

Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

With one of the best healthcare systems in the world, globally respected policing and low crime rates, studying in the UK is exceptionally safe and secure.

The UK's NHS (National Health Service) is one of the world's most advanced healthcare systems, offering safe and modern treatment. To gain access to the NHS, you will be required to pay an immigration health surcharge as part of your visa application fees which allows you to use the NHS for (amongst other things):

- Consulting a doctor on any physical or mental health issue.
- Accident and emergency services (excluding follow-up treatments and in-patient admissions).
- Diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases.
- Accessing the Covid-19 vaccine.

Requirements and costs

If you are a student from the EU or Switzerland coming to study in the UK for more than 6 months, starting on or after 1 January 2021, you will be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) as part of your visa application. Currently, the surcharge costs £624 per adult per year, with a discounted rate of £470 for students and their dependents.

The Immigration Health Surcharge entitles a person to free NHS hospital treatment in the UK on the same basis as someone who is ordinarily resident, with the exception of NHS-funded assisted conception services in England. A person's entitlement will apply from the date their visa is granted until it expires. Students and their family members who receive a reimbursement of their Immigration Health Surcharge payment will only be entitled to use their EU/Swiss-issued EHIC to access medically necessary treatment during their stay.

Medically necessary treatment means healthcare that cannot reasonably wait until the person returns home. Whether treatment is necessary is decided by the healthcare provider in the country of visit.

EU or Swiss students who are moving to the UK to study for 6 months or less will not be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge and can access medically necessary healthcare in the UK using their EU/Swiss-issued EHIC.

You can find more information [here](#).

Reimbursement

As agreed with the EU and Switzerland, the UK Government has launched a scheme whereby certain eligible EU and Swiss students in full-time higher education may be entitled to a full or partial reimbursement of their Immigration Health Surcharge. To be eligible for the scheme, students studying in the UK must have:

- a UK visa with a start date on or after 1 January 2021,
- be in full-time higher education (level 4+ in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and level 7+ in Scotland),
- hold a valid EU or Swiss-issued European Health Insurance Card (EHIC),
- and must not be working or intend to work in the UK.

You may be entitled to a full or partial reimbursement of your Immigration Health Surcharge depending on the validity period of your EHIC. To be eligible for a full refund, you should ensure that you hold a valid EHIC for the duration of your stay. If you receive an Immigration Health Surcharge reimbursement you must not work in the UK. Working in the UK will invalidate your EHIC and you may have to pay for any NHS healthcare you receive.

If you intend to apply for a reimbursement of your Immigration Health Surcharge, you should present your EHIC when accessing medically necessary treatment during your stay in the UK. Once you have received your reimbursement, you may have to pay for any NHS healthcare you receive that is not deemed medically necessary by the healthcare provider.

We encourage all students to consider their circumstances carefully, including their healthcare needs and whether they wish to work in the UK, before deciding whether to apply for a reimbursement. After a student has had a reimbursement, it will not be possible to process a repayment of the IHS.

You can find more information on studying in the UK on the [Study UK website](#).