



United Kingdom Visa Requirements

Foreign &
Commonwealth Office

Home Office

Please note that this leaflet is only intended as a brief guide. It does not cover all the rules for entry to the United Kingdom. The law is mostly in the Immigration Act of 1971, the Immigration and Asylum Act of 1999 and the Statement of Changes in the UK Immigration Rules.

The rules for entering the UK are different if you are a national of a Member of State of the European Economic Area (the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) or if you can claim British Citizenship or other connection with the UK, for example by ancestry. Details are available from your nearest British mission.

The UK Immigration Policy.

The United Kingdom aims to operate a firm, fast and fair immigration policy and the requirements for entry to the UK are set out in the Immigration Rules. All foreign nationals who wish to enter the UK must satisfy either:

- an Entry Clearance Officer at a British diplomatic mission abroad; or
- an Immigration Officer at the port of entry to the UK;

that they meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules.

What is a visa?

Although more commonly known as “a visa” entry clearance is also a term used to describe the application process for foreign nationals who want to come to the United Kingdom (UK) but who must show they qualify for entry before they arrive.

Do I need a visa?

If you:

- are stateless (there are exceptions - please contact your nearest British diplomatic mission to find out if you require a visa); or
- hold a non-national travel document or passport issued by an authority not recognised by the UK; or
- are a national of one of the countries or territories shown on the back of this leaflet;

you need a valid UK visa every time that you enter the UK UNLESS

- you are legally settled in the UK; or
- you are legally in the UK for some long-term purpose, such as work or study, and you are returning to the UK within a period of permission to stay granted previously.

If you are a national of any country not shown in the list or described above you do not need a UK visa for a visit or to study but you **must** obtain a visa if you wish:

- to live permanently in the UK; or
- to undertake work or run a business in the UK – unless you have a valid work permit; or

- To accompany or join someone going to the UK for any of the above purposes; or
- To live in the UK as a person of independent means.

Where do I make my visa application?

If you want to make an application for a visitor’s visa you may apply at any British diplomatic mission offering a full visa service.

If you want to apply for another type of visa, such as for settlement or for long term study, you should apply at a British diplomatic mission in the country where you are normally resident. If there is no British diplomatic mission in your country, or it does not offer a full visa service, another mission will have been designated to handle visa applications. Any of our diplomatic missions will be able to advise you where you can make your application.

To make your visa application you will need:

- to complete the visa application form (form IM2A); and
- your passport – which must be valid for the whole period you intend to be in the UK; and
- two recent passport-sized photographs of yourself; and
- the visa fee which must be in the local currency of the country in which the diplomatic mission is located.

Where can I find out more information?

This leaflet is only one of a number that are available to visa applicants and their sponsors. Please look at our other leaflets for more information. If you have access to the internet you will find further information, including all of our information leaflets and the telephone numbers of all the British Missions on our website:

www.fco.gov.uk

If you still need more information and are outside the UK please contact your nearest British diplomatic mission who will be able to tell you how to get further information about UK visas. If you live in the UK and have a friend or relative who wants to make a visa application and you need more information you can contact the Joint Entry Clearance Unit (JECU) which manages the UK visa operation on:

JECU Public Enquiries Line: 020 7238 3838
Application/Information Pack: 020 7238 3858 (voicemail)
JECU Email: Visas.forUK@jecu.mail.fco.gov.uk

Nationals who require a Visa for the United Kingdom

<p>Afghanistan Albania Algeria Angola Armenia Azerbaijan Bahrain Bangladesh Belarus Benin Bhutan Bosnia-Herzegovina Bulgaria Burkina Faso Burundi Cambodia Cameroon Cape Verde Central African Republic Chad China Colombia Comoros Congo Congo Dem Republic (Zaire) Croatia Cuba Djibouti Dominican Republic</p>	<p>Ecuador Egypt Equatorial Guinea Eritrea Ethiopia Fiji Gabon Gambia Georgia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Guyana Haiti India Indonesia Iran Iraq Ivory Coast Jordan Kazakhstan Kenya Kyrgyzstan Korea (North) Kuwait Laos Lebanon Liberia Libya Macao Special Administrative Region</p>	<p>Macedonia Madagascar Maldives Mali Mauritania Mauritius Moldova Mongolia Morocco Mozambique Myanmar (Burma) Nepal Niger Nigeria Oman Pakistan Palestinian Authority Papua New Guinea Peru Philippines Qatar Romania Russia Rwanda Sao Tome e Principe Saudi Arabia Senegal Sierra Leone Slovak Republic Somalia Sri Lanka</p>	<p>Sudan Surinam Syria Taiwan Tajikistan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tunisia Turkey "TRNC" (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) Turkmenistan Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates Uzbekistan Vatican City (service and emergency passports only) Vietnam Yemen Yugoslavia (Socialist Republic of and present Yugoslav authorities) Zambia</p>
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MEDICAL TREATMENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

With only a few exceptions, visitors to the United Kingdom are NOT entitled to free medical treatment from the National Health Service (NHS). A charge will be made for any treatment received. Visitors should therefore ensure that they have sufficient medical insurance to cover their stay. Further information can be obtained from the Department of Health website: www.doh.gov.uk/overseasvisitors or their Public Enquiries Office on: telephone number 44 (0)20 7210 4850 or email: dhmail@doh.gsi.gov.uk

CUSTOMS & EXCISE:

Advice on importing personal effects and goods into the UK may be obtained from:

HM Customs and Excise website: www.hmce.gov.uk
Dorset House tel: 44 (0)20 7202 4227
Stamford Street fax: 44 (0)20 7202 4131
London SE1 9PY

DRUGS WARNING: The UK has severe penalties against drug smuggling. Be aware that drug traffickers may try to bribe travellers.

IMMIGRATION ADVISORY SERVICES (IAS)

The IAS is an independent charity that gives free and confidential advice, assistance and representation to persons who are applying for UK visas. You can contact IAS at:

County House website: www.iasuk.org
190 Great Dover Street email: advice@ias.org
London, SE1 4YB tel: 44 (0)20 7357 7511

Duty Office telephone number 24 hours: 44 (0)20 7378 9191

Disclaimer: This leaflet is intended only as general guidance and is correct at the time of printing. However, changes in legislation may have occurred and you should always clarify your position with a British Mission before travelling to the UK. Her Majesty's Government cannot accept liability for any loss or damage arising in respect of any statement contained in this leaflet.

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