level course which is exactly **12 months** long from the 'course start date' to 'course end date' as this is noted on your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). This could mean **5 additional months** on your Student visa, **1** before the 'course start date', and **4** after the 'course end date'. The total length of your visa could be **17 months**. For every six-month period on the visa (this is rounded up), you pay £338 IHS. In this example, £1014 will need to be paid.

Please note that the online system does not always calculate the IHS correctly. This often happens for example when somebody is applying for a new visa for the same course due to not being able to complete the course within the original dates. This IHS portal calculation error is not fixable at the time of payment and the visa application has to be submitted even if the amount is incorrect. In all these cases, however, the UKVI will ask for a top-up payment before they make a decision on the visa application. Failure to fulfil an IHS top-up payment request could result in a visa refusal. If you are unsure whether an IHS top-up request is genuine, please [contact AskBU](#).

Please note that IHS refunds are not possible apart from the very limited situations that are listed on [this GOV.UK website](#). These rules are all external to BU and we are only able to advise within these rules. You will need to [contact the UKVI](#), should you wish to discuss an IHS refund.

Other guidance for BU students on immigration and visas is available on [our website](#).

For more information and guidance for all international students coming or living in the UK, BU highly recommends our advisory body's, [the UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\) website](#).