



# A Quick Guide to the Visitor Visa

This guide aims to give an overview of the Standard Visitor Visa. Please use this guide in conjunction with the comprehensive online resources referred to at the end of the guide.

## Am I eligible to apply for the Visitor visa?

If you are 16 years or older you can apply for a Visitor Visa if you wish to study with UWS and do:

- a course of study of 6 months or less
- a period of research or research tuition (only if you are enrolled at degree level at an overseas institution, and you have a letter from this institution confirming that your research at UWS is relevant to your degree and that you will not be employed by UWS)
- Study Abroad
- Resits/Repeats
- Viva Exam
- Distance Learning

For further details on the above, visit the [UKCISA website](#). You must intend to spend 6 months or less within the UK for your studies. The course can be at any level, although you would need to meet UWS admissions criteria.

You (and your relatives) can also apply for a Visitor visa if you returned home after completing your course and need a visa to travel to the UK to attend your graduation ceremony. Please see "How to Guide: inviting relatives to visit you in the UK" for more information about inviting your relatives to visit you in the UK on the [International Student Support SharePoint page](#).

## How do I apply for the Visitor visa?

Apply for your visa online at: <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor/apply-standard-visitor-visa>

**\*\*The guidance below is specific to UWS students\*\***

The earliest you can apply is 3 months before you travel. Once you've started your application you can save your form and complete it later.

If you're applying with family members, each person must have their own application and pay the fee. Select the language the questions will be shown in (your answers must be in English). Click Next and then select the country in which you are making your application and wish to provide your biometrics.

### START

You will be asked to register your email address and create a password. This automatically generates an email confirmation to your email address with log in details of your Visitor visa application. Keep a note of your password so that you can log in again anytime later.

### APPLICATION

Once registered, you will be asked a series of **Personal Information** questions such as: Your name, gender marital status, address (where you are currently living). Answer these as accurately as possible and write your name exactly as stated on your passport.

Fill out your **Passport Details** as stated in your passport. You will be asked if you have another passport or travel document and if you have a National Identity card. Complete appropriately. Please note if you have a National Identity card, fill out the details as requested but you do not need to submit this with your visa application unless requested.

You will be asked about your **Employment** status and asked to provide more information about this and your income/savings. With regards **to the cost of your visit**, Student visa applicants are expected to have £1,023 per month (£1,334 for London Campus) for living costs, so expect to show a similar amount on a Visitor visa. You need to include money for flights and tuition costs and calculate your total costs for your Visitor visit. You will also be asked details about how much you normally spend each month and who will be paying for your visit to the UK.

In the **Planned Travel** section you will be asked for the date you will arrive in the UK. Provide the date you plan to travel to and then leave the UK.

Next, select your **English Language** preference should the UKVI need to talk to you about your application. Choose English or other. We would advise you to select English as your academic studies will be conducted in English.

Select the **Main Reason for Visit**. This is likely to be short-term study. Only choose a different reason if the main purpose of your visit is to do activities other than studying.

In **Course Details**, UWS is an accredited institution. To fill in the remaining details in this section use your Unconditional Offer Letter or School Support Letter to answer the course name, qualification you will get, and course start and end date.

In the **Travel Information section**, provide details of what you will do during your visit. Next confirm that you will come to the UK for "up to and including 6 months". You cannot come to the UK for over 6 months on a Standard Visitor visa.

You will be asked if anyone relies on you **financially** and include the names of dependants who rely on you financially whether they are travelling with you or not. You will also be asked to give personal details about your parents. Answer as appropriate to your circumstances.

**Family in the UK.** You will be asked to give details of any family members who currently live in the UK. Provide their details if relevant to you.

**Travelling as part of an organised group / with another person.** Answer as appropriate to your circumstances.

In the **Accommodation Details** section provide the address of where you will be staying in the UK, and provide the details. If you do not have an address yet, answer "no" and give as much detail as possible of how you plan to look for accommodation and where you intend to live.

In the **Travel History** section you will be asked a series of questions about whether you have previously travelled to the UK or elsewhere overseas. You will also be asked if you have previously experienced issues with an immigration application to the UK and/or other countries. If you answer yes, explain what these issues were and the outcome of the previous immigration application. Answer appropriately and with as much detail as relevant.

You will be asked a series of questions regarding possible **Convictions or Other Penalties** against you in the UK or any other country. You will then be asked a series of questions regarding **War Crimes and Terrorist Activities**. Make sure you read all these questions carefully and answer appropriately, providing details where necessary.

You will be asked to declare your **Previous Employers** if you have worked for particular organisations such as the Armed Forces, Government, Media, Security, Judiciary. Tick what is relevant to you.

There is a final text box below where you can add additional information about your application if there is anything relevant you wish to add or, leave this blank.

Save your application and return to it later if you have not fully completed it. You can still edit it at this stage. Select the green Save and Continue button, once you have checked your answers and you are happy with all the information on your form.

## DOCUMENTS

Some documents are mandatory and you must provide them as part of your application. Tick the box to agree that you will provide each document listed such as your passport. Your checklist will have a list of other documents you might want to send in. You can print off the checklist and appointment details when you have finished your application. See page 5 for supporting documents and evidence required.

## DECLARATION

**\*\* Only proceed with this section once you are ready to submit your application You cannot change your answers after the declaration stage.\*\***Click the green button I accept the above and after this you will be required to pay for it.

# EEA and Non-Visa Nationals

EEA nationals and non-visa nationals, you can choose to request a Visitor visa stamp from a UK Border Force Officer when you arrive in the UK (at the airport) instead of applying for your visa from your home country. There is no charge if you request a Visitor visa stamp at the airport. To check if you require a visa before travelling please see <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>. If you decide to apply for your Visitor visa stamp at the airport you should bring all required documents in your hand luggage when you travel. Nationals from: EU/EEA, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Lichtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland and the United States of America are allowed to use the eGates on arrival into the UK. If you use the eGates keep proof of your arrival date as you will not receive a physical visa or stamp.

## Travel via Republic of Ireland

If you are a non-visa national (as listed above) and enter the UK via the Republic of Ireland without having secured a visa, you will be given permission to be in the UK for six months . You will be able to study but employment (paid or unpaid) will not be permitted. We recommend that you keep your boarding passes or travel itinerary in a safe place as you will need to evidence your date of arrival in the UK Please visit the [UKCISA website](#) for further guidance.



# What supporting documents should I provide?

You must have a passport or travel document that is valid for the whole of your stay in the UK.

Please check the supporting documents carefully and make sure you send all the information in original documents that they require with your application. If you do not provide all mandatory information your application may be refused or rejected. The Home Office advises that you must also be able to prove that you:

- have been offered a place on a course in the UK at UWS (confirming course details, start date, end date and tuition fee)
- have enough money to support yourself without working or help from public funds (see Finance section below) You cannot work in the UK on a visitor visa.
- provide the dates you're planning to travel to the UK (and intention to return home after your visit)
- can pay for your return or onward journey

If you leave the UK during your studies, we recommend you carry the supporting documents above in your hand luggage when you re-enter the UK.

## **You'll also need to evidence:**

- where you'll be staying during your visit
- your current home address and how long you've lived there
- your parents' names and dates of birth (if known)
- how much you earn in a year (if you have an income)
- details of any criminal, civil or immigration offences you may have committed

## Finances

Evidence that you have enough money to support yourself while you are in the UK in a format that is set out in [Appendix Finance](#). You need to show that you can pay for your tuition fees, accommodation and living expenses. There are no specific requirements which state the amount of money you must show. Using the student visa maintenance figures as a guide only, it would be reasonable to show that you have the equivalent of £1,023 per month, (or £1,334 per month if studying in London), for the duration of your studies. Please read the [Home Office Visit Guidance](#) for more information on the financial requirements.

# Prohibited Activities

As a Visitor you must not:

- undertake any kind of work (paid or unpaid) or self-employment/business activity
- access UK public funds
- access medical treatment (you should obtain private medical insurance before you travel)
- extend your stay (it is not possible to extend a Visitor visa or switch into a different visa category within the UK)
- marry or form a civil partnership in the UK

Please visit the [UKCISA website](#) for more details on prohibited activities.

## Who do I contact if I have further questions?

If you wish to speak to the International Student Support Team about your Visitor visa application, please contact the [Student Hub Team](#) and check the online resources below.

**Hub chat:** [hub.uws.ac.uk](https://hub.uws.ac.uk) or **WhatsApp:** 0141 848 3998

## Online resources

UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) has comprehensive information about the Visitor Visa: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Visitors>

Home Office Guidance on Visitor Visa: <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa>

Home Office Visitor Visa documents list:

<https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/documents-you-will-need>

UKVI standard processing times visit: [Visa processing times: applications outside the UK - GOV. UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



**Student  
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