

## Visiting the UK to study from 1 December 2020

### Standard Visitor Visa

#### Should you apply for this visa?

If you are studying a course overseas and you wish to complete a study abroad programme of less than 6 months, this can be done as a visitor. The study abroad programme in the UK must make up part of your overseas course.

A Standard visitor visa is generally easier to obtain than a Student visa but does have some limitations, these are as follows:

- You cannot switch into another visa category once you are in the UK; this means you must leave the UK on or before the visa expiry
- You are not allowed to work in the UK
- You are not covered under the NHS (National Health Service); this means you will need to make sure you have adequate medical insurance to cover your stay in the UK
- You cannot bring dependants with you

Students must also not intend to use the visitor visa routes to undertake frequent and successive periods of study. If following the completion of studies as a visitor (i.e. on exchange), the student wishes to undertake a further course of study for a duration of six months or more, they will not be permitted to switch into the Student route in the UK. They will need to return home and apply for entry clearance.

#### Making an application

The method of application will depend on whether you hold a passport for a visa national country or a non-visa national country. The visa national list can be found [here](#).

#### Applying at the border (non-visa nationals)

Non-visa nationals don't need to fill in an application form or pay an application fee. They should bring a valid passport which will either be stamped with a date stamp or used to pass through the eGates. If passing through the eGates, there will be no stamp in the passport so travellers should keep evidence of their date of arrival in the UK. All non-visa nationals should also bring all necessary documents (mentioned below) and have them ready to hand.

#### EU, EEA and Swiss Nationals

EU, EEA and Swiss nationals are classed as non-visa nationals and therefore have the choice whether or not to apply for a Standard visitor visa before traveling or to apply for permission to enter as a visitor at the port of entry in the UK. They are also permitted to use the eGates in order to enter as a visitor for a period of six months or less. As the use of an eGate is dependent on possessing a biometric passport, if they wish to travel to the UK using a national identity card and not a passport, they will not be able to use an eGate or request to see a Border Force Officer. They will need to apply for prior entry clearance in order to enter the UK as a visitor.

#### Applying for entry clearance (visa nationals)

Visa nationals need to [apply for entry clearance](#) whilst outside the UK. They must apply online, pay an application fee (£95 for a 6-month visitor visa) and provide biometrics. They must also provide evidence with their application to show that they are a genuine visitor and any additional eligibility requirements.

A decision on an entry clearance application should be made within 3 weeks of the biometric appointment. More information on applying for entry clearance can be found [here](#).

### Eligibility and evidence required

You will need to show:

- You are a [genuine visitor](#) who is coming to the UK to undertake a permitted activity (including study of up to 6 months)
- You will leave at the end of your visit and will not live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits, or make the UK your main home
- You have sufficient funds to cover all reasonable costs in relation to your visit, including the cost for your return or onward journey
- Your acceptance letter to Bath Spa University
- Confirmation from your University that the study to be undertaken in the UK is relevant to the course
- An Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate if you are studying certain subjects. Check if you'll need an ATAS Certificate [here](#). You need to apply for the ATAS certificate before starting your course and once applied this takes 4 weeks to process and receive a decision.

### Studying for longer than 6 months

If you are planning to study for longer than 6 months then the Standard Visitor visa won't be suitable and you may benefit in applying for a student visa. If this is the case please contact the Go Global team.