

N.U.in at Queens University Belfast Visa Guide 2026

Before travelling to the UK, it is important that you check you have the correct immigration permission. The type of permission you will need will depend if you are a non-visa national or a visa national.

You can check if you need to apply for a visa in advance of travelling to the UK on the [UK government website](#).

Non-Visa Nationals

Non- visa nationals, for example US citizens, can enter the UK for up to 6 months as a visitor, without applying for a visa in advance of travelling to the UK. However, non-visa nationals must apply for **Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)** before travelling to the UK.

The ETA is **not** permission to enter UK but allows travel to the UK. Airlines will check the ETA before boarding. Failure to present a valid ETA at check in for your flight to the UK will result in you being denied boarding.

- **When to apply:** Apply for the ETA before booking travel. You can find instructions on the [UK Government website](#) about how to apply.
- **Validity:** The ETA is valid for entries/exits from the UK over two years, or until your passport expires (whichever comes first). If you get a new passport, you must apply for a new ETA.
 - **ETA is linked to your passport.** Ensure that you are applying using the passport you will use to travel to the UK.

When you arrive in the UK you will pass through immigration control and will be required to present your documents to a Border Force Officer or use an eGate. You can find further information about arriving in the UK on [the UK Government website](#).

Please note if you are travelling through a non-UK port of entry, for example, Dublin, you will still need to apply for ETA before you travel.

Visa Nationals

If you are from a country on the [visa national list](#) and you are travelling to the UK to study for less than 6 months, you will need to apply for a [Standard Visitor](#) visa **in advance of travelling to the UK.**

You can [apply](#) for a Standard Visitor visa from 3 months before your date of travel and the standard processing time for applications is 3 weeks. Information on requirements for a standard visitor visa can be found on the UK Government website.

Visa Nationals should not travel to the UK without having been granted a Standard visitor visa.

Visa nationals who have been issued with a Standard Visitor visa do not need to apply for ETA.

If you have any questions about applying for a Standard Visitor visa, please contact the Immigration Advice team at Queen's University Belfast by email: immigration@qub.ac.uk.

Standard Visitor Visa Requirements

All students (non-visa nationals and visa nationals) will need to prepare the following documents. Visa nationals will be required to submit this evidence with their visa application. All students should carry these documents on entry to the UK as you may be required to present them to the Immigration Officer at the port of entry if requested. **Please note that the list below is not exhaustive.** All students should confirm supporting documentation requirements directly with the UK consular authority/authorized third-party visa processing company responsible for their country of residence.

1. **A valid passport** with at least one blank page (front and back); your passport should be valid for the full duration of your stay in the UK.
2. **Proof that you are seeking entry as a standard visitor** for study purposes for a limited period not exceeding 6 months.
3. Queens University Belfast will provide you with an admissions letter. Proof of enrolment, as well as a letter verifying that your tuition and housing are pre-paid and guaranteed can be provided by Northeastern. **Proof of acceptance on a course of study and accommodation details.**
4. **Proof that you intend to leave the UK at the end of your visit and can meet the cost of the return journey.** The Immigration Officer may require you to show a return ticket, so please be sure to carry proof of your round-trip itinerary.

5. **Proof of adequate financial means** to support yourself for your stay. Please note, the Queens University Belfast letter may not fulfil the 'financial' requirement. It is recommended that you have available copies of your bank statements or your parent's bank statement of at least last two months from your date of arrival in the UK. The bank statement must show adequate funds are available to support you for the semester in the UK. If you are providing your parent's bank statement, then you must have a letter from your parent confirming that they will take care of any expenses incurred during your time of studies in the UK and a copy of your parent's bank statement showing sufficient funds.

6. **Only if you are under 18 at the time of your arrival in the UK-written consent to travel from a parent or legal guardian in your home country.**

Non- visa nationals should only present the documents from the above listed document (2 to 6) IF requested by the Immigration Officer at the port of entry in the UK. You must not intend to take employment or engage in business activities in the UK, and you should be prepared to attest to this on entry, in the event that you are asked by an Immigration Officer.

Genuine Visitor Requirements

All visitors to the UK must satisfy the genuine visitor requirements. This means that:

- You will leave the UK at the end of your visit;
- You must not intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits. You must also not intend to make the UK your main home. The [visitor guidance](#) lists factors such as the number of visits that you have made over the last twelve months, including the length of stay on each occasion in assessing whether or not your visits to the UK are frequent and successive;
- You must be genuinely seeking to enter the UK for a purpose and activity permitted as a visitor;
- You must not undertake any of the prohibited activities for a visitor. See [Prohibited activities](#);
- You must have enough money to support yourself whilst you are in the UK. This includes the cost of your return or onward journey and any permitted activities that you have planned. You will not be able to work or access public funds in order to support yourself. In assessing this requirement, the [visitor guidance](#) states that your income and savings will be looked at minus any financial commitments that you have. The remaining sum must be sufficient to meet the likely costs that you will incur in the UK and also your reasonable expenditure. Please see [Prohibited](#)

[activities](#) for further details. You can rely on another person to help you demonstrate that you have sufficient funds to cover your travel, maintenance and accommodation whilst in the UK. You must have a genuine professional or personal relationship with this person however, and they cannot be in breach of any immigration laws at the time the decision on your application is made or by the time you wish to enter the UK as a visitor. This person must also be able to support you for the duration of your visit;

- Any funds that you wish to rely upon must be held in a financial institution permitted under [FIN 2.1 in Appendix Finance](#)

Important Reminders for All Students

This document has been prepared based on the information and links provided by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). ***Please check with the UK consular authority in your region/authorized third party visa processing company for the most updated visa requirements and processes for the UK. The information above is intended as informational guidance only and does not constitute legal advice.***

Northeastern University and Queens University of Belfast have no influence on the outcome of immigration applications, including the decisions and policies of UKVI, no ability to inquire about an individual immigration application, or to expedite the process for an individual student. In addition, N.U.in employees are unable to provide legal advice to students or families concerning country-specific immigration requirements and/or application processes.

Students are responsible for completing all required applications for immigration permissions or registrations correctly and in a timely manner, and for obtaining any required permissions prior to the program start date. If the student cannot obtain valid permission in time for the program start date, please refer to the N.U.in Withdrawal Policy and contact the N.U.in office to discuss the next steps.