

## **ATAS Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***I'm already in the UK as a researcher, do I need an ATAS certificate?***

You do not need to apply for an ATAS certificate if you:

- are already conducting research in the UK
- were a visitor conducting research in the UK before the requirement for ATAS certificates was introduced on 21 May 2021, and you are continuing this research

You need to apply for an ATAS certificate if you:

- are already conducting research in the UK and you apply for a new visa or apply to extend your current visa
- were a visitor conducting research in the UK before the requirement for ATAS certificates was introduced on 21 May 2021 and are returning to the UK to do research
- hold an ATAS certificate for a UK course you have undertaken are making a new application for a Skilled Worker, Intra-company transfer, Intra-company graduate trainee, Tier 5 International Agreement, or Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange visa. You need it before you apply for a visa
- change your field of research or change where you conduct your research

### ***What if my circumstances changes after ATAS certificate is issued?***

The ATAS certificate must accurately reflect the HEI/research institute which employs/hosts your research, and the research project, job title and duration. If any of these details change you should check whether you require an ATAS certificate and apply for a new certificate if you need one.

Researchers applying for ATAS can begin their employment or research 2 weeks before, or any time after the start date stated on their certificate.

Make a note of when your permission to enter into the UK is due to expire, and allow sufficient time to complete the ATAS and permission to stay application processes before your current permission expires. We recommend applying at least 4 months before your current permission expires.

### ***I intend to conduct research at more than one institute will one ATAS certificate be sufficient?***

No, an ATAS certificate is applicable to one HEI/research institute. If you are conducting research at more than 1 institute, you need to apply for an ATAS certificate for each, which including information on the research you will undertake at each HEI/research institute.

### ***How long does an ATAS application take?***

It will take at least 20 working days (4 full weeks) to process a student ATAS application. Processing times will increase between April and September and can take 30 or more working days to complete.

It will take at least 10 working days (2 full weeks) to process a researcher ATAS application. Processing times will increase between April and September and can take 15 or more working days to complete.

There is no 'fast track' service. You should submit your ATAS application as early as possible.

***How do I apply for an ATAS certificate?***

Information regarding the application process can be located [here](#).

***How long is the ATAS certificate valid for?***

An ATAS certificate is valid for 6 months from the date it is issued. Make sure your ATAS certificate will not expire before you apply for your UK visa.

Further information relating to ATAS can be found on the [government website](#).