



Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) procedure

Scope and purpose

As a Student visa sponsor under the Points Based System for Immigration the University of Bath is required to ensure that all students requiring ATAS clearance (including non-Student visa holder) obtain an ATAS clearance certificate.

This procedure forms part of a suite of procedure documents that have been agreed to ensure that the University of Bath remains compliant with Student visa sponsor guidance.

Key responsibilities

Responsibility for the management and implementation of these procedures lies with the University Secretary & Registrar, who is the Authorising Officer for the University's Student sponsor licence, with the day-to-day assistance of the Student Immigration Service.

ATAS requirements

ATAS clearance is required for all students aged 16 or over requiring time limited immigration permission to study in the UK before they can commence on the following programmes:

Undergraduate taught programmes leading to postgraduate qualification

- MEng: Aerospace Engineering
- MEng: Aerospace Engineering with Placement
- MEng: Chemical Engineering
- MEng: Chemical Engineering with Placement
- MEng: Chemical Engineering with Environmental Engineering
- MEng: Chemical Engineering with Environmental Engineering with Placement
- MEng: Integrated Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
- MEng: Integrated Mechanical & Electrical Engineering with Placement
- MEng: Integrated Design Engineering
- MEng: Integrated Design Engineering with Placement
- MEng: Mechanical Engineering
- MEng: Mechanical Engineering with Placement

- MEng: Mechanical with Automotive Engineering
- MEng: Mechanical with Automotive Engineering with Placement
- MEng: Mechanical Engineering with Manufacturing and Management
- MEng: Mechanical Engineering with Manufacturing and Management with Placement
- MPhys: Physics
- MPhys: Physics with Professional Placement
- MPhys: Physics with Research Placement
- MPhys: Physics with Professional & Research Placements
- MPhys: Physics with Year Abroad
- MPhys: Physics with Astrophysics
- MPhys: Physics with Astrophysics with Professional Placement
- MPhys: Physics with Astrophysics with Research Placement
- MPhys: Physics with Astrophysics with Professional and Research Placements
- MPhys: Physics with Astrophysics with Study Abroad
- MPhys: Physics with Theoretical Physics
- MPhys: Physics with Theoretical Physics with Study Year Abroad
- MPhys: Physics with Theoretical Physics with Professional Placement
- MPhys: Physics with Theoretical Physics with Research Placement
- MPhys: Physics with Theoretical Physics with Professional and Research Placements
- MPhys: Physics with Theoretical Physics with Study Year Abroad and Research Placement
- MSci: Mathematics and Physics
- MSci: Mathematics and Physics with Placement
- MSci: Mathematics and Physics with Study Year Abroad

Postgraduate taught programmes

- MSc Environmental Engineering (full-time)
- MSc Environmental Engineering with 5 week pre-sessional English (full-time)
- MSc Environmental Engineering with 10 week pre-sessional English (full-time)
- MSc Sustainable Energy Engineering
- MSc Sustainable Energy Engineering with 5 week pre-sessional English (full-time)
- MSc Sustainable Energy Engineering with 10 week pre-sessional English (full-time)
- MSc Advanced Mechanical Engineering
- MSc Advanced Mechanical Engineering with 5 week pre-sessional English (full-time)
- MSc Advanced Mechanical Engineering with 10 week pre-sessional English (full-time)
- MSc Engineering Business Management (full-time)
- MSc Engineering Business Management with 10 week pre-sessional English (full-time)
- MSc Engineering Business Management with 5 week pre-sessional English (full-time)
- MSc Engineering Business Management (online learning) *
- MSc Innovation and Technology Management (full-time)
- MSc Innovation and Technology Management with 5 week pre-sessional English (full-time)
- MSc Innovation and Technology Management with 10 week pre-sessional English (full-time)

Postgraduate research programmes in:

the Faculty of Science (with the exception of Statistics)

the Faculty of Engineering and Design (with the exception of Architecture)

Note: the PhD Research Programme in Health is now exempt from the ATAS requirement.

Students exempt from the ATAS requirement

Students do not need to meet the ATAS requirement, and will not be subject to the ATAS condition, if they are a national of UK, EU, EEA, or a national of the following countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, United States of America.

A new ATAS clearance certificate will be required under the following circumstances:

- if a student changes course and the new course requires ATAS
- If the course details (the list of modules or research area) for which clearance has been granted change substantially
- if the student needs to extend their visa to complete their course
- if the end date of the course is extended to more than 3 months
- if a student wishes to commence a period of study or research which is part of an overseas postgraduate qualification.
- if the student's Director of Studies or supervisor changes.
- if the student's financial sponsor or sponsorship conditions change

ATAS process – applicants to the University

- Applicants will be informed if they will require ATAS clearance and it is their responsibility to obtain their ATAS clearance certificate in time for their visa application or course start date. Applicants will be provided with all the information needed to apply and it is essential that they submit the full list of modules, including optional units, or research abstract exactly as provided by the University
- Applicants requiring a Student visa will not be issued with a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) until the University has been sent a copy of their valid ATAS clearance certificate by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and this has been uploaded to the applicant's record
- Non-Student visa holders on programmes requiring ATAS clearance will not be permitted to register with the University until the University has received a copy of their valid ATAS clearance certificate
- ATAS clearance certificates will only be considered to be valid where all the course details are correct, including the full list of modules, including optional units, or the research abstract. If any information is incorrect or missing, the applicant may be required to reapply.

ATAS process – current students

- Current students on programmes requiring ATAS clearance who need to extend their visa must obtain their new ATAS certificate before they submit their visa application
- The University will not issue a CAS to students requiring ATAS clearance until the University has been sent a copy of their valid ATAS clearance certificate by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and this has been uploaded to the student's record. In certain exceptional circumstances it may be possible to issue a CAS before the ATAS certificate is received but once evidence is provided that ATAS clearance has been applied for. The University will send on the ATAS certificate to be added to the visa application through the Student Immigration Service's visa extension service.

Course changes – current students

- Students needing immigration permission to study in the UK changing onto a course which requires ATAS clearance must apply for their new ATAS certificate before they change course
- If there are any substantive changes to the course contents (or research proposal) or the course completion date (as stated on the CAS) is delayed for more than 3 months the student must apply for a new ATAS certificate within 28 days, as stipulated by the Immigration Rules
- The Student Immigration Service will be responsible for checking that all visa holders changing course obtain a valid ATAS certificate

ATAS refusals

If an ATAS clearance application is refused, the student will be advised by the Student Immigration Service on a case-by-case basis. It may be necessary for the student to change to a course that does not require ATAS clearance or to suspend their studies until a valid ATAS clearance certificate is obtained.

Any queries relating to ATAS clearance should be sent to studentimmigrationservice@bath.ac.uk in the first instance.