



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) 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, 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)
- British Council (www.britishcouncil.org)
- UK Embassies overseas (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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