
Integrated Masters' Transfers (Visa and CAS)

UKVI rules – Transferring to an integrated Masters' programme e.g. **MEng/MSci/MChem/MPhys** is considered a change of course. If you change your course, you must obtain a new Student visa overseas or have applied for one in the UK before you can start Level 3.

You can apply for your new Student visa from either overseas or in the UK from **mid-July** after the July Exam Board, or in September if you have August resits.

Where to apply

Applying outside the UK

If you decide to apply overseas, we recommend doing so **as soon as possible** as visa processing times can get much longer over the summer months as the number of Students applying for visas to come to the UK increases. You will need to pay the visa application fees and the immigration health surcharge (IHS) again. There will be no refunds for any IHS paid previously. You will need to submit new bank statements/education loan/official financial sponsorship showing funds to cover the next academic year's tuition fees and living costs. You must have been granted your NEW visa before you can enrol for your integrated Masters' course starting September so it is important to apply for the new visa **as early as possible** before you are due to return to Swansea - it can take several weeks to obtain a visa overseas.

Applying in the UK

You'd need to pay for the visa application fees and immigration health surcharge (IHS) when you submit the application but you *should* get a refund on the IHS for any overlapping period with the previous visa.

Since you should have been studying in the UK for 12 months or more at the time of application, you most likely will not need to submit evidence of your finances.

However, if you have been living in the UK for **less than** 12 months you will need to prepare financial evidence either in the form of a bank statement, educational loan or official sponsorship letter that proves you have enough money to cover your tuition fees and living costs.

You must have submitted your visa application by the end of the enrolment period for Level 3 in September/October or before your current visa expires, **whichever is sooner**.

Once you have applied for your visa, you can enrol with proof of your online visa application (download a PDF copy of the online visa application form and document checklist). Your integrated Masters' transfer will

only be finalised and confirmed **after** your new visa has been granted **and** a copy of your new immigration status has been sent to cas.compliance@swansea.ac.uk

What do I need to do and when

- April (Level 2) Your School will invite you to transfer to the integrated Masters' version of your course if you are eligible, fill in transfer forms
- April/May (Level 2) – Apply for new CAS from Student Compliance and apply for ATAS (if applicable)
- June (Level 2) - deposit and maintain the required funds in bank account, if needed
- July - September (Level 2) – Apply for visa after your results have been confirmed and your CAS issued

Do I need ATAS (Academic Technology Approval Scheme)

Some courses require an additional level of security clearance. If your course requires ATAS approval, you **MUST** submit the new ATAS certificate as part of your visa application and you will also need before you can enrol for the next level of your course. **Apply early, as ATAS applications can take up to 8 – 12 weeks** to be processed. MEng/MPhys courses that require ATAS are:

- MEng Materials Science & Engineering CAH 10-03-02
- MEng Chemical Engineering CAH 10-01-09
- MEng Aerospace Engineering CAH 10-01-04
- MEng Mechanical Engineering CAH 10-01-02
- MPhys Physics CAH07-01-01

Follow the instructions on the ATAS website and you can find course details from the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme>

What if I have August re-sit exams?

You can only apply for your visa after your results are released around mid-September and if you meet the academic requirements for the course. If you are overseas and not able to apply for a visa in time to return for enrolment in September, you can return to the UK using your existing visa as long as it remains valid and apply to extend once in the UK through the VISA Advice Team. Once in the UK you **must** extend your visa **before** the current one expires.

We recommend that you still apply for ATAS in July, you don't need to wait for the resit results. Applying for ATAS is free and applying in July will give you enough time to have the ATAS granted before enrolment and making a visa application in September/October.

How to request a new CAS number?

If you are applying for a CAS to transfer from a BEng / BSc to an integrated Masters' programme please request a CAS from the Student Compliance Services (CAS) team from 1st May onwards.

1	Please contact the Student Compliance Services (CAS) team to request a CAS application – cas.compliance@swansea.ac.uk including your full name and student number in the email.
2	You will then be sent a CAS application form that will need to be fully completed and returned by email along with copies of your current passport and any current/past visas used to study in the UK.
3	After submitting your CAS application and supporting documents, SCS (CAS) will consider your CAS application and supporting documents whilst implementing the necessary checks.

4	During this period, we recommend you liaise with the VISA Advice team to ensure your visa application has been prepared and is ready for submitting as soon as your CAS is issued.
5	If you meet all UKVI requirements, your CAS will be approved and the information will be submitted to the Home Office.
6	You will then receive an email to confirm that your CAS has been approved with your CAS statement. The CAS number on this statement can then be added to your online Student Visa application, ready for submission.

Please note that CAS processing times may be extended when handling complex cases that require further inquiries or where there are delays with key documents being submitted to the VISA Compliance team.

What documents do I need for my next Student visa application and how do I apply?

Applying outside the UK

<https://www.swansea.ac.uk/international-campuslife/immigration/applying-for-a-visa/>

Applying in the UK

<https://www.swansea.ac.uk/international-campuslife/immigration/extending-your-student-route-visa-in-the-uk/>

What if I want to do the integrated Masters' with Year in Industry (YII) or Year Abroad?

You will need to follow the same timetable as described above in order to transfer from Bachelor to the integrated Masters' with Year in Industry / Abroad i.e. at the end of Level 2.

I am already on the integrated Masters'. What if I want to go back to the Bachelor version of the course?

Transferring down from an integrated Masters to the Bachelor version of the course is not considered a change of course, therefore you can simply submit a transfer request via your Faculty. You will still be able to apply for the Graduate Route based on completing the lower qualification.

What if I want to do the MSc instead of the MEng / MSci / MChem / MPhys?

The MEng / MSci / MChem / MPhys are integrated 4-year degree courses and form an extension of the BEng/BSc version of the degree.

The **MSc** is a separate Masters' level course that students can apply to study after completing a BEng/BSc course. Details of how to apply can be found at www.swansea.ac.uk/postgraduate

You can only have a new CAS to apply for a visa for the MSc **after** successfully completing an undergraduate degree. You can apply for your visa from either overseas OR in the UK. Speak to your School for details about the academic difference between the MSc and an integrated Masters' course.

Contact details

VISA Advice – visa.advice@swansea.ac.uk.

<https://www.swansea.ac.uk/international-campuslife>

Student Compliance Services (CAS) – cas.compliance@swansea.ac.uk