



Visitor Visa for Short Term Study (less than 6 months)

Visitors aged 16 and over may come to the UK to study at an accredited institution (LJMU) as the main reason for the visit, among other reasons permitted for entry to the UK as a visitor.

There are restrictions on the activities that a visitor can undertake in the UK (although there are some other permitted activities) and you cannot normally switch to another type of visa in the UK.

Quick Links

- [What you cannot do on a Visit Visa](#)
- [ATAS](#)
- [Where do I apply for my Visit Visa? Visa Nationals](#)
- [Where do I apply for my Visit Visa? Non-Visa Nationals](#)
- [Electronic Travel Authorisation \(ETA\)](#)
- [How do I apply for the visa](#)
- [What study can I do?](#)
- [Genuine Study](#)
- [Supporting Documents](#)
- [Studying at a UK Institution by Distance Learning](#)
- [Part-time study on a course exceeding 6 months in the UK](#)
- [Long-term visit visa holders](#)
- [Acceptable Translations](#)
- [Travelling to the UK via the Republic of Ireland](#)
- [Using E-Gates](#)
- [Healthcare](#)
- [For more information](#)

What you cannot do on a Visit Visa

- Employment and engaging in business are not permitted as Visitors;
- You usually cannot switch to another visa type inside the UK;

- You cannot do a work placement or internship;
- You cannot access medical treatment, other than private medical treatment or to donate an organ;
- You cannot get married or form a civil partnership, or give notice of intention to marry or form a civil partnership;

You should check the UK Immigration Rules for [permitted activities](#) and [prohibited activities](#)

ATAS

If you intend to enter the UK using a Visitor visa to study on a programme that requires ATAS approval, you are required to provide your ATAS certificate as part of the application process. To find out more about this please see [ATAS](#).

Where do I apply for my Visit Visa? Visa Nationals

If you are from a country on the [Visa National List](#), you will need to apply for Entry Clearance (a visa) before you travel to the UK.

Check your Visa Application Centre using [Find a visa application centre](#).

Alternatively, for applications in Europe, Africa and parts of the Middle East visit uk.tlscontact.com. For all other countries, visit [VFS Global](#). Priority and Super priority services are available in some, but not all, locations.

Where do I apply for my Visit Visa? Non-Visa nationals

If you are from a country that does **not** appear on the [Visa National List](#) you can still choose to apply for your visa overseas if you wish, or you can enter the UK and apply at the border.

If you want to apply at the UK border, you should ensure you have all the relevant evidence showing you meet the Visit visa requirements (see [Supporting Document Checklist](#) below) and carry these in your hand luggage.

Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETA)

The ETA allows short-term study of up to 6 months. The UK Government is rolling out the ETA scheme starting with nationals from Qatar who can apply for this visa travelling to the UK from 15th November 2023. It costs £10 to get an ETA.

If you're a national of Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates

You can get an ETA if you're travelling to the UK on or after 22 February 2024. You'll be able to apply from 1 February 2024.

If you're a national of another country

You do not need an ETA. More nationalities will be able to apply later.

How do I apply for the visa

If you are applying for entry clearance prior to arrival you will need to make an online application here: www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply

It costs £115 to apply for the Visit visa.

You must complete the online application form, pay your application fee and then follow the steps on how to take your biometric enrolment.

What study can I do?

To come as a Visitor for study, your course must be less than 6 months. Examples are to:-

- study a course of 6 months or less at an accredited institution (LJMU)
- complete a period of research
- complete research tuition (for example, to learn about research)
- re-sit an examination or retake a module
- take an oral (viva) examination for part of a PhD qualification at a UK institution
- complete one or more elective courses linked to their overseas study, where you are studying medicine, veterinary medicine and science, or dentistry as your principal course of study equivalent to at least degree level study in the UK
- complete a study-abroad programme in the UK as part of an overseas course, where the programme is less than 6 months in length

Genuine Study

You must be able to demonstrate that what you are coming to the UK to do meets the requirements for 'Genuine Study'. UKVI will look at things such as:-

- How long you intend to study in the UK and how this might impact on your personal circumstances in the home country

- Why you are intending to undertake this course and how it relates to your personal circumstances in your home country
- Whether the course is available elsewhere, including online
- Whether you genuinely intend to study here on a course or courses that will be completed during your stay (except in the case of distance learning)
- Whether you have sufficient funds to undertake the course of study

Supporting Documents Checklist

All documents can be originals, scans or photocopies (apart from passports which must be originals)

- Current Passport
- Letter from LJMU with details of your course
- If you are undertaking a period of Research you will need to show evidence you are enrolled on a course overseas that is equivalent to UK Degree Level
- Evidence of your circumstances at home (e.g. a letter on headed paper from your home University or from your employer confirming your employment)
- Financial Documents such as bank or building society statements or proof of earnings from an employer
 - You should be able to demonstrate you have enough money for the costs of trip.
 - Although there is a no set amount you should show (unlike the Student Route visa where you need £1023 per month) you will need to be able to show sufficient finances to support yourself for the duration of your stay in the UK
 - If you have a sponsor who is providing your maintenance costs (travel/accommodation and living costs) you should also provide a letter from them

Studying at a UK Institution by Distance Learning

The only situation in which a visitor may study on a course that will not be completed within their 6-month stay, is where a student is undertaking a course by distance learning.

You must be studying for the majority of your time outside of the UK for a UK qualification by distance learning, but you may be required to be in the UK for short periods of time for certain activities, such as induction weeks, intensive face-to-face learning, one-to-one progress checks or to sit exams or assessments.

Part-time study on a course exceeding 6 months in the UK

Part-time study on a course exceeding 6 months is not permitted under the visitor visa route.

The only exception would be if classified as a [distance learning](#) course.

Genuine Intentions to Visit

- You will leave the UK at the end of your visit
- You are able to support yourself and any dependants for the duration of your trip
- You are able to pay for your return or onward journey and any other costs relating to your visit
- UKVI will look at your previous immigration history, including visits to the UK
- Your financial circumstances as well as their family, social and economic background
- Your personal and economic ties to your country of residence
- The cumulative period of time you have visited the UK and their pattern of travel over the last 12-month period, and whether this amounts to 'de-facto' residence in the UK
- UKVI will consider whether, on the balance of probabilities, the information and the reasons for the visit are credible and correspond to your personal, family, social and economic background

Translations

If you submit a document that is not in English or Welsh, it must be accompanied by a full translation that can be independently verified by the Home Office. Each translation must contain:

- confirmation from the translator that it is an accurate translation of the original document
- the date of translation
- the translator's full name and signature
- the translator's contact details

Travelling to the UK via the Republic of Ireland (or elsewhere in the Common Travel Area)

We would advise ensuring that your flight does not come via the Republic of Ireland or if it does that you apply for entry clearance overseas prior to travelling to the UK.

Non-visa nationals (this includes the USA) who enter the UK via the Republic of Ireland (for example, Dublin) will not pass through UK immigration and will not be able to seek entry for up to 6 months as a visitor.

In most cases you will automatically have permission to remain in the UK for up to only 3 months from the date you travel from the Republic of Ireland.

Using E-Gates

Nationals of **Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, and the United States** do not normally need to meet with a Border Force agent, and will be able to enter the UK through E-gates. The E-gates will automatically grant you permission to stay in the UK for up to 6 months.

You will not receive a stamp on your passport, so it is very important that you retain evidence of when you entered the UK. We recommend that you keep your boarding pass. If you no longer have your boarding pass, keep evidence of your flight itinerary.

General Grounds for Refusal

You should check you do not fall for refusal under General Grounds for Refusal here: www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-part-9-grounds-for-refusal

Healthcare

You are not permitted to access National Health Service medical treatment while you are in the UK under the visit visa route, therefore it is very important that you ensure you take out medical insurance that will cover you for the duration of your stay in the UK.

For more information

Please check the Visitor Visa Guidance:

- assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/938632/visit-guidance-v10.0ext.pdf

Appendix V Visitor:

- www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor

Appendix V Visitor: Permitted Activities

- www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-permitted-activities

Supporting Documents Guide:

- www.gov.uk/government/publications/visitor-visa-guide-to-supporting-documents/guide-to-supporting-documents-visiting-the-uk