

Standard Visitor Visa: (<https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa>)

Overview

You can apply for a Standard Visitor visa if you want to visit the UK:

- for leisure, for example on holiday or to see your family and friends
- for business, or to take part in sports or creative events
- for another reason, for example to receive private medical treatment

[Check if you need this visa](#) if you're from outside the [European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#) or Switzerland.

Your application won't be accepted and you won't get a refund if you have the [right of abode in the UK](#) (for example you're a British citizen). You need to [apply for a certificate of entitlement](#) instead.

The Standard Visitor visa has replaced the:

- Family Visitor visa
- General Visitor visa
- Child Visitor visa
- Business Visitor visa, including visas for academics, doctors and dentists
- Sports Visitor visa
- Entertainer Visitor visa
- Prospective Entrepreneur visa
- Private Medical Treatment Visitor visa
- Approved Destination Status (ADS) visa

If you visit the UK on business

You can apply for a Standard Visitor visa if you want to visit the UK for business-related activities, eg:

- you're coming to the UK for a conference, meeting or training
- you want to take part in a specific sports-related event
- you're an artist, entertainer or musician and coming to the UK to perform
- you're an academic and are doing research or accompanying students on a study abroad programme
- you're a doctor or dentist and are coming to the UK to take a clinical attachment or observer post
- you want to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test or sit the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)
- you want to get funding to start, take over, join or run a business in the UK

Check the [Visitor Rules](#) to find the full list of business-related activities you can do with a Standard Visitor visa.

What you can and can't do

You can:

- take part in any of the business-related activities mentioned in the [Visitor Rules](#)
- [study for up to 30 days](#), as long as it's not the main reason for your visit
- take part in an exchange programme or educational visit (if you're under 18)
- [convert your civil partnership into a marriage](#)

You can't:

- do paid or unpaid work
- live in the UK for long periods of time through frequent visits
- get [public funds](#)
- marry or register a civil partnership, or give notice of marriage or civil partnership

[Read the guidance](#) for more information about what you can and can't do with a Standard Visitor visa.

How long it will take

The earliest you can apply is 3 months before you travel.

Example: *You can apply from 16 March if you plan to travel on 15 June.*

You should get a decision on your visa within 3 weeks.

Check the [guide processing times](#) to find out how long getting a visa might take in the country you're applying from.

How long you can stay

You can usually stay in the UK for up to 6 months.

You might be able to stay for longer if:

- you're coming to the UK for private medical treatment - up to 11 months (£179 fee)
- you're an academic on sabbatical and coming to the UK for research - you, your spouse or civil partner may be able to stay for up to 12 months (£179 fee)

If you're staying in the UK as an academic or to receive private medical treatment for longer than 6 months, you must apply for a [biometric residence permit](#).

You might be able to get a visit visa for up to 30 days if you're a visitor under the [Approved Destination Status \(ADS\) Agreement](#).

Long-term visit visas

If you can prove you need to visit the UK regularly over a longer period, you can apply for a visa that lasts 2, 5 or 10 years. You can stay for a maximum of 6 months on each visit.

If you're [under 18 years old when you apply](#), your long-term visit visa will only be valid for up to 6 months after you turn 18.

Fees

A Standard Visitor visa costs £89.

The fee for a long-term visit visa depends on its length:

- 2 years - £337
- 5 years - £612
- 10 years - £767

Eligibility

You must always show that:

- you'll leave the UK at the end of your visit
- you're able to support yourself and any dependents for the duration of your trip
- you're able to pay for your return or onward journey and any other costs relating to your visit
- you have proof of any business or other activities you want to do in the UK, as allowed by the [Visitor Rules](#)

If you're applying for a long-term visit visa

You must prove that:

- you have a frequent and ongoing need to come to the UK
- the reason why you need to come to the UK is unlikely to change while your visitor visa is valid
- you plan to leave the UK at the end of each visit

You may be given a visa for a shorter period than requested if you don't do this. You won't get a refund of the application fee if you get a shorter visa or your application is refused.

Your visa may be cancelled and you may get a long-term ban on visiting if your travel history shows you're repeatedly living in the UK for extended periods.

If you're applying as an academic

You can stay in the UK for 12 months if you're applying as an academic. You must prove you're highly qualified within your field of expertise, on sabbatical leave from your home institution and visiting to either:

- take part in a formal exchange with a UK counterpart
- carry out your own research
- take part in someone else's research, teaching or clinical practice - as long as this doesn't involve filling a permanent teaching post

Documents You Must Provide

When you apply you'll need to provide:

- a current passport or other valid travel identification
- evidence that you can support yourself during your trip, such as bank statements or payslips from the last 6 months

You need a page in your passport that's blank on both sides for your visa. Your passport must be valid for the whole of your stay in the UK.

You'll also need to provide a certified translation of any documents that aren't in English or Welsh.

Read the [full list of supporting documents](#) you can provide.

You might need to provide additional documents if you're visiting the UK:

- for private medical treatment
- to apply as an organ donor
- as an academic on sabbatical and want to stay for 12 months
- as a prospective entrepreneur
- to take the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test or sit the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

Where to send your documents

You'll be told where to send your documents [when you apply](#).

Any original documents you submit as part of your application will be sent back to you.

Other information you'll need

You'll need to provide the following:

- the dates you're planning to travel to the UK
- details of where you'll be staying during your visit
- how much you think your trip will cost
- your current home address and how long you've lived there
- your parents' names and dates of birth
- how much you earn in a year

You might also need:

- details of your travel history for the past 10 years (as shown in your passport)
- your employer's address and telephone number
- your partner's name, date of birth, and passport number
- the name and address of anyone paying for your trip
- the name, address and passport number of any family members you have in the UK
- details of any criminal, civil or immigration offences you have committed

Apply

Apply from outside the UK online

[Fill in the visa application form online.](#)

You'll need to have your fingerprints and photograph (known as 'biometric information') taken at a [visa application centre](#) as part of your application.

You may be able to get your visa faster or other services depending on what country you're in - check with your visa application centre.

Apply from within the UK

You might be able to [extend your visa](#) if you're already in the UK.

Apply from North Korea

You can't apply online if you're from North Korea. You must instead:

- [download the form](#) and [guidance](#)
- [read the instructions](#) on how to apply