

Guidance for Agents: UKVI Changes to Agent Reporting and the Agent Quality Framework (Effective 7 April 2026)

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) is introducing new requirements for UK education providers regarding the recording of recruitment agents and strengthened expectations around the use of agents in international student recruitment.

These changes will come into effect from 7 April 2026. The information below outlines what these updates mean for our agent partners and how we are updating our systems to support compliance.

1. Agent Details on the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

From 7 April 2026, universities must record agent details on the CAS where a student has been recruited through an agent or third party.

Key points:

- The agent responsible for recruiting the student must be recorded on the CAS.
- This applies even where the recruitment was a one-off arrangement and there is no ongoing contract.
- Where sub-agents are involved, the main contracted agent will be recorded on the CAS rather than the sub-agent.
- Advisors engaged directly by the student, where the university has not used them as part of the recruitment process, will not be recorded.
- The agent listed should reflect the agent responsible for the recruitment of the student up to the point of when a CAS is issued.

The purpose of this information is to allow UKVI to better understand recruitment practices and identify trends where there may be concerns around compliance or fraudulent activity. UKVI has confirmed that visa applications will continue to be assessed on their own merits, and the use of an agent will not determine the outcome of a visa decision.

2. Agent Details Required for CAS

When a student has been recruited through an agent, the following information must be recorded when assigning the CAS:

- **Agent company name** (formal legal company name)
- **Agent contact name** (primary agent contract contact)
- **Branch office address**, including:
 - Address line

- City/Town
- Postcode/Zip code (where applicable)
- Country

The address recorded should be the specific branch office responsible for recruiting the student, rather than the global head office where applicable.

3. Agent Quality Framework (AQF)

From 7 April 2026, all UK student sponsors working with recruitment agents must commit to the key principles of the [Agent Quality Framework \(AQF\)](#) and follow recommended AQF best practice.

The AQF is a sector-wide initiative designed to promote ethical, responsible and transparent international student recruitment across the UK.

For agents, this means continuing to demonstrate:

- Ethical and transparent recruitment practices
- Accurate representation of universities, programmes and visa requirements
- Providing clear, honest and responsible advice to students
- Supporting students appropriately throughout the application process
- Operating in line with the [National Code of Ethical Practice for UK Education Agents](#)

Universities are expected to retain evidence demonstrating how agents are managed in line with the AQF and the National Code of Ethical Practice.

4. System Updates to Support CAS Compliance

To ensure we meet the new UKVI requirements, we have made several updates to our systems.

We have now collected and recorded details of all agent branch offices, where applicable, so that the correct recruiting office can be linked to each application.

From May 2026, when submitting an application (or later in the process), applicants and agents will be able to select the relevant agent branch office from a dropdown list within the application system. The selected branch office will then be automatically tagged to the application, ensuring the correct information is available when assigning the CAS.

5. Applications Already in the System

For applications that are already in the system, we will create a clearance check requesting confirmation of the recruiting branch office from March 2026.

Students will receive a notification asking them to complete this step by selecting the relevant agent branch office.

Agents are kindly asked to support their applicants in completing this request promptly, as we will not be able to issue a CAS if the required agent information is missing and the application is tagged to an agent.

6. Checking Your Agent Information

If you notice that **your branch office details or any other agent information recorded for CAS purposes is incorrect**, please contact us at international@bournemouth.ac.uk so we can update our records.

Ensuring that the correct branch office details are recorded will help avoid delays during the CAS issuance process.

We appreciate your continued partnership and support in maintaining compliance with UKVI requirements and promoting high standards in international student recruitment.