

UCAS Home Status Factsheet

Essential Information for UK University Applications

Determining "Home Status" for tuition fees is not always straightforward. To be eligible, you must prove you are **ordinarily resident** in the UK - meaning the UK is your "habitual and normal" home.

Crucially: Holding a UK passport does not automatically guarantee Home Fee status.

Three Realities of the Process

1. **Subjective Interpretation:** While the UK Government provides guidelines, each university interprets them independently. It is common for a student to receive "Home" status from three universities and "International" status from two others.
2. **Financial Incentive:** Universities operate as businesses. Because international fees are significantly higher, institutions may default to an "International" classification unless your evidence is undeniable.
3. **The Burden of Proof:** If you live abroad (e.g., in Oman), the onus is on you to prove that your move was temporary and that you have maintained strong, continuous links to the UK.

Research Tool: For a detailed breakdown of eligibility categories, visit [UKCISA's Fee Status Guide](#).

Phase 1: Building Your Evidence Bank

Before applying, compile a "residency portfolio." This is especially vital for the **three years leading up to Year 13**. Consistency is key - use the same UK address for all documentation where possible.

1. Residential & Financial Proof

- **Utility Bills:** Gas, water, electricity, or Council Tax statements in the family name.
- **Voter Registration:** Ensure parents of the applicant are on the electoral roll at the UK address.
- **Student Documentation:** The applicant should have a **National Insurance Number** and a **UK Bank Account** registered to the UK address.

2. Employer Documentation

A letter from the parent's employer can be a deciding factor. It should ideally state:

- The employment contract is **temporary**.
- The family was relocated to Oman for work purposes, and the student followed as a dependent.
- The family will be **repatriated** to the UK at the end of the contract.
- *(Note: Detailed salary information is not required.)*

3. Travel Records

Maintain a log to prove you spend significant time in the UK annually:

- Keep all **return flight e-tickets** for every family member.
- Maintain a simple spreadsheet of **dates and durations** of all UK stays.

Phase 2: After Receiving Offers

Once you receive an offer, check the assigned fee status immediately.

- **Verify in Writing:** Ensure the university confirms your "Home Status" via email or official letter.
- **Challenge "International" Classifications:** If you are classified as international, **do not accept the decision as final**. Universities often use firm language to discourage appeals.
- **The Appeal Process:** Be polite but persistent. Request a formal review, submit your "Evidence Bank," and continue to advocate for your case. Most BSM students who are legitimately eligible for Home Status eventually secure it.

Final Note: Success depends on providing clear, comprehensive documentation that demonstrates a habitual mode of living in the UK. By showing consistent ties, you prove that you have not permanently emigrated, but are simply living abroad temporarily.