



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

## **ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY APPROVAL SCHEME (ATAS)**

On **1 November 2007** the UK government will introduce the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS). Having an ATAS clearance certificate will be a mandatory requirement for **some** postgraduate students who need an Entry Clearance to study in the UK. You can access the ATAS online application form from **3 September 2007**.

This will affect you if:

- You plan to undertake **postgraduate** research in **science, engineering or technology disciplines**
- OR**
- You are applying for a postgraduate taught Masters in Materials Science, Materials Technology, Aerospace Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or Physics (including Nuclear Physics).

**IF YOU NEED AN ATAS CERTIFICATE AND YOU DON'T HAVE ONE YOUR ENTRY CLEARANCE APPLICATION WILL BE REFUSED. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK IF THIS SCHEME APPLIES TO YOU.**

You **DO NOT** need an ATAS certificate if:

- You are a UK or EU / EEA (including Switzerland) national
- OR**
- You are applying to do an extended **continuous** undergraduate course leading, in the final year (s), to a Masters qualification (e.g. MEng, MPharm, MSci). *However if you are seeking an Entry Clearance, or extension of stay, to join these courses part way through then you will need an ATAS certificate.*

You **DO** need an ATAS certificate if:

- You require a student Entry Clearance or Visa to study in the UK
- AND**
- You wish to study within certain subject areas (a detailed list is shown on [www.fco.gov.uk/atas](http://www.fco.gov.uk/atas)) at a UK University or Higher Education Institution and the exit qualification will be a Doctorate / postgraduate Masters degree by research **or** in one of the five taught postgraduate Master degree areas (see above)

**MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [www.fco.gov.uk/atas](http://www.fco.gov.uk/atas), INCLUDING THE ATAS APPLICATION FORM**

From September, you will also be able to contact the following places for help and advice:

- The University(s) or Higher Education Institution(s) to which you are applying
- UKVisas ([www.ukvisas.gov.uk](http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk))
- British Council ([www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org))
- UK Embassies overseas ([www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk))

**NB: BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR AN ATAS CERTIFICATE YOU MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF AN OFFER LETTER FROM A UK HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION**

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