Visa Application Frequently Asked Questions:

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Section 1
Applying for a residence permit (Student Visa)

Will I need to apply for a residence permit (student visa)?

- All non Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) students are classified as international students and will need to apply for a residence permit (Student Visa).

- GCC countries include the following (Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar).

- Any student holding a passport from one of the GCC countries listed above will not require a visa however they are eligible to apply for a smart card (Bahraini identification card).

What conditions do I need to meet before applying for a residence permit (student visa)?

Students can only begin the visa process once they have paid their course deposit.

Please see how to apply for a visa for further details.
How can I apply for a residence permit (student visa)?

In order to apply for a residence permit (student visa) to study in Bahrain, international students will need to pay the visa fee and forward the transaction receipt along with a copy of their passport to the university for processing.

**Step 1: Pay visa fee**

The visa fee is $560 US Dollars, payable to the university account below before the 16th July 2013.

Bank Name: Ahli United Bank, Manama Branch  
Bank Address: 128 Government Avenue, PO Box 5941  
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain  
Account Number: 0001-797799-002  
IBAN Number: BH05 AUBB 00001-797799-002  
SWIFT CODE: AUBBBHBM  
Beneficiary Name: RCSI - Medical University of Bahrain  
PO Box 15503, Adliya, Kingdom of Bahrain

**Step 2: Forward transaction receipt and passport**

Once the visa fee transfer has been made, please send a copy of the transaction receipt with a scanned copy of your passport to studentvisa@rcsi-mub.com and fees@rcsi-mub.com (please ensure you mention your name and application ID in the email) in order for the university finance department to issue a visa receipt number.

**Who will process the student visa and when?**

The student services department processes the student visa.

Once your passport copy and payment receipt have been received, student services will begin the visa process.
How long will the visa process take?

The visa approval is subjected to the laws and regulations of immigration in The Kingdom of Bahrain. Processing time for each student varies. The average processing time is 3 weeks to 1 month however please note that a visa approval could go beyond this time frame.

If my visa application is approved, how will I receive confirmation?

Students will receive a confirmation email from student services once they have been approved.

Visa applications that receive an approval will be issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC). The NOC is only valid for one entry into Bahrain and for a stay of four weeks whilst the student finalizes their residence permit (visa) processes. For further information, please see how to finalize my visa once I arrive.

A copy of the NOC will be sent to the students email provided in their application. Students should print a copy of the NOC and carry it with them when travelling to Bahrain, please see requirements prior to departure below.

What is a NOC (No Objection Certificate)?

An NOC is confirmation that the student can be issued a residence permit.

What do I need to do prior to my departure from my country?

1. Print a copy of the NOC in order to show the document to the immigration desk upon arrival at Bahrain International Airport.

2. Send an email with arrival details to student services two weeks before leaving home as they will need to send someone to meet you with the original NOC (which you will need to pass Bahrain Immigration). Without the original NOC, you will not be able to enter the country. This step is therefore important to avoid unnecessary delays to your entry to Bahrain.
Flight details required:

- Arrival date and time
- Flight number and Airline
- Country of departure

What if my visa application is unsuccessful?

The granting of a residence permit (student 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, 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.

How can I finalize my visa once I arrive?

For students to be permitted multiple exit and entry from The Kingdom of Bahrain, a visa label needs to be placed in their passport.

This process takes approximately 4 weeks or more and during this time, the student cannot leave the country until the visa label has been placed in their passport and they have received a Bahraini ID card (Smart card). Leaving the country will render the NOC invalid however should the student need additional time to finalize their requirements, they can apply for an extension to stay in Bahrain.

In order to complete the remaining visa requirements, students will need to do the following:

1. Find and sign for permanent accommodation.
2. Find the closest municipality office to your accommodation and request a Municipality Letter. This letter verifies the address at which you reside in Bahrain (this will cost you BD 5.000) you might be asked to pick it up the following working day.

  ➢ For municipalities in all areas, please view the following site:
  http://websrv.municipality.gov.bh/mun/pages/directory_en.jsp
- An original electricity bill (in the student’s name) can also be used as proof of address. If the electricity bill is not in the student’s name then the original bill along with a copy of the smart card of the person to which the bill is addressed will be required.

3. Prepare 2 passport size photos with a white background.

4. Submit the Municipality letter/ electricity bill, the two photos and your original passport to the student services office at the university.

After these requirements have been submitted, students will receive an appointment for the Smart card within two (2) weeks (please note this is an estimated time as the appointment can take longer to obtain).

Students will then need to attend their appointment at the Isa Town smart card directorate (Please note this office is an external office to RCSI Bahrain) for further details on the location of the building – please click here.

At the Isa Town office, an official from the directorate will assist the student with taking their fingerprints and signature required for the smart card.

Once students have attended their appointment, they will be contacted by student services when their passport with the visa placed in it along with their Bahraini Smart Card is ready.

This will mean that you have a Bahraini residence permit until the validity expires.

**What is a smart card (Bahraini ID Card)?**

A Smart Card, also referred to as a CPR is a personal identification card which is used to verify the holder’s identity including a personal Bahraini ID number. This card will be required for various services such as:

- Opening a bank account
- Getting treated at a public health centre for a nominal amount
- Getting a phone Sim-card
- Obtaining a drivers license
How long will it take to receive a smart card appointment?

Appointments usually take 1-2 weeks to book however please note the appointment time system for smart cards is a government based system and thus it may take some time to receive an appointment for students as there is a queue in the appointment system.

When the appointment time and date are received, student services will contact the student on their student email with the details and instructions on how to get to the appointment.

Where do I attend my smart card appointment?

The main smart card office is located in the Isa Town area in Bahrain. Please click below to view a map of the location.


Smart card office address and number:

Building 1088, Road 4025, Block 840

Isa Town

Contact: 17-878000 / 17-878208

*Students will need to visit the main office according to the time and date specified in the email they receive from student service.

*Students are not required to take any documents to their appointment.
Section 2
Arriving in Bahrain

How can I find suitable accommodation?

RCSI Bahrain does not have any on campus accommodation however there are a number of residential buildings around the university campus which students can rent or share. For further guidance on accommodation including contact numbers and property websites, please visit our accommodation webpage http://www.rcsi-mub.com/index.jsp?p=108&n=735

Our accommodation site also includes a breakdown of living expenses and information on amenities close to the campus and those available out of Busaiteen including how to get the Muharraq Health Centre under Student Support.

Once students have found accommodation in Bahrain, then they can apply for a smart card by submitting the required documents and attending a smart card appointment.

How can I apply for a smart card and what are the requirements?

Students can apply for a smart card once they have arrived in Bahrain and found accommodation.

- International students will need to have an approved visa and a residential address in Bahrain prior to applying.
- GCC students can apply for this card without having to apply for a visa however they will need to have an address in Bahrain.

Student can apply for a smart card by following steps (1-4) under (how to finalize my visa once I arrive).