Are you ready for a *UKVI audit*?

What strong schools are doing differently in 2026

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Latest Inspection *developments:*

Recent compliance trends identified during audits and mock inspections

- Attendance policy and adhering to it
- Documentary evidence
- Safeguarding
- SCR
- SS numbers match
- Enrolment Date

Common mistakes identified during audits

- Date of e-visa check conducted after student enrolled on course
- Where do you find the students conditions and work rights?
- Course start date on CAS
- Latest start date on your CAS?
- Would a staff member collect a student from airport/station?

Common issues leading to sponsor action plans

- Documentary evidence
- Overstayers/Illegal students/students on incorrect immigration status
- Consistent failings in same areas
- Students living arrangements + Safeguarding

Practical recommendations to reduce compliance risk

- Compliance is on-going
- Compliance is a “buy-in” from all staff not just admissions
- Termly recon on BCA metrics
- Termly checks on sponsored and SIC students [end Sept/end Jan and beginning April]
- Reporting done in a timely manner
- Enrolment date drives RTS timeline
- Clear naming conventions reduce audit stress

BCA: Basic *Compliance Assessment*

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From June 2026

Policy Update

UKVI's tightened BCA thresholds mean the **cost of non-compliance has never been higher** — every agent action affects these metrics.

CAS Allocations	RAG Ratings Published	International Recruitment Ability

Key Point

- BCA results directly affect **CAS allocations**
- **RAG ratings** published on the Register of Student Sponsors
- Directly impacts the institution's **ability to recruit internationally**

Every agent action has a measurable impact on your BCA metrics — compliance is a shared responsibility.

UKVI Compliance & BCA Update

Source: UKVI BCA Policy Guidance, 2026

RAG Rating *Outcomes*

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Understanding each rating's consequences — from CAS cuts under Red to no action under Green — is essential for strategic compliance planning.

Minimum course completion rate will increase to 90% from 1 June 2027

RED RATING

Serious breaches of sponsorship duties

- First red rating: placed on action plan (minimum 12 months)
- UKVI will reduce next CAS allocation (minimum 10% reduction, no upper limit)
- 'Final Warning' remains active for next 5 BCA cycles — must not receive red again

> *Repeated red ratings risk licence revocation — the most serious compliance outcome.*

Refusal rate	≥ 5%
Enrolment rate	< 95%
Course completion rate	< 90%

AMBER RATING

Formal engagement & CAS restrictions

- UKVI will not grant more CAS than previously used until sponsor becomes green-rated
- Formal engagement meetings required with UKVI to review BCA results
- Must be attended by Chief Executive, Authorising Officer, Key Contact, and heads of international admissions/visa compliance
- UKVI contacts sponsor within 30 calendar days of final BCA Outcome Notice

Refusal rate	≥ 4% – < 5%
Enrolment rate	≥ 95% – < 96%
Course completion rate	≥ 90% – < 92%

GREEN RATING

Strong BCA performance — no action

- Sponsor falls into green category across all 3 metrics
- Indicates strong performance in BCA
- No compliance action taken in direct response to a green rating

> *Green status unlocks full CAS allocation access and positions the institution as a preferred sponsor in UKVI's view.*

Refusal rate	< 4%
Enrolment rate	≥ 96%
Course completion rate	≥ 92%

News and *updates*

SMS users - sponsor licence holders

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The UKVI are now introducing MFA (Multi Factor Authentication) to SMS accounts from 3 September 2026.

This means that when Level 1 users access their SMS account, they will receive an email or SMS to their mobile with a one-time passcode.
Your sponsor licence access is changing on **4 August 2026**. Here is what you need to do now.

If you have received communication from the Home Office confirming your selection, your access to the Sponsorship Management System is about to change and you have a firm deadline to prepare. Not all sponsors are affected, the Home Office has selected certain sponsor licence holders to participate in the current phase of this rollout, so if you have not been contacted by UKVI, this change does not apply to you yet.

For those who have been selected, the context is important. The SMS holds sensitive immigration and workforce data and the security risks facing online government systems are constant. It is clear that the Home Office is acting to strengthen access controls for SMS users. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is the mechanism chosen to do that. Rather than relying on a password alone, MFA requires users to verify their identity using two or more methods before gaining access to their account. This phased rollout suggests the Home Office intends to extend MFA more broadly over time, so even sponsors not yet selected should take note.

For those participating in the current phase, MFA will be enabled on licences on 4 August 2026, after business hours. If you are a Level 1 User, you will be logging in via MFA from 5 August 2026 onwards.

Sponsor *compliance*

CAS allocations

- Apply as 3-month window opens
- CAS might be frozen if in process of merger and acquisition

Sponsor duties

- Reporting processes
- New Heads, HO finds out about on LinkedIn
- Mergers and Acquisitions on social media

Mergers and Acquisitions

- New SL might be needed
- Inspection will take place
- Could take 18 weeks or more

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Thank You

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