

Short-Term Study Visa guidance

The Short Term Study Visa is a visa option for students who are coming to the United Kingdom (UK) to study a short programme (i.e. for less than six months), such as one of the Queen's University Belfast, International Winter / Summer School programmes (without a work placement).

How and where you apply for a Short-Term Study visa will depend whether you are a **(A) Visa national** or a **(B) Non-visa national**.

(A) Visa national

A visa national is a national of a country that is **required to apply in advance of travelling** for a visa to come to the UK for whatever purpose they intend and for any length of time. You may check if you require a visa prior to travelling to the UK on the Home Office website here: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>.

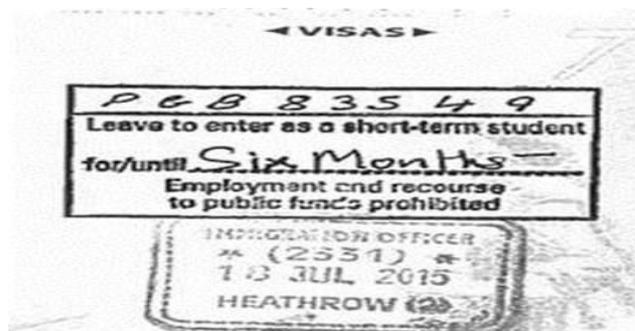
(B) Non-visa national

A non-visa national is a national of a country (for example USA, Canada, Taiwan and Australia etc.) who may apply in advance for a multiple entry visa to come to the UK **OR** may choose to apply for a Short-Term Study single entry immigration permission when they arrive at a **UK Port of Entry (i.e. a UK airport)**. International Student Support always recommends that you obtain a visa *before* you travel to the UK to ensure you do not face any travel complications. **However, if you have an insufficient amount of time to apply for a Short-term study visa before you travel it is acceptable to apply for immigration permission at a UK port of entry (i.e. a UK airport).**

Non-visa national: Immigration permission at the port of entry as a Short-Term Study Visitor

A short-term study immigration permission can only be issued at a **UK Port of Entry (i.e. a UK airport)** in limited circumstances (if you are a non-visa national and have a Short-Term Study Visa letter issued by Queen's University). Once you arrive at the UK border you will meet an immigration officer, who will ask you the purpose and duration of your visit to the UK. You should tell the officer that you will be attending Queen's University Belfast, present them with your visa support letter from QUB and your other supporting documents. The short-term study visa issued at the port of entry will involve your passport being stamped with an endorsement stating 'Short-term Study' and normally you will be admitted to the UK for 6 months.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you present evidence of your intention to study, i.e. the original visa support letter we issued to you, when you arrive at the UK Border, and also to check the stamped endorsement authorises 'Short-term study'. We ask students to check that the endorsement looks like this (as often UK immigration officials apply a 'visitor' endorsement rather than 'short-term student'):



Your travel plans

If you are a non-visa national and intend to apply for immigration permission at a **UK Port of Entry** then you **MUST** arrive via a UK airport (e.g. Belfast International Airport, London Heathrow, Edinburgh, Manchester etc.) in order to obtain the UK short-term student endorsement in your passport.

Please note that Dublin is NOT in the UK, it is in the Republic of Ireland. Therefore, if you are intending to arrive via Dublin airport and then travel onwards to the UK, to receive UK immigration permission you MUST apply for a Short-term study Visa BEFORE you travel to the UK.

WARNING

Over the past few years students who arrive into Dublin and then travel onwards to Belfast by bus or train are frequently receiving 48 hour transit immigration permission at Dublin airport.

This type of immigration permission does **NOT** permit students to study in the UK. To correct this, students must fly out of the UK to a European country (excluding the Republic of Ireland) and fly back via a UK airport. When they arrive back into the UK they must provide documentation explaining they are a student to ensure they receive the correct Short-term study immigration endorsement in their passport.

As you can imagine this is very stressful for students. They arrive after a long flight to the Republic of Ireland, travel to Belfast on a bus or train, only to realise they have received the wrong immigration permission and now have to fly out of the UK to another country and back in again to get the correct immigration permission to study in the UK. Therefore, we must very strongly advise that students fly into a UK airport.

You can find further information about arriving via the Republic of Ireland here: <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Arriving-via-Ireland>

Supporting documentation required to apply for a Short-term study visa

When applying for a Short-term study visa you must ensure that you have the appropriate supporting documents prepared. You should include:

- The original Short-Term Study visa support letter we issued for you
- A valid passport
- Several months' bank statements showing that you have enough money to support yourself during your stay in the UK. We recommend showing evidence of around £1,015 per month of your visit.
- Evidence of where you will be staying in Belfast for your studies (if you have reserved University accommodation we will have confirmed in the visa letter that you have booked a room in the University's Halls of Residence for the duration of the International Summer School).
- Evidence that you intend to return home at the end of your studies, i.e. return ticket, (or enough money to buy a plane ticket)
- The £97 Short-term study visa fee. **There is no charge if you apply at a UK airport as a non-visa national.**

Apply in advance of travelling to the UK

If applying for a Short term study visa in advance of travelling to the UK you must complete and pay for the online application, submit the above supporting documents and you will need to have your fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre as part of your application. The application should take around 15 working days to be processed, and we recommend that you do not book your flights to Belfast until your visa has been granted.

You can find more Short-term Study visa guidance and how to apply in advance of travelling here:

<https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa>

<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Short-term-student-visa>

Please note that if you have UK Short Term Study immigration permission, you must leave the UK within 30 days after the course end date stated on your visa support letter OR before your leave expires, whichever is earlier.