

# Your Guide to Getting Started with Study Abroad in the UK



*A guide for students with WASSCE, NECO, or SSCE, or IGCSE results, here is what you need to begin planning your UK studies.*

## 1. Your Passport

Make sure you have a valid international passport with at least a year of validity left. This is the starting document for every part of the process.

## 2. Your WASSCE, NECO, or SSCE Results

Download your official results from the WAEC or NECO portal, or from the email sent to you or your parents if you sat IGCSEs, as soon as they are released. Universities will ask for them early.

## 3. Know What and Where

Have a rough idea of the course you want to study in the UK, and the type of university or city you are drawn to. If you are not sure on location yet, that is fine too, we can help you narrow it down. This helps us shortlist the right options for you.

## 4. Know Who Is Funding You

Decide who will be paying for tuition and living costs, whether that is a parent, guardian or sponsor. Unless you are paying your tuition fees upfront in full, you will need to show proof of funds, money held in the account for 28 consecutive days, covering tuition and living expenses.

## 5. Book Your IELTS (UKVI Academic)

IELTS is an English language test that UK universities and the Home Office use to check your English is strong enough for study and visa purposes, and it is required even though Nigeria is an English speaking country. For a student visa you need IELTS for UKVI Academic specifically, not the standard IELTS Academic test, and each university sets its own required score for each course. It is valid for 2 years, so book it early. Check the British Council ([britishcouncil.org.ng](https://britishcouncil.org.ng)) or IDP ([idp.com/nigeria](https://idp.com/nigeria)), or search for your nearest approved IELTS centre. In most cases you will need IELTS, but it is sometimes waived if you have a C6 or above in English in your WAEC or NECO results, so it is worth checking this with us before you book.

## 6. Your TB Test

Required for most UK student visas. Unlike IELTS, the certificate is only valid for 6 months, so this should be booked closer to your actual visa application, not too far in advance.

## 7. Scholarships, Realistically

Some UK universities offer partial scholarships or fee discounts for strong applicants. Fully funded scholarships covering everything are extremely rare, and are usually allocated to UK residents before overseas students, so it is best to plan your budget assuming you will need to fund the course yourself.

## 8. Foundation Year or Direct Entry?

Most UK universities will ask for a foundation year in a suitable subject area on top of your SSCE or IGCSE results. Some also offer an International Year One (IYO), which combines foundation level study with your

first year of a degree, so you can sometimes finish in the same time as a direct entry student. If you have SSCE or IGCSEs plus additional education in Nigeria, such as a year of undergraduate study or a recognised foundation programme, you may be able to go straight into Year 1 of a degree. Only a small number of universities accept SSCE or IGCSE results alone for direct entry, and usually only on specific courses. We will help you work out the right route for your results and your target university.

## 9. Personal Statement

You will need one as part of your application. We will guide you through writing this once you begin the application process.

## 10. What to Budget For

*(All figures below are correct as of 2026 and are reviewed annually, so please treat them as a guide.)*

- Tuition: course costs vary between £15,000 and £25,000 per year. A smaller number of courses, including medicine, sit at the higher end between £25,000 and £40,000. There is something in most budgets, and we will help you find it
- Visa application fee: around £490
- Immigration Health Surcharge: £776 per year of visa length
- Accommodation: roughly £6,000 to £12,000 per year, depending on location and type

## Your University Application Journey

1

Shortlist where to apply

▼

2

Submit your application

▼

3

Receive a conditional offer

▼

4

Meet the conditions (grades, IELTS, documents)

▼

5

Pay a deposit to secure your place

▼

6

Receive your unconditional offer

▼

7

Pay your fees in full, or provide proof of funds documentation if paying in instalments

▼

8

Your Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) is issued, this is when you can begin your visa application

## Your Visa Journey

*With your CAS in hand, you can now start the visa application process.*

1

Gather your documentation

▼

2

Upload everything required

▼

3

Pay the visa fee and Immigration Health Surcharge

▼

4

We recommend having support at this stage from a visa expert

Get in touch with a Panoba advisor with your passport, SSCE or IGCSE results, course and location ideas, and your budget. We will help you find the right pathway and university, and guide you through the rest of the application. Book your IELTS and TB test early so nothing delays you once your application is ready.