The Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) has been expanded to include international researchers in order to protect UK research from exploitation and ensure that higher education institutions do not inadvertently develop, support or advance foreign military programmes of concern.

With effect from Friday 21 May 2021, all new employees undertaking research activities at PhD level or above in one of the Academic Subjects/Fields of Research will be required to obtain an ATAS certificate before they can apply for their visa (Skilled worker, TIER 5 - Government Authorised Exchange) to work in the UK. In addition to this, Visiting academics and researchers will need to obtain an ATAS certificate before they can commence their research and enter the facilities at the College. Existing employees will be required to obtain an ATAS certificate following a change of role to a different research area or extension to contract (if they did not previously require an ATAS certificate). Applicants are encouraged to apply for their ATAS certificate at least three months before their application for further leave to remain in the UK.

The ATAS application system is now open for international researcher applications.

The new regulations apply to all non-UK nationals except for those who are nationals of EU countries, the European Economic Area (EEA), Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland or the United States of America. The country of residence does not affect the requirement.

The main subject areas are
- Subjects allied to Medicine
- Biological Sciences
- Veterinary Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Mathematical and Computer Sciences
- Engineering
- Technologies

Further information about ATAS can be found here - [www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme)

HR Operations