

## Standard Visitor Visa

### You can come to the UK as a standard visitor:

- for tourism, for example on a holiday or to see your family or friends
- for certain business activities, for example attending a meeting
- to do a short course of study
- to take part in research or an exchange programme as an academic
- for medical reasons, for example to receive private medical treatment

You may not have to apply for a visa. What you need to do, depends on your nationality and what you plan to do in the UK.

Please go to [www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa](http://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa)

### If you're visiting on business:

You can visit the UK for many different business reasons, including attending meetings, conferences, trade fairs or negotiating contracts.

### You cannot:

- do 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): [www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-funds-2](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-funds-2)
- do a course of study that lasts longer than 6 months
- marry or register a civil partnership, or give notice of marriage or civil partnership.

### If you're visiting to study

You can visit the UK to study for up to 6 months at an accredited institution, this includes English language courses.

### You can also do:

- a short piece of research that's relevant to your course overseas
- an 'elective' - an optional additional placement, if you're studying medicine, veterinary medicine and science, or dentistry.

### If you want to study longer you'll need to apply for a:

- Student visa [www.gov.uk/student-visa](http://www.gov.uk/student-visa) (if your course is run by a licensed sponsor) [www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-students](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-students)

- Short-term study visa [www.gov.uk/visa-to-study-english](http://www.gov.uk/visa-to-study-english) (for English Language courses up to 11 months)

### If you're visiting as an academic

#### If you're from an academic institution overseas, you can:

- take part in formal exchange arrangements with UK counterparts
- carry out your own research during a sabbatical

#### If you're a senior doctor or dentist you can also:

- take part in research
- teach (as long as it is not a permanent teaching post)
- undertake clinical practice (as long as it's not a permanent position)

### Eligibility

You must always show that:

- you'll leave the UK at the end of your visit
- you'll not live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits, or make the UK your main home
- you're able to support yourself and any dependants for the duration of your trip
- you're able to pay for your return or onward journey and any other costs relating to your visit
- any business or other activities you want to do in the UK, as allowed by the Visitor Rules

You can also apply for a Standard Visitor visa if you want to visit the UK for business-related activities eg:

- you're coming to the UK for a conference, meeting or training
- you want to take part in a specific sports-related event
- you're an artist, entertainer or musician and coming to the UK to perform
- you're an academic and are doing research or accompanying students on a study abroad programme
- you're a doctor or dentist and are coming to the UK to take a clinical attachment or observer post
- you want to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test or sit the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- you want to get funding to start, take over, join or run a business in the UK

## How long you can stay:

You can usually stay in the UK for up to 6 months (£100 fee).

You might be able to stay longer if:

- you're coming to the UK for private medical treatment - up to 11 months (£200 fee).
- you're an academic and meet the eligibility requirements ([www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/eligibility](http://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/eligibility)) - you, your spouse or partner and your children may be able to stay for up to 12 months (£200 fee).

If you're staying in the UK for longer than 6 months, you must collect your biometric residence permit ([www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits](http://www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits)) when you arrive. You may also have to take a tuberculosis test ([www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa](http://www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa)) as part of your application depending on where you come from.

## If you need to visit the UK regularly:

You can apply for a long-term Standard Visitor visa that lasts 2, 5 or 10 years if you need to visit the UK regularly over a longer period. You can stay for a maximum of 6 months on each visit.

## Fees

A Standard Visitor visa costs £95. The fee for a long-term Standard Visitor visa depends on its length: visit the UK to:

- 2 years (£376)
- 5 years (£670)
- 10 years (£837)

## Extending your stay as a visitor

You cannot switch from a Standard Visitor visa to another type of visa. You can only extend your stay for specific reasons ([www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/extend-your-stay](http://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/extend-your-stay)), for example needing further private medical treatment.

If you want a visa to do something other than visiting, for example work or longer-term study, you'll need to leave the UK and make a new application.

## Documents you must provide:

You must provide a passport or travel document. Your passport should be valid for the whole of your stay in the UK and contain a blank page for your visa. You'll be told what other documents and information to provide when you apply online:

[www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply](http://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply)

You'll need to provide the following information:

- the dates you're planning to travel to the UK
- details of where you think you'll be staying during your visit

- how much you think your trip will cost
- 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

For more information call: **020 8411 4507** or email the International Student Advice Team at: [intadvice@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:intadvice@mdx.ac.uk). You can also book an appointment via myUniHub.

Middlesex University International Student Advice Team has made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate at the time of printing. Middlesex University however, cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors. This publication can only be a guide and is not intended to replace the complex and diverse legislation covered. Statutes and regulations may change during the year without notice. If in doubt seek independent advice.

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