



Visitors and Permitted Paid Engagement

From April 2015, the UKVI introduced a simplified visit visa system for those wishing to visit on a short trip.

Previously, there were 15 different types of visit visa available to short-term visitors. The change has seen the number brought down to four visa types, with the view of making it easier for travellers to understand which visa to apply for.

The requirements for entering the UK will be the same, but rules and guidance have been simplified to help applicants.

The four visitor visa types are now:

- Standard Visitor
- Permitted Paid Engagement
- Visitor to hold their marriage or civil partnership in the UK
- Visitor transiting the UK

The University may invite individuals to visit under the Standard Visitor or Permitted Paid Engagement route.

Standard Visitor

This consolidates 11 existing visitor routes including business and academic visitor.

A visitor is a person coming to the UK, usually for up to 6 months, for a temporary purpose such as to carry out a business activity.

A person who wishes to enter the UK as a visitor must have permission to do so. That permission must be granted as a visit visa or as leave to enter. A visa national is a national or citizen of certain countries who must obtain a visa before they arrive in the UK.

A non-visa national may apply for a visit visa but this is not required unless seeking to visit for more than 6 months as an academic.

[Checking if a UK visa is required](#)

Business Related Activities

A visitor may visit the UK for business-related activities such as:

- Attending meetings, conferences, seminars, interviews
- Give a one-off or short series of talks and speeches provided these are not organised as commercial events and will not make a profit for the organiser;

- Gather information for their employment overseas
- Academic related activity (see below)

Academic-related activities

If an individual is applying to visit as an academic they can stay in the UK for 12 months under the standard visitor visa and they must:

- be highly qualified within their field of expertise; and
- be currently working in that field at an academic institution or institution of higher education overseas;
- visiting to either take part in a formal exchange with a UK counterpart, or; carry out their own research if they are on sabbatical leave from their home institution, or; take part in someone else's research, teaching or clinical practice - as long as this doesn't involve filling a permanent teaching post.

In addition, a Professor from an overseas academic institution accompanying students to the UK as part of a study abroad programme, may provide a small amount of teaching to the students at the host organisation. However this must not amount to filling a permanent teaching role for that institution.

Individuals must apply for a biometric residence permit if they are staying in the UK as an academic for longer than 6 months.

Check the Visitor Rules to find the full list of business-related activities permitted with a Standard Visitor visa.

[Biometric Residence Permit](#)

[Visitor Rules](#)

Visitors under the standard visitor route, must show that:

- they will leave the UK at the end of their visit,
- they are able to support themselves and any dependants for the duration of the trip,
- they are able to pay for their return or onward journey and any other costs relating to their visit.

They must not:

- Intend to work in the UK either paid or unpaid;
- Receive payment from a UK source for any activities undertaken in the UK except for reasonable expense to cover the cost of their travel and subsistence.

Letters of Invitation

The individual will need to be sent a letter of invitation from the University in relation to their visit, depending on whether the individual is coming for business related reasons or specifically academic related reasons.

Permitted Paid Engagement

<https://www.gov.uk/permitted-paid-engagement-visa/overview>

The category of visitors undertaking permitted paid engagements is for a defined list of visitors who are invited to come to the UK because of their particular skills and expertise. They may apply to come to the UK for up to 1 month without the need to be sponsored under the points-based system.

This route allows visitors to undertake a short-term, fee-paid permitted paid engagement which falls under one or more of the permissible activities:

- Student examiner or assessor
- Take part in selection panels for the education, arts or research organisation you're invited by as a highly qualified academic
- Give lectures, as long as you're not in a formal teaching role