Current Immigration Rules coming into effect from 6th July 2018.

**ATAS clearance**
From 6 July 2018, if you are studying a course that requires ATAS then you will need to obtain ATAS clearance regardless of the length of course. You will need to obtain this clearance before you make the Tier 4 application (either as entry clearance or leave to remain).

If you are coming to the UK under the short-term student route in order to study relevant courses for up to six months, you will need to apply for ATAS clearance (This applies if you are 18 or older when applying for immigration permission or will turn 18 before the permission expires). This is not a requirement for you if you are coming under the short-term student (child) route.

**Different documentary requirements**
If you are a national of Bahrain, Cambodia, China, The Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Kuwait, The Maldives, Mexico, Serbia, Thailand, Macau SAR, you will also be able to apply under 'differentiation arrangements' for 'low-risk applicants'. This is because these countries have been added to the list of countries (in Appendix H of the immigration rules) which benefit from having different documentary requirements when making an application.

However, Oman has been removed from the list. This means that if you are a national of Oman and if you are making Tier 4 application from 6 July 2018, you must submit all documentation which is required as part of a Tier 4 application.

In addition if you want to apply under these arrangements (and are outside the UK) then you will no longer be required to apply for entry clearance in the country of your nationality – you can apply from the country in which you are living.

**Dependants of Tier 4 students**
From 6 July 2018, if you have dependants and you are studying a postgraduate degree at the University of Birmingham, then your dependants will be able to apply for immigration permission if your course is at least 9 months long.

**Tier 4 students who want to study abroad as part of a UK course**
From 6 July 2018, if you are applying for Tier 4 immigration permission, then in addition to being able to study with the institution which issued your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS), you will be able to study on a study abroad programme at a partner institution of your existing institution. In order to benefit from this, the study abroad element of your course must be an integral and assessed part of your course for which you were assigned a CAS (regardless of when it is added to the course).
If you choose to do a period of study abroad, then you will most likely need to apply to extend your Tier 4 immigration permission to cover the full length of your course, but you will not be required to apply for this immigration permission before starting the study abroad programme.

**Evidence of qualification**
From 6 July 2018, you will be able to provide a print out of a qualification or transcript from the awarding body's online checking service. The specific details which the printout or transcript must contain will be listed in paragraph 120SD of Appendix A of the Immigration Rules. You will still need to be prepared to have the original document, as the Home Office can request this.