

## Visit Visa Guidance – Guidance for Coming to the UK for a Visit

This guidance sheet is for students who need to apply for a visit visa to come to the UK for a visit after completing their studies for example to attend your Graduation Ceremony, or who wish to invite family and friends to visit them in the UK.

For information on Visit Visas for short periods of study, please see our information sheet on [Visit Visas for Short Periods of Study](#)

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## Do I need to apply for a visa before coming to the UK?

If you are a national of a country which is on the UK government [visa national list](#), you will need to apply for a visa (Entry Clearance) prior to arriving in the UK.

If you are from a national of a country which is not on the UK government [visa national list](#), you are not required to apply for a visa (Entry Clearance) prior to arriving in the UK, and you can request permission to enter as a visitor at the UK border.

Check online to see if you require a visa here: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

## 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 can travel to the UK. You should apply no more than 3 months before their intended date of travel.

It usually takes around 15 working days to get a decision, although times may vary.

Check which centres have actually opened again using [Find a visa application centre](#).

Alternatively, for applications in Europe, Africa and parts of the Middle East visit [uk.tlscontact.com](http://uk.tlscontact.com).

For all other countries, visit [VFS Global](#). Priority and Super priority services are available in some, but not all, locations.

- A standard visit visa costs £115 but there may be additional priority services available for additional costs.

## 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 for permission to enter at the border.

If you want to apply for permission to enter 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.

- Permission to enter as a visitor granted at the UK border to non-visa nationals is free of charge.
- An application for prior entry clearance (a visa) standard visit visa costs £95 but there may be additional priority services available for additional costs.

## Electronic Visa Waiver (EVW)

Visitors from Kuwait, Oman, Qatar or the United Arab Emirates can travel to the UK for up to 6 months for the purpose of tourism (among other reasons) on an Electronic Visa Waiver (EVW).

The EVW costs £30 and you must be apply for your EVW between 3 months-48 hours before travel.

See here for further information: <https://www.gov.uk/get-electronic-visa-waiver>

If you're a national of Qatar and you're travelling to the UK on or after 15 November 2023, you'll need to apply for an [electronic travel authorisation \(ETA\)](#) instead of an EVW. You'll be able to apply for the ETA from 25 October 2023.

## Evidence required for a Visit Visa

- A valid passport
- Evidence of finances (funds required)
- Evidence of the reason for visit
- Evidence of intention to leave the UK at end of visit

## Supporting Document Checklist if you are applying for a Visit Visa to come back for your Graduation.

### Required documents:

- Request a Student Status letter via the My LJMU Portal in the 'My Services' section, in 'Letter Request'
- Once you have booked your Graduation, you will receive a confirmation email which you can print off and use in conjunction with your Status letter.
- Bank statements to show you can support yourself financially during your trip (see below 'Funds Required')

### Additional Information which may be helpful to your application:

- Evidence of your circumstances in your home country: Eg, if you are now working or studying in your home country, a letter confirming employment from your employer or a letter confirming your studies from your education institution.

## Supporting Document Checklist if a family member or friend is coming to the UK to visit you.

- Visitor's passport(s)
- Copy of your passport
- Copy of your BRP (or Entry Clearance visa in your passport if you don't have a BRP)
- A letter of invitation from you (see below)
- A Student Status letter confirming you are studying at LJMU. You can request this letter via 'MyLJMU Portal' in the 'My Services' section on the [LJMU website](#).
- Once you have booked your Graduation, you will receive a confirmation email, which you can print off and use in conjunction with your Status letter.

- If the visitor is financially supporting themselves, they should show Bank statements or wage slips from the last 3 months.
- If you are financially supporting your visitor, your bank statements from the last 3 months
- Hotel booking or letter from your landlord/accommodation provider\*
- Letter from your visitor explaining why they are visiting and that they intend to return to their home country at the end of the visit
- A letter from your visitor's employer or school confirming their status.

## Finances: Funds Required

Unlike the student visa which requires you to have a set amount of money in your bank account for a minimum time, there is no set amount of money you or your visitor needs to show to apply for the Standard visit visa.

You or your visitor need to be able to show that you have enough funds to support yourself for the duration of their trip. This will vary depending on how long the visit is, where you intend to stay (for e.g. with relatives, or in hotel etc.)

If you or your visitor are being supported by another person (for example: parents), you can provide a letter from them confirming this and evidence that they have sufficient funds to support the visit (bank statements or proof of earnings).

## Reason for Visit: Invitation letter from the student

In order for someone to visit you in the UK they need to show that they have been invited by you. This adds support to their application and provides a reason for the visit.

You will be known as the 'sponsor' whether or not you are providing financial support and accommodation. Please note, LJMU does not provide this letter it must be written by the person inviting the visitor.

Your letter of invitation should provide the following points:

- Who you are and why you are in the UK.
- Who you are inviting to visit you, their relation to you.
- How long you intend for them to visit you and the reason for the visit.
- If your visitor will accommodate and finance themselves, confirmation of this.
- If you intend to provide accommodation, confirmation of this.
- If you intend to provide finance, confirmation of this.
- That you know you will be standing as sponsor and that you will ensure the visitor will return to their home country.
- That you hope the visitor visa will be granted.

## Reason for Visit: Letter from the visitor:

- The letter from your visitor should explain who they are, why they are visiting the UK, who you are, your status in the UK and what plans they have for their time in the UK.
- The letter should also provide details of their life in their home country, such as their employment, study or family and also explain that they will return home after visiting you.
- If they are supporting themselves whilst in the UK, they should explain this. However, if you are supporting your visitor, either financially or providing accommodation, or both, this should be explained in their letter.

## Accommodation:

- Your visitor must have suitable accommodation whilst in the UK.
- If you live in rented accommodation and intend for your visitor to stay with you, you may need your landlord's permission for visitors to stay in your home.
- If your visitor will stay in a hotel, they should include evidence confirming of the booking with the application.

## Genuine Intentions to Visit

UKVI guidance to their visa officers, instructs the visa officer to consider if the applicant for a visit visa is a 'genuine' visitor. The application form and the documents that a visit visa applicant provides helps inform the visa officer to make their decision.

Below is a summary of the points that a visa officer must consider when making a decision on a visit visa application.

- Your visitor will leave the UK at the end of your visit.
- Your visitor is able to support themselves and any dependants for the duration of your trip (or you are their financial sponsor).
- Your visitor is able to pay for your return or onward journey and any other costs relating to your visit.
- UKVI will look at your visitor's previous immigration history, including visits to the UK.
- Your visitor's financial circumstances as well as their family, social and economic background.
- Your visitor's personal and economic ties to your country of residence.
- The cumulative period of time your visitor has travelled to 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.

## Document 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

## 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](#)

## Arrival at the UK Border - Using E-Gates

Please see UK Government website for information about arriving at the UK Border

- <https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>

Nationals of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, the United States and nationals of EEA member states and Switzerland, do not normally need to meet with a Border Force agent and will normally be able to enter the UK through E-gates

All other nationals will need to meet with a UK Border Force agent at passport control upon arrival at the UK border.

## 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](https://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.

### Further Information and advice:

For further information please contact International Advice on  
[internationaladvice@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:internationaladvice@ljmu.ac.uk)

**Always make sure to check this information with the most current visa regulations on  
www.gov.uk at  
<https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/overview>**