

As an international student (non-resident of Bahrain) coming to study in Bahrain, you are required to comply with the mandatory requirements set out by the General Directorate of Nationality, Passport and Residence (GDNPR). The Student Services Department in RCSI Bahrain will aid and guide you in complying with these procedures. Below is information and guidance on obtaining a Student Visa, Smart Card, arriving in Bahrain and finding accommodation.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** We strongly advise all students (conditional or fully accepted students) **to apply for their visas early, preferably by June 2026, to avoid any delays or complications.**

Based on Immigration Law, students **whose student visas are not approved in time** for the start of the semester **must** go through an additional process to enter Bahrain and be able to obtain a student visa after arrival. The detailed process and associate fees are outlined in the below sections.

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### Student Visa Application

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As an international student, you are required to apply for a **Bahraini Student Visa**. The following steps will guide you through the process:

#### How can I start my Student Visa Process?

To begin the application process for a student visa, please submit the following documents through the [Registration link](#)

1. **Passport Copy:** Include a copy of your passport showing your name, nationality, and date of birth.
2. **Residency Information:** Provide details of your current country of residence and upload copies of any additional residency permits via the registration link.
3. **Visa Fee Payment:** Pay the visa fee and upload the payment receipt.

#### Standard Visa Cost (Payable by All Students):

- USD 514 (non-refundable).

#### Other Charges (Applicable in Certain Cases):

- **Multiple-Entry Visa Cancellation Fee:** An additional USD 29 may apply, depending on the specific circumstances during the process.
- **Late Visa Issuance:** For students whose visas are not issued in time for the semester's start, the total student visa fee will be **USD 1,176** (excluding visit visa fees/extensions charged separately). Please refer to the relevant sections for further details.

#### How can I pay the student visa fees?

The student visa fee is payable by electronic bank transfer to:-

Bank Name	Standard Chartered Bank
Bank Address	PO Box 315, Building 180, Road 383, Block 315, Government Road, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
Account Number	01-9053468-01
<b>IBAN Number</b>	<b>BH50SCBLUSD01905346801</b>
Swift Code (BIC)	SCBLBHMXXX
Beneficiary Name	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Medical University of Bahrain S.P.C.

**Please ensure to reference payment with your application number, full name and SCB account details as above** (account number, IBAN, swift code, Beneficiary Name, please also detail the reason for the money transfer)

(New Student Visa). Once payment has been arranged, please attach a copy of the proof or remittance and your passport copy through [this link](#)

The granting of the Visa is at the discretion of the General Directorate of Nationality, Passport and Residence (GDNPR) of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Please note that while the University will do all that it can to assist by providing all the requisite documentation, **RCSI Bahrain cannot guarantee** that there will be no delay or rejection of the Visa application. If the visa is rejected, the visa fees paid are not refundable.

### **When should I start my student visa application?**

**The student visa can take up to two months or longer to process, depending on the nationality of the applicant and other factors.** You should submit the above documents at the earliest possible once you confirm your offer.

The Student Services team will start submitting visa applications to immigration in **June** to ensure the visas are valid in time for the student's arrival to Bahrain.

Visa applications submitted less than two months in advance might not be approved on time and will be subject to a different process and additional fees.

### **IMPORTANT: What if I'm late applying and my student visa wasn't issued in time for my arrival?**

Should the student visa not be processed in time for the start of the academic year, applicants who need to enter Bahrain without a pre-approved student visa, must follow below steps and will bear additional charges outlined below:

1. You must contact Student Services to apply for a visit visa **sponsored** by RCSI Bahrain.
2. Please note that as part of the new student visa process, you cannot enter Bahrain through self-applying for a visit visa or obtaining an on-arrival visa. While this type of visas may grant you entry into the country, it can **no longer be transferred** to a student visa at a later point. Students who do abide by this process, will have to leave the country and re-enter using an RCSI Bahrain sponsored visit visa.
3. Upon entering Bahrain, Student Services will assist you in applying for the student visa. Kindly note that all expenses related to visit visa and extensions during the visa application processing period will be covered by the student.
4. The student visa fee under this process is USD 1176. Additionally, a visit visa and extensions carry additional charges to the individual applicant – on top of the student visa fees – and are dependent on the applicant's nationality.

For further assistance or inquiries, please contact Student Services directly on +973 16660201/200.

### **How will I know if my visa has been issued?**

You can track your visa application with the University by using the reference number which you will receive upon completing the registration in the mentioned [link](#)

### **Why do I need to share my travel dates with Student Services?**

You will not be able to enter Bahrain without a copy of your documents being sent to the immigration authorities at the airport. Please make sure that you attach the documents in the [link](#) otherwise you might be held up at the airport and we will not be able to provide immediate solutions.

### **What do I need to do after I arrive at Bahrain?**

On the first working day after your arrival, you should visit the student services office to finalise your visa arrangements.

Despite having your visa approved, the NOC is a temporary document that allows you to enter the country and pass through immigration only once. In order to get your full student visa finalized, you need to do the following:

1. **Confirm your permanent address in Bahrain:**  
The student services office will assist you in finding suitable accommodation by providing you a list of accommodation options. Once you have found an apartment and signed a lease contract, you will have

to get a 'proof of address letter' from the municipality office. The Student Services team will provide you with further details and instructions on how to get this letter when you visit their office.

## 2. Apply for a Smart Card (Bahraini National ID)

In essence, the Smart Card is an identification card, which is used to verify the holders' identity. Personal details such as name, date of birth and nationality are printed on the card and additional information is stored on a chip on the card such as address, place of study, etc. Every Citizen and resident in Bahrain is issued with this card. The Smart Card allows you to:

- Open a bank account
- Register your home electricity bill
- Register a mobile account
- Visit and be treated at public medical centers for a nominal fee

The cost of the Smart card is included in the visa cost. The Student Services team will organise for you to attend an appointment at the government office to obtain your smart card, however this cannot be organised until you have a place of residence in Bahrain.

3. Once you've been on your smart card appointment, the student visa process should be finalized and you should be getting back:
  - Your passport with the Multiple Re-entry Visa.
  - Your Smart Card

We hope we were able to provide as much clarification regarding this visa process in the above sections. However, if you still have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Student Services team on [studentservices@rcsi-mub.com](mailto:studentservices@rcsi-mub.com).

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## Accommodation

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### RCSI Bahrain Halls of Residence

Situated within a very short walking distance of the main gates of the RCSI Bahrain campus (approx. three minutes) and allowing easy access to the University, the apartment block is exclusively for RCSI Bahrain students.

Each of the 20 fully furnished apartments is made up of two bedrooms – one of which is ensuite – a separate bathroom and a large, shared, open-plan kitchen/dining/lounge area. The building is operated, managed and supervised by RCSI Bahrain, rent is inclusive of electricity and water charges, wifi, 24-hour security and weekly cleaning

Each apartment will be shared by two students, with a choice of standard rooms with shared bathroom facilities or ensuite. Ensuite rooms include a toilet, sink and shower attached to the room for the sole use of the occupants

Online applications to the Halls of Residence is available on [HOR Registration Form](#) Please note that a limited number of spaces are available and your application will only be booked once the payment is confirmed.

**Applications will be tended to on a first come first serve basis.**

### Other Accommodation Options

In addition to the RCSI Bahrain Halls of Residence, there are many residential apartments within walking distance to the University where many of our international students reside.

Many of our students prefer to share accommodation and help can be given in finding a flat mate. The Students Services Department will give you support in finding suitable accommodation and will provide you with all necessary information closer to the beginning of the academic year.

For more information on accommodation, please email [studentservices@rcsi.com](mailto:studentservices@rcsi.com) or contact the Student Services Office on +973 16660201/16660200.

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## Orientation

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Before the commencement of the first semester of the academic year, all new students will be invited to attend orientation week at the University. This will provide students with lots of useful information and it is mandatory to attend. Orientation will take place in early September and the date will be confirmed nearer the time.

It is recommended that you arrive in Bahrain a few days before orientation to help you organise the essentials before commencing your studies at the university.

For more information on orientation, please send your email to [studentservices@rcsi-mub.com](mailto:studentservices@rcsi-mub.com) or telephone +973 16660201/16660200.