



Immigration Guidance

A guide to Short-term study visas 2016-17



What is the Short-term study visa?

The Short-term study visa will allow you to come to the UK if you are 18 years or older, and want to enter:

- For up to 6 months to study a short course; or
- For up to 11 months to study an English language course; or
- If you are enrolled on a course abroad that is at least equivalent to the level of a UK bachelor's degree, you can enter for up to 6 months to do research, or to receive instruction on how to conduct research, at a UK institution
- If you wish to enter the UK to undertake a resit examination or viva voce exam

A Short-term study visa has a final date of immigration permission. You must leave the UK on or before that date. You are not able to apply for any other immigration category while still in the UK. If you wish to continue studying in the UK after your visa has come to an end, you need to return home and apply for entry clearance as a Tier 4 (General) student, or in another appropriate immigration category.

As a short-term student, you cannot do any kind of work or work placement during your studies in the UK. If you want to work in the UK during your studies, you will need to apply to enter the UK as a Tier 4 (General) student, or in another appropriate immigration category.



Am I eligible for the Short-term study visa?

To apply for this visa you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have enough money to support yourself while you are in the UK. You need to show you can pay for your tuition fees, accommodation and living expenses
- Already have an unconditional offer to study in the UK
- Complete your period of study within 6 months or 11 months if you are an English language student. This includes students who may need to come back to the UK to re-sit an exam or repeat a module, and distance learning students who do not meet the requirements for Tier 4 but occasionally need to visit the UK. In this case, the overall course of study might be more than 6 months in total. However, the time required to re-sit an exam, repeat a module or undertake study which is part of a distance learning course in the UK must be less than 6 months.



When should I apply?

VISA NATIONALS

Some nationalities must apply for a visa before travelling to the UK. These are known as visa nationals. You can check to see if you need to make a visa application before travelling on the UKVI website:

www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa

You should carry all of the documents that you used to make your visa application with you in your hand luggage when you come to the UK, as a Border Force Officer may ask to see the documents when you arrive in the UK.

NON-VISA NATIONALS

If you are a non-visa national, and your course is less than 6 months long, you can choose whether to apply for entry clearance in advance of travelling, or to wait until you arrive at the port of entry to the UK, and make your request to enter as a short-term student there.

If you are an English language student whose course is more than 6 months long, you must make an application as a short-term student before you travel.

If you do not obtain entry clearance before you travel, you will need to produce all the documents to support your application to enter the UK as a short-term student to the Border Force Officer when you arrive at the port of entry to the UK. This includes evidence of your unconditional offer to study in the UK and evidence of your finances. **It is important you ask to be admitted as a short-term student (rather than as a general visitor) - you will need to make a special effort to talk to the Border Force Officer to explain that. Make sure that they look at your Short-term study visa letter (which confirms your unconditional offer and acceptance on the course), and ask that the stamp you get in your passport indicates you are here as a short-term student.**

Even if you obtain entry clearance as a short-term student before travelling to the UK, you should still carry all the documents that you submitted with your entry clearance application when you travel to the UK. The Border Force Officer may ask to see these documents when you arrive in the UK.

Please note: If you are planning to apply for the Short-term study visa upon arrival at the UK port, **you should not travel via the Republic of Ireland**. If you do this, you will not pass through UK immigration control and will not have the opportunity for the Short-term study visa to be stamped into your passport. This means that you will not have permission to study in the UK and you will not be able to enrol on your programme at the University of Edinburgh. If you are travelling to Edinburgh from overseas, you should fly directly into Edinburgh airport or transit through one of the other airports on the UK mainland.



Frequently asked questions

How do I apply?

You can apply from any country outside of the UK (it does not have to be the country where you normally live).

Your application must include:

- The completed online application form
- The current application fee in local currency (£89 for short term student visas up to 6 months, £170 for short term student visas up to 11 months)
- Your current passport
- One passport sized colour photograph
- Evidence of your unconditional offer of study or research in the UK. You will receive this letter from your School at the University of Edinburgh once your offer of study becomes unconditional.
- Evidence that you have enough money to support yourself while you are in the UK.
- All other supporting documents listed in the Home Office's guidance. You must submit the original documents along with a photocopy of each.
- Translations of any documents which are not already in English.

Guidance on Short-term study visas:

www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa

Apply online:

www.visa4UK.gov.uk

Apply at your nearest Visa Application Centre:

www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre



How much does the application cost?

If you are applying for the Short-term study visa at the port of entry in the UK, there is no fee for this application. If you are applying for entry clearance as a short-term student prior to travelling to the UK, the fee is £89 for a visa up to 6 months or £170 for a visa up to 11 months.



How much money do I need?

When you apply for a Short-term student visa you need to show that you have enough money to support yourself without receiving money from the UK government and without working in the UK. There are no specific requirements, however, you should be able to show that you have enough money to cover your course fees plus accommodation and living expenses.

Consult the Student Calculator to estimate the cost of living in the UK: **[studentcalculator.org](https://www.studentcalculator.org)**



Do I have to take an English language test?

You do not have to demonstrate your English language ability as part of the visa application itself, as there is no minimum ability level required for this visa. However, in order to receive your unconditional offer from the University of Edinburgh, you will have to meet the English language requirements for the programme you wish to study.



Can I study part-time as a short-term student?

Yes. There are no minimum hours that you must study during your stay in the UK. You can study part-time or full-time as a short-term student.



Can I work in the UK with a Short-term study visa?

No. You aren't allowed to do any type of work. If you want to work during your stay, you should apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa.



Can I extend my stay in the UK as a short-term student?

No. The Short-term study visa cannot be extended, and you cannot apply for any other immigration category whilst in the UK as a short-term student.



Can I travel outside the UK as a short-term student?

Short-term study visas which you receive upon arrival at the UK port are 'single entry'. This means that you do not have permission to come and go from the UK as you wish during the validity period of your visa.

If you do leave the UK, you will have to apply for a new Short-term study visa each time you arrive back in the UK. This will normally be acceptable, providing that you can prove that you are continuing to study a programme of less than 6 months.

You will need to prove that you are not living in the UK for an extended period. You can normally do this by carrying a student status letter with you, showing that you are enrolled on a programme of less than 6 months. You will also have to carry the other necessary documents that you needed when you first entered the UK.



Contact us

For further information and advice on visas and immigration, or advice on making your application, you can contact us:

International Student Advisory Office

International Office

University of Edinburgh

33 Buccleuch Place

Edinburgh EH8 9JS

T: 0131 651 5294

W: www.ed.ac.uk/immigration

E: General enquiries: isas@ed.ac.uk

Visa enquiries: visahelp@ed.ac.uk

Find us on:



www.facebook.com/edinburghuniversityinternational



twitter.com/IntOffice_UoE



isasuoe.wordpress.com

www.ed.ac.uk/immigration

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