

VISAS

Study Abroad & Exchange

EU Student Focus

Visa and Immigration Student Advice Service

April 2022 - The information contained in presentation is believed to be correct at the time. For further information please ensure that you refer to the relevant guidance from the [UK Visas and Immigration](#) government webpages at the time of applying.

VISAS

The University of Southampton's VISAS Team:

- Offer free advice and guidance on matters relating to the UK Student visa type.
- Support international students, their dependants and recent graduates with immigration issues relating to study in the UK.
- Manage the application process and help to submit applications on behalf of current students extending their visas under the Student visa route.
- Liaise with UKVI (UK Visa and Immigration) on compliance matters.

What type of visa is needed

- For programmes longer than 6 months - [Student Visa](#)
- For programmes shorter than 6 months - [Standard Visitor Visa](#)

If a student has settled or pre-settled status they will not need a visa for their chosen programme of study.

Who Needs a Student Visa

- Students from outside the UK or Republic of Ireland and studying a programme longer than 6 months

Unless, they have a visa or immigration permission for the UK in another category which has no restriction on study and permission will be valid for the length of the programme.

Applying for a Student Visa

- Students should complete an online application form.
 - EU students can confirm their identity through the free UK Immigration: ID Check app so long as their passport has a biometric chip.
 - Using this app, they can scan their passport and upload a photo of themselves
 - If they do not have a passport with a biometric chip or cannot confirm their identity in this way, they will need to go to a visa application centre after applying.
 - How long do applications take?
 - **Outside the UK** 3 weeks
 - **Inside the UK** 8 weeks
- This application will cost £363
This application will cost £490

What EU Applicants Need To Prepare For a Student Visa Application

- Passport / Travel Document
- CAS number – (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies)
- Academic Qualifications (if under degree level)
- Meet an English Language Requirement – through admissions process.
- Evidence of Money for tuition fees & living costs
- Students under 18:
 - Consent from parent/legal guardian for consent to travel & study in UK
 - Evidence of the relationship

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

- A CAS Statement is information about the student & their programme of study shared between the University & UKVI
- Students must complete a CAS Request form
 - New students are sent an email when they have accepted an Unconditional Offer
- The CAS Statement will be emailed to the student and the reference number needs to be included in the visa application

Application Granted

- Once their student visa application has been granted EU, Swiss and EEA Students will receive a Digital Immigration Status
- They will not receive a physical card like non-EU students
- Student will need to provide us with a **Share Code**
<https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status>

Standard Visitor Visa

For a short programme of study (e.g. one semester in the UK), students may be eligible for the following visa type:

- [Standard Visitor](#) visa permits students to undertake a short course of study that lasts no longer than 6 months.
- Student visitors will need to provide:
 - Their passport at the border
 - May need other documents e.g. proof of acceptance on to a course, ability to support yourself financially, where they will be living in the UK
 - Check <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa> for full details of what you need at the border
 - They may want to [apply for a Standard Visitor visa](#) if they have a criminal record or they've previously been refused entry into the UK.
 - No charge at the Border. £100 if applied for
 - Can confirm if they must apply <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

Cannot
work

Cannot
extend in
UK

Entry at the Border & Registration

- **E-Gates** – electronic gate entrance to UK
 - Not recommended
 - Request to see Border Officer
- **Right to Study Check**
- **VISAS** must register all students
 - vignettes (sticker in passport)
 - entry stamps
 - Share code
 - boarding ticket

Healthcare in the UK on a Student Visa

- **On a Student visa**

- Immigration Healthcare Surcharge
- As part of the Student visa application you will need to make a payment for your IHS – healthcare insurance -£470 per year in the UK

- **On a Standard visitor visa**

- Please refer to the NHS webpage:

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/visiting-or-moving-to-england/visitors-from-eu-countries-norway-iceland-liechtenstein-or-switzerland/>

- They advise “it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy.”
- Please refer to the webpage for your personal circumstances

Compliance & Working While You Are Studying

- Compliance
 - VISAS Team have visa responsibilities for all non-UK/Irish students
 - Approve and report any changes to study patterns
- Working while you are studying
 - Standard visitor visa – no work permitted
 - Student Route visa – 20 hours per week

Some Common Pitfalls

- Applying for the wrong type of Visitor visa.
 - Do not select Academic Visitor (Academic Visitor is for visiting Academics employed at a university overseas and not for student exchange visits). You will not be permitted to study with this visa
 - If you do this, you must query it with the VISA Application Centre before arriving in the UK
- Thinking you don't need to complete a Right to Study Check
 - Unless you have British or Irish nationality, all students must complete a right to study check
- Not keeping boarding pass
 - Evidence of entry to the UK must be provided to the University of Southampton

Any Questions? How To Contact Us

Our webpages provide further guidance

www.soton.ac.uk/visa

If you still have questions, we can be contacted in the following ways:

- **Contact us webpage:**
<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentservices/visa-and-immigration/contact-us/index.page>
- **Email:** visa@soton.ac.uk

We are only allowed to provide general information unless we have received permission from the student in writing.