UK VISA INFORMATION

Please note: The content of this page is for information purposes only. We make every effort to ensure its accuracy, but please refer to the <u>UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) website</u> for the most accurate and up to date information.

A person who is a national or citizen of countries outside European Economic Area (EEA) may need a visa to visit or study in the United Kingdom. To find out if you need a visa to study in the UK, visit this UKVI webpage. The Visa National List can be found in Appendix 2 of the immigration rules.

Short-Term Study Visa

Full details on applying for the Short-Term Study Visa can be found on the UKVI website.

The Short-term Study visa (STS), previously known as the Student Visitor Visa (SVV), is suitable for any type of short course that is shorter than 6 calendar months. There are three sub-categories under this visa route depending on applicant's age:

- For adult students aged 18 or above: Short-term Study visa (6 months)
- For child students aged 17 or under: Short-term Study visa (Child)
- For adult students (aged 18 or above) attending only English language courses for up to 11 months: Short-term Study visa (11 months)
 - o Please note that even if you are a non-visa national you would still need to apply for Entry Clearance (visa) for the 11 months Short-term study visa before travelling to the UK.
 - If you are applying for the 11 months visitor visa, please also read the info below regarding the BRP card.

Some of the restrictions applying to students studying under the short-term study visa are:

- They are not allowed to work.
- They cannot extend their visa in the UK.
- They cannot bring family members ('dependents') under the short-term study visa route.

Typically, you should apply for your visa between 1 and 3 months before your intended course starts, depending on the time of year. Please check the UKVI Guide to Visa Processing Times to help you plan your visa application.

Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) Card

If your visa length is more than 6 months, for instance the short-term study visa (11 months), you will be issued with a 30-day Entry Clearance (visa sticker) in your passport, which allows you to enter the UK. Within 10 days of arrival in the UK, you will need to collect your BRP card, which contains details such as your visa expiry date, at a designated

Post Office. It is important that you enter the postcode of your study location correctly so your BRP card can be sent to the nearest Post Office for collection.

Incidental Studies and other types of visas that permit studies

- Under Standard Visitor visa, non-EEA nationals are permitted to study for up to 30 days, i.e. 6 weeks
 (assuming 5 days of studies during the week), as long as it is not the main reason for their visit. See
 Permitted Study for full details.
- There are other types of visas which permit studies such as PBS dependant visas, Indefinite Leave to Remain and Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS).

Short-term Study (STS) visa - Information

Below you will find some facts and tips for applying under Short-term study route.

Facts: (click <u>here</u> for a copy of UKVI's supporting documents guide)

- 1. Fees: currently £85 for 6 month visa
 - a. N.B. If you are a non-visa national, you are not required to obtain Entry Clearance (visa sticker) before travelling to the UK. Instead you can obtain the appropriate visa endorsement upon arrival in the UK. Click here to check if you are a non-visa national if you are not sure.
- 2. Intention to study, this could include the following:
 - a. The offer letter and Confirmation of Enrolment letter for the course you have been accepted onto
 - b. Evidence of your whole study plan in the UK and any offer letters for follow-on courses
 - c. Details of where you intend to stay and your travel plans
- 3. **Source of funds:** evidence that you can support yourself during your studies in the UK, e.g. bank statements or payslips for the last 6 months for the financial sponsor who is supporting you financially for your studies in the UK.
- 4. Original copies of all supporting documents are required
- 5. Please ensure **certified translation** copies of all documents that are not in English are provided
- 6. TB certificate is not required as the visitor visa is 6 months in length, with the exception of short-term study visa (11 months). For visas longer than 6 months, a TB certificate may be required as part of your visa application documents if you are resident of a country that requires TB screening. See the TB Test webpage for full details.
- 7. If applicable, pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS). Please see the <u>UKVI website</u> for more information.
- 8. Under STS you must study at an institution that either holds a Tier 4 licence or is accredited by one of the recognised bodies. Stafford House UK centres are accredited by the <u>British Council</u>.

Tips:

- 1. Students should submit an original copy of the Confirmation of Enrolment letter.
- 2. STS requirements are different to Tier 4 but in terms of maintenance requirement, the Tier 4 rules could be used as a reference, i.e. the funds available to the applicant should cover the full tuition fees as well as accommodation fees and living costs depending on the course location currently £1265/month for London and £1015/month for outside London.
- 3. Evidence such as proof of relationship between the applicant and financial sponsors are required to support the visa application. This could include documents such as birth certificate or marriage certificate.
- 4. Documents confirming the applicant's and/or their financial sponsor's employment status as well as their income could be useful evidence to support a successful application.
- 5. Additional financial evidence relating to the applicant or their financial sponsor's personal circumstances could also be helpful to the visa application. This could include documents proving ownership of properties, shares, dividends, automobiles etc.
- 6. Personal Statement elaborating the applicant's study plan and how the course benefits the applicant's education and career would be useful to aid the Visa Office in assessing the application.
- 7. Short-term Study visa cannot be extended in the UK, therefore at the end of the course you must return home before applying for a new visa.

For further advice, please contact CEG Visa Help at visahelp@ceg-uk.com