



A Quick Guide to applying for a Visitor Visa for study purposes

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 to study?

If your nationality is not on the visa national list, see '[visa national list](#)' you are considered a non-visa national and you will not need to apply for a visitor visa before you travel. This includes EU/EEA/Swiss nationals. See page 5 for more information about non-visa nationals.

If your nationality is on that list, you must apply for your visa in advance. 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
- If you wish to study for a UK qualification overseas by distance learning, there may be some occasions where you are required to come to the UK as part of your course. For example, you may need to attend induction weeks or sit exams and assessments. If this is the case, you will be permitted to do so as a Visitor. As a Standard Visitor visa is only valid for a period of six months, you may find that you need to obtain a number of Visitor visas over the course of your studies to carry out each activity. Whilst this is permitted in order to complete a course by distance learning, it may be more appropriate in certain circumstances to obtain a Student visa.

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.

Can I or my relatives apply for a Visitor visa to attend my graduation?

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](#).

Please note that once you have made your decision regarding ceremony attendance, it will not be possible to change it due to very tight timescales for graduation organisation, only changes are permitted if requests are before the graduation deadline. This means that if your visitor visa is refused you may not be able to switch to the online ceremony so it is important to apply for your visitor visa in plenty of time before your graduation.

How do I apply for the Visitor visa to study?

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 £1136 per month (£1483 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.

EU, EEA and Swiss nationals

Nationals from the EU, EEA and Switzerland are also non-visa nationals if wishing to visit the UK for a period of six months or less. If you are a national from one of these countries, you have the choice whether or not to apply for prior entry clearance as a Visitor, or for permission to enter as a Visitor at either a UK airport, or UK immigration control in France should you choose to travel by Eurostar.

Nationals from the EU, EEA and Switzerland are also permitted to use the eGates in order to enter as a visitor for a period of six months or less. The use of an eGate is dependent on having a biometric passport, so if you wish to travel to the UK using your national identity card and not a passport, you will not be able to use an eGate or request to see a Border Force Officer.

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national and want to travel without a passport and enter as a Visitor, you must make an entry clearance application in advance.

Non-visa nationals

If you are a non-visa national it is not compulsory to apply for entry clearance before you travel to the UK, should you wish to come to the UK to study as a Visitor. If you choose not to apply for entry clearance, then you can apply to enter the UK as a Visitor on arrival at the airport should you travel by air, or at the UK immigration control in France should you choose to travel by Eurostar.

You will need to produce all the documents to support your application to enter the UK as a Visitor, this includes your acceptance letter from your institution confirming the study that you wish to do in the UK as a Visitor, an ATAS certificate (if applicable), and evidence of your finances in order to satisfy the genuineness requirement.

Electronic Travel Authorisation

An Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA), is a requirement for non-visa nationals who wish to travel to the UK for either the purpose of entering as a Visitor, or under the Creative Worker route. An ETA provides an individual with permission to travel to the UK and must be obtained in advance of travel. It is important to note that an ETA only provides permission to travel to the UK and is not a visa. Once you have successfully obtained an ETA, you will be required to apply to enter the UK as a Visitor on arrival in the UK at either the airport, or UK immigration control in France should you take the Eurostar.

In order to apply you can either use the UK ETA app or apply online on the gov.uk website. Applications are automated, electronically linked to your passport, and cost £16 per applicant. Please note that each eligible individual must obtain their own ETA including children and babies.

Egates

EGates at UK airports and the Brussels and Paris Eurostar terminals includes the use by nationals from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and the United States of America. Although nationals from these countries are non-visa nationals and therefore have a choice whether or not to apply for entry clearance, or to apply for permission to enter as a Visitor as outlined above, nationals of these countries are also permitted to use eGates.

The use of eGates to enter the UK as a Visitor will mean that you do not receive a stamp endorsed in your passport as you do not have to see a Border Force Officer in order to use one. However, following using the eGates, you will be permitted to enter the UK as a Visitor for a period of six months. In order to use an eGate, your passport must have a biometric symbol on the cover, and you must be above the age of 10 in order to use one. Visitors between the ages of 10 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

It is important that you retain some form of evidence of your date of arrival in the UK if you use the eGates. Acceptable evidence includes an e-ticket, paper or electronic boarding pass. This will help you to remember the exact duration of your six month stay, and also provide you with appropriate documentation to produce to your institution as proof of your arrival date in the UK.

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 £1136 per month, (or £1483 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](#) to request an appointment with an International Student Adviser and check the online resources below.

WhatsApp Chat: 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



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