

# Standard Visitor Visa Guidance



## Who is a Standard Visitor Visa for?

Students wishing to study courses of **up to 6 months** (e.g. High School Term, AEM or Fast Track UFP) can apply for the Standard Visitor Visa (<https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa>). This visa is suitable for students of all ages.

NB Students (aged 16 or above) attending **ONLY English language courses for 6 to 11 months** will need a Short-Term Study visa (11 months) and should use our Short-Term Study Visa Guidance.

## What activities are allowed on a Standard Visitor Visa?

Full details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa>. In addition to general holidays and visits, holders of a Standard Visitor Visa can study for up to 6 months at an accredited institution, this includes English language courses.

Under the Standard Visitor Visa you must study at an institution that either holds a Student Sponsor license or is accredited by one of the UKVI recognised bodies. CATS Colleges and CSVPA hold Student Sponsor Licenses, and Stafford House is accredited by the British Council.

The main things you are not allowed to do are:

- paid or unpaid work for a UK company or as a self-employed person
- live in the UK for long periods of time through frequent visits
- claim public funds (benefits)
- do a course of study that lasts longer than 6 months
- Extend/switch your visa from within the UK

## How do I apply?

Firstly, you will need to establish whether or not you are a visa national or a non-visa national.

To do this, check whether the country you are a citizen of appears on the [visa national list](#).

Students who are **non-visa nationals** (this includes EU countries, Brazil, Japan and Korea amongst others) can apply to enter the UK as a visitor on arrival at the port of entry. Students should bring all the required documents to show at the border.

Students who are **visa-nationals must apply for entry clearance as a visitor before travelling to the UK**. It is a good idea to carry with you all of the documents that you submitted with your entry clearance application when you travel to the UK. The Border Force Officer may ask to see these documents when you arrive in the UK.

You can make your application online at <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply>. When you reach the 'Main reason for your visit' section you should choose 'Short-term study (up to 6 months), including recreational course'.

## How much will it cost?

The application fee currently £95. Application at the airport (for non-visa nationals) is free.

## What do documents do I need?

Please always check up to date UKVI guidance <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/documents-you-will-need>.

All visitors to the UK must satisfy the genuine visitor requirements. These include intending to leave the UK at the end of your stay and having enough money to support yourself whilst here. Caseworkers will be looking at factors such as your personal circumstances and your previous travel and immigration history.

**Original** copies of all supporting documents are required

Please ensure **certified translation** copies of all documents that are not in English are provided

**Intention to study (a course of 6 months only)**, this includes the following:

- The offer letter and Confirmation of Enrolment letter for your course
- Details of where you intend to stay and your travel plans

**Source of funds:** evidence that you can support yourself during your studies in the UK, e.g. bank statements and/or payslips for the last 6 months for the parent/financial sponsor who is supporting you financially for your studies in the UK. You will need to demonstrate you can pay course, fees, accommodation, flights and any other living costs.

## Financial evidence tips

- The Standard Visitor Visa requirements are different to the Student visa but in terms of financial requirements, the Student visa rules could be used as a reference, i.e. the funds available to the applicant should cover all boarding fees, or tuition fees plus a 'maintenance' amount to cover accommodation and living costs - currently £1334 per month for London and £1023 per month for outside London.
- Additional financial evidence relating to the applicant or their parent/financial sponsor's personal circumstances could also be helpful to the visa application. This could include documents proving ownership of properties or shares, company bank accounts or employer supporting letters (job title, length of service and salary) etc.
- Evidence of the proof of relationship between the applicant and parent/financial sponsors are required to support the visa application. This could include documents such as birth certificate or marriage certificate.

## Students under 18

Students under 18 will need a parental consent letter. This must include written consent for you to travel to the UK and full contact details. This should be signed by both parents (or one parent if they have sole responsibility).

## Students using ePassport gates

You can normally use eGates if you have a biometric passport and you are a national of an EU country, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland or the USA. Instead of a visa stamp or vignette, you will be required to show your flight ticket or boarding pass on arrival at the college. You will be allowed to study for up to 6 months.

## What happens if I want to extend my course?

If you originally intend to study less than 6 months, and change your mind, you will need to leave the UK to apply for a new visa. You can speak to College staff who will be able to advise you on the most convenient way to do this. Normally we would encourage students to come back on a Student or Child Student visa as you are not allowed to visit for more than 6 months in any 12-month period.

*Information provided in this document should be treated as a guide only. Although every effort is made by CATS Colleges to ensure the accuracy of the information and guidance given, the requirements relating to visas are complex and change frequently. We cannot accept responsibility for any changes to the rules.*

*Students are bound by the regulations of the Home Office, and we recommend that you verify the information and the requirements applicable to you on the Home Office website or seek independent legal/immigration advice if necessary.*