



Do I need a visa?

Visa information

SUMMARY

Age	Course	Type of Visa	Period of time	Cost	Apply
Over 16	BSTG - EFL short course	Standard visitors visa	Studying up to 30 days	£97	Up to 3 months before course
Over 16	BSTG - EFL Long course	Standard visitors visa	Studying up to 11 months	£186	Up to 3 months before course
Over 16	BSTG - Business Ready Program	Tier 4 General visa	Length of course	£348	Up to 3 months before course

SHORT COURSE VISA Up to 30 days

Overview

You can apply for a Short-term study visa (up to 30 days) if:

you're doing a short course of study in the UK

you're from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland

you meet the other eligibility requirements

You need a Standard Visitor visa if you're an academic visitor. And are staying for up to 30 days

What you can and can't do

You can:

- do a short course of study in the UK, such as an English language course or a training course

You can't:

- study at a state-funded school

- work (including on a work placement or work experience) or carry out any business

- extend this visa

- bring family members ('dependants') with you - they must apply separately

- get public funds

How long you can stay

You can stay in the UK for:

6 months - for any short course (including English language courses), or short period of research if you're 16 or over



Fees

It costs:

£97 for a 6 month visa

How long it takes

You can apply for a visa up to 3 months before your date of travel to the UK.

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks.

Eligibility

You must prove that you:

- have been offered a place on a course in the UK at an accepted place of study
- have enough money to support yourself without working or help from public funds, or that relatives and friends can support and house you
- can pay for your return or onward journey

If you're under 18 you must also:

- have made arrangements for your travel and stay in the UK
- have permission from your parent or guardian to study in the UK

Where you can study

You must be accepted on a course with an education provider that holds a Tier 4 sponsor licence. Otherwise your course will need to be held at an educational institution listed by one of the following:

Accreditation Body for Language Services

Accreditation Service for International Colleges

Accreditation UK (The British Council)

Bridge Schools Inspectorate

British Accreditation Council

Education and Training Inspectorate (in Northern Ireland)

Independent Schools Inspectorate

Schools Inspection Service

Learning English as a foreign language

You must be at least 16 years old and accepted on a course to learn English as a foreign language if you're applying for an 11 month Short-term study visa.

A mixed course, some of which is spent studying English, doesn't count.

Documents you must provide

When you apply you need to provide:

- a current passport or other valid travel identification
- evidence that you can support yourself during your trip, for example bank statements or payslips



for the last 6 months

- details of where you intend to stay and your travel plans - you shouldn't pay for accommodation or travel until you get your visa
- your tuberculosis (TB) test results if you're from a country where you have to take the test
- contact details for at least one parent or guardian in your home country (if you're under 18 years old)
- You need to provide the original documents.
- You also need to provide a certified translation of any documents that aren't in English or Welsh.
- You need a page in your passport that's blank on both sides for your visa.

Documents about your course

You must provide proof of the course you're studying, for example a letter of acceptance from the educational institution - on official headed paper, stating the course's name, duration and cost (including accommodation).

You may need to provide additional documents depending on your circumstances, such as evidence of your:

- previous study, for example academic certificates, references or transcripts
- English language qualifications, for example certificates or awards
- accommodation and travel plans
- permission to be in the country you're applying from (if you're not a national)
- financial sponsor's occupation, income, savings or funds that will support your studies

If you're under 18

If you're under 18 you need to provide additional documents if:

- you're travelling on your own
- you're travelling with someone who isn't your parent or guardian

Travelling on your own

You can travel to the UK without an adult (someone 18 or over).

Your parent or guardian needs to provide their:

- written consent for you to travel to the UK
- full contact details

They also need to provide proof that you have somewhere suitable to live during your stay in the UK, including:

- the name and date of birth of the person that you will be staying with
- an address where you will be living
- details of your relationship to the person who'll be looking after you
- consent in writing so they can look after you during your stay in the UK



Travelling with an adult

When travelling to the UK with an adult (someone 18 or over), you need to identify them in your visa application.

Their name will appear on your visa, and you'll be refused entry to the UK if you arrive in the UK without them.

You can identify up to 2 adults in your visa application, and your visa will only be valid if you travel with at least one of them.

The adult can apply for a visa at the same time, but you must each complete separate applications.

Apply

- You must apply online for a Short-term study visa.
- You need to have your fingerprints and photograph (known as 'biometric information') taken at a visa application centre as part of your application.
- You may be able to get your visa faster or other services depending on what country you're in - check with your visa application centre.

SHORT COURSE VISA up to 11 months

Overview

You can apply for a Short-term study visa (up to 11 months) if:

- you're doing a short course of study in the UK
- you're from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland
- you meet the other eligibility requirements

You need a Standard Visitor visa if you're an academic visitor. And are staying for up to 11 months

What you can and can't do

You can:

- do a short course of study in the UK, such as an English language course or a training course

You can't:

- study at a state-funded school
- work (including on a work placement or work experience) or carry out any business
- extend this visa
- bring family members ('dependants') with you - they must apply separately



- get public funds

How long you can stay

You can stay in the UK for:

11 months - if you're 16 or over and taking an English language course

Fees

It costs:

£186 for an 11 month visa

How long it takes

You can apply for a visa up to 3 months before your date of travel to the UK.

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks.

Eligibility

You must prove that you:

- have been offered a place on a course in the UK at an accepted place of study
- have enough money to support yourself without working or help from public funds, or that relatives and friends can support and house you
- can pay for your return or onward journey

If you're under 18 you must also:

- have made arrangements for your travel and stay in the UK
- have permission from your parent or guardian to study in the UK

Where you can study

You must be accepted on a course with an education provider that holds a Tier 4 sponsor licence.

Otherwise your course will need to be held at an educational institution listed by one of the following:

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British Accreditation Council

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Independent Schools Inspectorate

Schools Inspection Service



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You must be at least 16 years old and accepted on a course to learn English as a foreign language if you're applying for an 11 month Short-term study visa.

A mixed course, some of which is spent studying English, doesn't count.

Documents you must provide

When you apply you need to provide:

- a current passport or other valid travel identification
- evidence that you can support yourself during your trip, for example bank statements or payslips for the last 6 months
- details of where you intend to stay and your travel plans - you shouldn't pay for accommodation or travel until you get your visa
- your tuberculosis (TB) test results if you're from a country where you have to take the test
- contact details for at least one parent or guardian in your home country (if you're under 18 years old)
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They also need to provide proof that you have somewhere suitable to live during your stay in the UK, including:

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You can identify up to 2 adults in your visa application, and your visa will only be valid if you travel with at least one of them.

The adult can apply for a visa at the same time, but you must each complete separate applications.

Apply

- You must apply online for a Short-term study visa.
- You need to have your fingerprints and photograph (known as 'biometric information') taken at a visa application centre as part of your application.
- You may be able to get your visa faster or other services depending on what country you're in - check with your visa application centre.

TIER 4 (GENERAL) STUDENT VISA

Overview

You can apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa to study in the UK if you're 16 or over and you:

- have been offered a place on a course
- can speak, read, write and understand English Must have IELTS up to 5.5pts or B1
- have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course - the amount will vary depending on your circumstances
- are from a country that's not in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland
- meet the other eligibility requirements

When to apply

The earliest you can apply for a visa is 3 months before you start your course.

You'll usually get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks. You can check [visa](#) processing times for



your country.

Fees

- It costs £348 to apply for this visa from outside the UK.
- You must pay £348 per person for any dependants.
- You'll also have to pay the healthcare surcharge as part of your application. - - Check how much you'll have to pay before you apply.

How long you can stay

You can arrive in the UK before your course starts:

- up to 1 week before, if your course lasts 6 months or less
- up to 1 month before, if your course lasts more than 6 months

How long you can stay depends on the kind of course you're doing and what study you've already completed.

What you can and can't do

You can:

- study
- work as a student union sabbatical officer
- apply from inside or outside the UK
- apply to extend your stay
- work in most jobs - depending on what level your course is and what kind of sponsor you have

You can't:

- get public funds
- work in certain jobs, for example professional sportsperson or sports coach
- study at an academy or a local authority-funded school (also known as a maintained school)
- You may be able to bring in family members (dependants).

Eligibility

You must have:

- an unconditional offer of a place on a course with a licensed Tier 4 sponsor
- enough money to support yourself and pay for your course - the amount will vary depending on your circumstances
- Read the guide and appendix for the full list of documents and how much money you'll need.

Your course

You can do a course that's one of the following:

- full-time leading to a qualification that's at least level 6 on the Ofqual register
- part-time leading to a qualification that's at least level 7 on the Ofqual register



- an overseas course of degree level study that's equal to a UK higher education course and is being run by an overseas higher education institution
- full-time, with at least 15 hours per week of organised daytime study, leading to a qualification which is at least level 3 on the Ofqual register
- a recognised foundation programme as a postgraduate doctor or dentist

Confirmation of acceptance for studies

Your education provider will send you a reference number called a confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS) once they've offered you a place on a course. You'll need to enter this on your visa application.

You must apply for your visa no more than 6 months after you receive the CAS.

If you've studied in the UK before

You can only get a CAS in certain situations if you're applying from within the UK.

If you're continuing your studies

You can get a CAS if you're:

- re-sitting exams or repeating modules
- applying for the first time to a new institution to complete a course you started at an institution that lost its Tier 4 sponsorship
- applying to extend your stay to complete your studies because you've done (or want to do) a work placement or study abroad programme

If you're starting a new course

You can get a CAS if your course is one of the following:

- at a higher academic level than your previous course



Knowledge of English

You must prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply. This usually means passing a secure English language test (SELT).

Where you're studying	What you're studying	Knowledge of English needed	Level
Higher education institution (HEI)	Degree level or above	Reading, writing, listening and speaking	Equivalent to CEFR (Common European Framework for languages) level B2
Institution that's not HEI	Degree level or above	SELT in reading, writing, listening and speaking	CEFR level B2
Any institution	Below degree	SELT in reading, writing, listening and speaking	CEFR level B1

You also don't need to prove your knowledge of English if one of the following apply:

- you're a national of Canada or any of the countries in the list above
- you have studied in the UK before as a Tier 4 (Child) student

Apply

You should read the full guidance before you apply.

You'll also have to pay the healthcare surcharge as part of your application.

Check how much you'll have to pay before you apply.

Apply outside the UK

You must apply online for a Tier 4 (General) student visa.

You'll need to have your fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre (to get a biometric residence permit) as part of your application.

You'll have to collect your biometric residence permit within 10 days of when you said you'd arrive in the UK (even if you actually arrive at a later date).

You may be able to get your visa faster or other services depending on what country you're in - check with your visa application centre.