

The Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) for STUDENTS

The Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS), replacing the previous Voluntary Vetting Scheme requires students intending to undertake postgraduate studies or research in certain designated subjects, to have **ATAS clearance** prior to making an application for entry clearance . The ATAS scheme is for students intending to undertake postgraduate studies or research (research must be for longer than 6 months) in certain designated subjects. Each subject has a JACS score which should be included on the students offer letter from the UK university. The JACS score should also be included on the application form for an ATAS certificate.

<<http://www.FCO.gov.uk/atas>> has details of the list of the designated subjects and further details of the scheme. This will make it mandatory for students covered by the Scheme to submit their ATAS certificate with their visa application. Students can submit as many applications as they wish and can hold an unlimited number of ATAS certificates.

The ATAS will also apply to students enrolled on an overseas course similar in subject matter to those covered by the ATAS, where that student applies to come to the UK for more than 6 months to undertake a period of study/research as part of their overseas course.