



www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk

Taking a short course in the UK

Your guide to the Student Visitor
visa for courses up to six months



Make your education count
Study in the UK



Are you ready for a great experience?

The UK has long been a top destination for international students. Whether it's for learning the English language or taking a short course, or studying for a degree, the UK has a history of educational excellence that dates back hundreds of years.

Add to that a rich and diverse culture, and you are promised a fantastic experience. A qualification from the UK could be a great selling point when you are looking for work in the future!

International students like you have always been an important presence in the UK, enriching British culture in your own unique way.

We have worked hard to ensure that the process for coming to study in the UK is as simple and easy as possible to help you on your way.



Tip: How to use this leaflet

This leaflet will give you important details on what the Student Visitor visa offers and contains the information you need to know to apply

What is a visa?

A visa is a certificate that is put into your passport or travel document and gives you permission to enter the UK for a specified period of time. Depending on the type of visa you have, you may also be able to work in the UK.

What kind of visa is available to me?

There are two different visas available to students – the **General Student visa** or the **Student Visitor visa**. Which one you choose depends on how long you plan to study in the UK, and whether you would like to work and/or undertake a course-related work placement while you are in the UK.

You will need the **Student Visitor visa** if:

- your course is six months or less
- you do not want to work or undertake a course-related work placement
- you have no intention of extending your stay in the UK.

This leaflet gives you more details about the above visa.

The Student Visitor visa **is not for you** if:

- your course is longer than six months, or
- if you want to work, or undertake a course-related work placement
- if you think you may decide – after entering the UK – that you wish to extend your stay.

Please see the General Student visa leaflet for more information or visit www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk

Will I need a visa to study in the UK for less than six months?

You only need to apply for a Student Visitor visa in advance if you are a **visa national**.

You can find a list of visa national countries at

www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/doineedvisa/visadatvnationals

You will also need a visa to visit the UK if you:

- re stateless – that is, you don't have a nationality
- hold a non-national travel document* (unless it has been issued by the UK)
- hold a passport issued by an authority that is not recognised in the UK.



Tip: You can find a list of visa national countries at www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/doineedvisa/visadatvnationals

*A travel document which does not give you the nationality or citizenship of the country that issued it. Most governments issue travel documents to stateless persons, refugees or others living within their borders who are not eligible for national passports.

What if I am not a visa national?

If you are not a visa national you are not required to have a Student Visitor visa to study in the UK for less than six months. However, you will need to show your letter of acceptance from the institution where you are going to study to the Immigration Officer when you arrive in the UK.

Provided the Immigration Officer is satisfied that you meet the requirements of the Student Visitor route including sufficient funds to support yourself and that you intend to return home at the end of your stay, you will be given permission to stay and study in the UK for up to six months.

Haven't made up your mind yet?

If you haven't decided where you want to study and want to look at some colleges in the UK before finalising your plans then you need to apply for a **Prospective Student visa**.

For more information about the Prospective Student visa, visit www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

If your course is for six months or less, you can apply for a Student Visitor visa.



1 live
2 travel
3 study

With the UK Student Visitor visa you can live, travel and study in the UK for up to six months.

The Student Visitor visa

The Student Visitor visa allows overseas students to live, travel and study in the UK for up to six months.

Who can apply?

If your course is for six months or less, you can apply for a Student Visitor visa. This will allow you to study and travel in the UK for up to six months regardless of the length of your course.

What is the Points Based System and how does it affect me?

The new points-based system is being introduced to make applying to work or study in the UK more straightforward.

However, you do not need to apply using this system if you wish to come here as a Student Visitor **for a course of less than six months** and you do not want to **work or extend your stay in the UK**.

Before applying

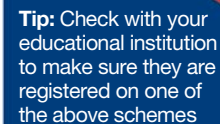
Where can I study?

To qualify for a Student Visitor visa you must have been accepted to study at an institution which either:

- holds a Tier 4 Sponsor Licence. For more information on this visit www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk
- is accredited by one of the UK Border Agency's approved accreditation bodies. For more information on this visit www.britishcouncil.org/accreditation.htm
www.asic.org.uk
www.the-bac.org
- or an overseas Higher Education Institution which only delivers part of its programmes in the UK, holds its own national accreditation and offers degrees which are equivalent to UK degrees.

Can I work or go on a course related placement?

A Student Visitor visa does not allow you to undertake any work, including work placements, even if you will not be paid. If you would like to undertake paid or unpaid work while you study, you should apply for a General Student visa.



Tip: Check with your educational institution to make sure they are registered on one of the above schemes

Applying

What do I need to apply?

To apply for a Student Visitor visa, you will need:

- a current passport or travel document
- a recent passport-sized colour photograph
- an acceptance letter from the institution where you are going to study*
- any other supporting documents relevant to your application; and
- the visa fee.

You will also need to demonstrate you have sufficient funds to support yourself and any dependants while you are on the course and satisfy the visa service that you intend to study and leave the UK before your visa expires.

How do I apply if I am a visa national?

If you need a visa to visit the UK, you need to apply for a Student Visitor visa before you travel to the UK. You can apply in person or online.

You should visit www.ukvisas.gov.uk for more information about how to apply and for detailed guidance to help your application.

When making your application you will need to make an appointment at your local UK visa office. This is because we need to take your biometric details – your fingerprints and a digital photograph of your face – in order to process your visa application.

Will I need to pay for my visa?

You will have to pay a fee when you apply for a Student Visitor visa.

Your visa fee cannot be refunded and you must normally pay it in the local currency of the country where you are applying.

For more information on current visa fees, visit www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/visafees/



Tip: If you think you may want to extend your stay while you're in the UK, you should apply for a General Student visa instead

*The institution where you wish to study must meet at least one of the criteria set out in the paragraph "Where can I study?" on page 5

After applying

What happens next?

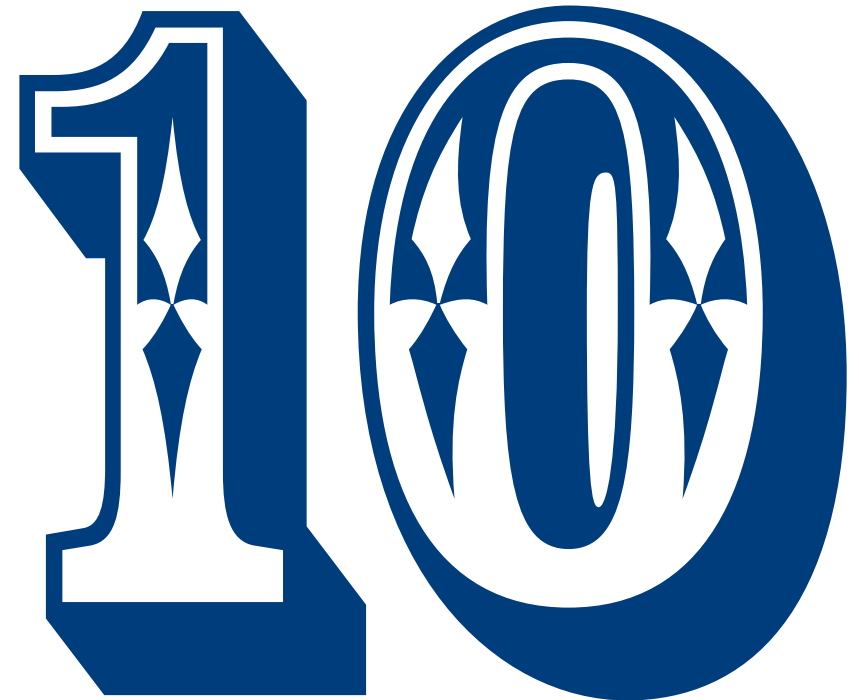
If your application is successful you will be given a Student Visitor visa in your passport. The visa will have a start and end date and you will need to leave the UK before your visa expires.

If we refuse your application, you will be given a written refusal notice.

What if I want to extend my visa?

You cannot extend a Student Visitor visa. You will need to return home and make a fresh application to come back to the UK. If you think you may wish to extend your stay while you are in the UK, you should apply for a General Student visa instead as this will allow you to apply for an extension from within the UK.

You may be banned from applying for a UK visa for 10 years if you provide false information when you apply.



*The institution where you wish to study must meet at least one of the criteria set out in the paragraph "Where can I study?" on page 5

Where can I get more information?

To find out more about entry clearance and specific guidance to help you apply and any other information see our visa services website www.ukvisas.gov.uk

To find out more about Student visas visit www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

You can also get more advice about studying in the UK from the following organisations:

British Council

The British Council provides information to help international students prepare for study in the UK.

Email: general.enquiries@britishcouncil.org

Website: www.britishcouncil.org or www.educationuk.org

English UK

English UK is the national association for accredited English language centres in the UK. This website has a wide range of English language courses (searchable by type, place, cost etc).

Website: www.englishuk.com

UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)

The UK Council for International Student Affairs is the UK's national advisory body serving the interests of international students and those who work with them.

Website: www.ukcisa.org.uk



The British Government is committed to a firm but fair migration system. The visa service receives over 2.5 million applications a year from people wanting to come to the UK. Those who try to gain access to the UK with false documents or deception will face an automatic ban of up to 10 years. Applicants who have previously breached UK immigration laws by staying in the UK illegally or working without permission will also be banned from coming to the UK.

