



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Male'
Republic of Maldives

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MEDIA RELEASE

The UK Border Agency announces special temporary arrangements for Maldivian student visa applications

22 August 2010, Male'; The UK Border Agency announced special arrangements for processing the applications for student visas from the Maldives for courses beginning in autumn 2010 (on or before 31 October, 2010).

Students who submit their visa applications between Wednesday 8 and Tuesday 14 September will have their applications processed in 5 working days. This means that students will be able to apply for a visa and get back their documents during one visit to Sri Lanka.

Maldivian students need to make an appointment at the visa application centre in Colombo before they visit by emailing ukstudentcolombo@vfshelpline.com. They should specify in the subject box of the email that they are a Maldivian student and require an appointment between 8 and 14 September. VFS will have a number of dedicated appointments for Maldivian students only between these dates. Any applications submitted outside these dates will not be considered under the faster processing arrangements. Further guidance on how to schedule an appointment is available at www.vfs-uk-lk.com.

It is important that applicants follow the current Tier 4 guidance carefully, complete their applications fully and submit the correct supporting documents. Tier 4 guidance is available at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/tier4migrantguidance1.pdf

Tier 4 visa application forms (VAF 9 and appendix 8 for General Students and appendix 9 for Child Students) are available free of charge at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas

There have been some significant changes to the Tier 4 student visa policy in 2010. These include the requirement that all adult (General) Tier 4 students who have a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) issued after 12 August for study below degree level, excluding foundation degrees and English language courses, need to pass a UK Border Agency-approved Secure English Language Test (SELT) before they apply for a visa. Further information about this English language requirement is available at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/>

If applicants submit fraudulent documents or false information, their visa applications will be refused. They also face an automatic ban on entry to the UK for the next 10 years for any category of visa.

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22 August 2010

Notes to editors:

1. The visa application centre in Colombo is operated by the UK Border Agency's commercial partner, VFS Global Services Pvt. Ltd. Its location has changed recently. Please see new location details at: www.vfs-uk-lk.com.
2. Information about the UK visa application process and opening times of the visa application centre are available at the same web address.