

## STUDENT ADVISORY SERVICE

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The information in this leaflet is accurate at the time of print. However, as it is occasionally subject to change, students are asked to seek further advice from their centre Student Advisers.



**Tower  
Hamlets  
College**

# STUDENT ADVISORY SERVICE

## Immigration

Please check the list on the back of this booklet to select the right title for your query

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NOTES:

## FEES

The first thing you need to find out is whether you are a home student or an overseas student because your immigration status will determine what fees you will pay.

### **Do I have to pay fees and if yes, how much?**

There are three rates of fee:

- 'Concessionary' fees
- 'Home' rate fees
- 'Overseas' rate fees

Most college courses are funded by the Learning & Skills Council. LSC will not fund your course unless you have been assessed as a home student. If you are not a home student, you will have to pay the full costs of your course.

For Further Education courses, you are a 'home' student if:

- you are an EEA/Swiss national, or a family member of such a person, who has been resident in the EEA for the last 3 years.
- you have a full refugee status/Exceptional Leave to Remain/Discretionary or Humanitarian Leave to Remain, regardless of the length of your stay in the UK
- If you are an Asylum Seeker in receipt of any type of state support.
- You have an Indefinite Leave to Remain/Enter the UK
- You had a marriage visa for more than a year
- You have lived legally in the UK for the last 3 years but not mainly or wholly for the purposes of education, e.g. you are a work-permit holder or his/her dependant

Home students are means-tested for fees. For an LSC-funded course of 12 hours or more, you will pay tuition fees at the home rate (around £840 for academic year 06/07), or no fees at all if you are a:

1. 'Home' student undertaking Skills for Life or ESOL courses, but for **only** the ESOL/Skills for Life part of your course if you are doing other courses as well
2. 'Home' student undertaking courses below level 2
3. 'Home' students who is undertaking a level 2 course for the first time
4. 'Home' student on the second year of a course you started when you were still under-19.

## Asylum Seekers & Refugees

The rules and regulations governing asylum and immigration are too wide and complex for the general adviser. In addition, these laws and rules change or are amended often and can lead different nationalities needing a different type of advice. See a Student Adviser for basic guidance.

Always seek expert legal advice through lawyers who specialize in that area of the law for any queries relating asylum. You can also consult one of the agencies listed at the end of this leaflet for free in-depth support and guidance.

## Naturalisation & Citizenship Tests

You can apply by simply making a written request with your personal details and attaching all the relevant documents & a declaration that the information and documents you are giving are true. But the easier way is to fill in the Home Office's own FORM AN (New) which you can download from:

[www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/nationality/formsand\\_guidance](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/nationality/formsand_guidance)

See a Student Adviser for more details.

From 1 November 2005, a new requirement was added. Applicants must now **either**:

1. Show knowledge about life in the UK by passing a 'Life in the UK' test, pitched at ESOL Level 3. You can buy the Home Office's own publication on the subject, 'Life in the UK: A Journey to Citizenship' for £9.99 at bookshops or order it online from: [www.tso.co.uk/bookshop](http://www.tso.co.uk/bookshop). For further details call 'Life in the UK' on: **0800 0154245** or go on-line on [www.lifeintheuktest.gov.uk](http://www.lifeintheuktest.gov.uk) for your nearest test centre. £34 fees are payable for this test. In Tower Hamlets, the nearest test centre is:

TBG Learning Centre, Truman Building, 91-95 Brick Lane, London E1 6QL.  
Call them on **020-7647 0036** to book an appointment;

**Or:**

2. Undertake an ESOL level 3 course, with a citizenship syllabus, at your nearest college or Learning Centre.. Call Learn Direct on: **0800 100 900** to find out the most convenient place for you to undertake this course. ESOL courses are free of charge.

## Contacting the Home Office:

If you need to get in touch with the Home Office regarding: visa extension, proof of study, renewing or applying for a new passport/travel document, naturalization/ citizenship tests, family reunion applications or any other reason, please contact the Student Advisers to guide you.

**Home Office: Tel. No.: 0870 606 7766**

**UK Visa Section: 020 7008 8308**

You will also find below a list of telephone numbers of specialized agencies that deal with immigration who may be able to help you if your case warrants legal expertise.

### Useful Telephone Numbers:

<b>Immigration Advisory Service (IAS)</b>	<b>020 7967 1200</b>
<b>British Refugee Council (BRC)</b>	<b>020 7346 6700 020 7820 3000/3085</b>
<b>Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)</b>	<b>020 7251 8708</b>
<b>World University Service (WUS)</b>	<b>020 7426 5801</b>
<b>National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (CABS)</b>	<b>020 7251 2000</b>
<b>United Kingdom Council for Overseas Students Affairs (UKCOSA)</b>	<b>020 7288 4330/0845 166 8387</b>
<b>Tower Hamlets Law Centre</b> 241 Whitechapel Road, E1	<b>020 7247 8998</b>
<b>Hackney Community Law Centre</b> 8 Lower Clapton Road, London, E3 0PD	<b>020 8985 8364</b>