Guidelines

Title: Student Visitors Visa Entry to the UK

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Introduction
This document provides a brief overview for Student Visitors wishing to gain entry clearance into the UK. This is the policy of the UK Visa and Immigration department and is adopted by the University; any visitors must meet the immigration rules. This is a live document and is for information only; please use these guidelines in conjunction with the GOV.UK website for Link to: Special Visitors, Student Visitors: VAT09.

Student Visitors must be either:

- Someone who intends to do a course of less than six months and who does not intend to take part–time employment or undertake a paid or unpaid work placement as part of their course;
- Note: The course of study does not need to be full-time, or consist of a minimum of 15 hours daytime study per week. The course may begin after 6 pm or take place at the weekend. There is no requirement for study to formal qualification.

OR

- Someone undertaking a period of research in the UK which is part of or relevant to an overseas course equivalent to UK degree level. They must have been accepted to undertake the research at a UK recognised body or a body receipt of funding as a higher education institute;
- Note: A Student Visitor cannot be employed as a sponsored researcher.

OR

- Someone who is studying overseas for a UK qualification (distance learners who do not qualify as students) who occasionally needs to visit the UK for classes or revision sessions.
- Note: Although the course of study may be longer than six months each period of study must be less than six months.

Sponsored researchers should enter the UK under the Tier 5, Government Authorised Exchange, of the points–based system.

In addition they must:

- Show that he or she meets the main requirements of the general visitor rules;
- Show he or she has been accepted on a course at an educational establishment that is recognised by the UK Visa & Immigration Agency;
- Have been offered a place on a course in the UK at an accepted place of study;
- Not work or carry out any business;
- Not marry or register a civil partnership, or give notice of such;
- Not come to the UK specifically for private medical treatment UK;
- Prove that they are 18 or over;
- Have enough money to support themselves without working or help from public funds;
- Be able to meet the cost of the return or onward journey from the UK.
In addition they cannot:

- Study at a state school;
- Extend this visa, even where the initial grant of leave is less than 6 months;
- Bring family members (dependants) with them, they must apply separately;
- Get access to public funds.

Is entry clearance mandatory for student visitors?

Entry clearance is mandatory in this category for visa nationals.

What is the maximum stay in the UK for a student visitor?

The maximum stay is six months; with an extended visa of up to eleven months for students studying an English language course lasting longer than six months but less than eleven, please refer to the GOV.UK website.

Fees & timeline:

- It costs:
  - £83 for a six month standard visa
- You can apply for a visa up to three months before your date of travel to the UK.
- A decision should be reached within three weeks.

Documents to be provided:

- Proof of the course they are studying; e.g. letter of acceptance;
- Previous study;
- Any English language ability or qualifications.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the GOV.UK guidance.
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