



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Immigration Updates Visa requirements for EU/EEA Nationals

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Overview

- ❑ Immigration changes from January 2021 impacting EU/EEA nationals
- ❑ What we mean by visa and non-visa nationals
- ❑ Visa requirements to study a course less than 6 months in duration
- ❑ Visa requirements to study a course longer than 6 months in duration
- ❑ Right to Study Check (RTS)
- ❑ Q&A session

DISCLAIMER: This advice is for University of Birmingham students only



EEA Nationals studying from 1 January 2021

- ❑ Transition period ended on 31 December 2020;
- ❑ Freedom of movement has now ended;
- ❑ UK has a global points-based immigration system;
- ❑ EEA nationals who entered the UK before the transition period ended will continue to be able to apply under the Settlement Scheme until 30 June 2021;

EEA nationals (who do not hold Settlement or other appropriate immigration category):

- ❑ applying to study for less than six months can be granted leave at the border for six months without needing a visa application- **Standard Visitor visa**.
- ❑ applying to study for longer than six months need to make a **Student Route visa** application **before travelling** to the UK;



EU/EEA Identify Cards for purpose of travel

- ❑ Can continue to be used for travel up to 1 October 2021.
- ❑ After this date EEA nationals will not be able to travel on an EEA identity card to study in the UK.



Visa and Non-visa nationals

- Visa nationals- required to apply for a visa **before** they travel **irrespective of the length** of visit.
- Non-visa nationals- **exempt** from having to apply for a visa **before travel** to the UK (for visits up to 6 months) – request permission at port of entry.
 - EU/EEA nationals are classed as **non-visa nationals**.



Standard visitor visa for the purpose of study (less than 6 months)

- From 1st December 2020 the **Standard visitor** visa allows the study of short courses (less than 6 months) and **replaces** the Short Term Study visa.
- **Short Term Study (STSV)** visa is now only reserved for English language course which are between 6 to 11 months in duration.



When is a Standard visitor visa appropriate?

Standard [Visitor visa](#):

- ❑ Programme of study is for less than 6 months;
- ❑ To resist an exam or retake a module and you need to be in the UK for less than 6 months;
- ❑ To take a viva (oral) examination as part of a PhD qualification;
- ❑ To **complete a study abroad programme as part of an overseas course**, if the duration is **less than 6 months**;
- ❑ To sit an entrance exam;
- ❑ To undertake a medical elective if you are studying medicine, veterinary medicine and science overseas which is equivalent to at least a degree level of study in the UK;
 - the elective must form part of or relevant to the course and provide confirmation from your overseas provider; and
 - electives must be unpaid and involve no treatment of patients
- ❑ Complete a period of research or research tuition;
 - Enrolled onto a course overseas equivalent to at least degree level of study in the UK; and
 - The research must form part of or relevant to the course overseas; and
 - Your overseas provider must confirm that the research or research tuition is relevant to your course overseas



What activities are permitted under the Standard Visitor visa route?

- ❑ Granted a visa for a maximum period of 6 months;
- ❑ Cannot extend visa;
- ❑ Not be permitted to work in the UK, undertake a work placement or work experience;
- ❑ Not be able to apply with dependents at the same time, they will have to make a separate visa application for a visitor visa; and
- ❑ Not be able to apply for public funds (benefits, tax credits or housing assistance)



Entering the UK as an EEA/ non visa national- what does this mean practically?

□ E- Gates

Non-visa nationals with chip passports can use the E-gates at the airport.

□ Wait in line for a Border Control Officer

Documentary evidence for purpose of visit required.



What you need at the UK border

- ❑ You must provide a valid passport or travel document. Your passport should be valid for the whole of your stay in the UK.

You may also be asked to prove that:

- ❑ you've been **accepted on to a course by an accredited institution**, for example a **letter of acceptance** on official headed paper stating the course name, duration and cost
- ❑ your research or training is relevant to the course you're studying overseas, for example a letter from your home education institution describing how it's relevant
- ❑ you're able to **support yourself and your dependents during your trip** (or have funding from someone else to support you)
- ❑ you're able to pay for your return or onward journey (or have funding from someone else)
- ❑ you've **arranged accommodation** for your stay
- ❑ you'll leave the UK at the end of your visit
- ❑ To study or research certain subjects, you may need an [Academic Technology Approval Scheme \(ATAS\) certificate](#). You need to apply for the ATAS certificate before starting your course.



Student Route visa

- Apply under the [Student route](#) from January 2021 onwards.

Student Points		
Students will require a total of 70 points to be granted leave:		
Points Type	Relevant Requirements to be met	Number of points
Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CAS for studies requirement- Course requirement- Qualification requirement- Level of study requirement- Place of study requirement	50
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Financial requirement- First year of tuition fees PLUS £1,023 for each month of the course up to a maximum of 9 months (£9,207)	10
English Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- English Language requirement	10
Application Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- £348 and Immigration Health Surcharge £470 per year.	



Financial Requirement

□ Living cost =£1,023 for each month of the course for a maximum of 9 months (£1,023 x 9 months= £9,207) **PLUS**

□ Outstanding Tuition Fees (if applicable)

= TOTAL amount required to meet financial requirement (28 consecutive days)

Money Requirements- evidence dependant on circumstances



Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

- £470 IHS per year for student.
- Pay half of the yearly amount if your application includes part of a year that is less than 6 months (£235).
- Integrated part of online application.
- Access the NHS.



Low Risk Nationals

- The list of 'Low Risk' nationals subject to reduced documentary evidence has been expanded to include EEA nationals.



Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

- [Academic Technology Approval Scheme](#) (ATAS) approval is required by people who are subject to UK immigration control, studying for a postgraduate qualification in certain subjects.
- Nationals from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and the USA, join nationals from the UK, EU, EEA and Switzerland who are exempt from obtaining ATAS clearance for postgraduate study in relevant subjects.
- [Appendix ATAS](#) (listed within the immigration rules) “Nationals who are exempt from the ATAS requirement and condition”



Documents needed

- ❑ A current passport.
- ❑ Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)
- ❑ Proof you have money to support yourself and pay course fees e.g. bank statement- this will vary depending on circumstances.
- ❑ Qualification as listed on the CAS.



Length of visa

- Granted D: Student visa
- Duration of the course plus two months at the end of the visa and one month before the start of the course.
 - 30 day travel vignette (yellow sticker) in passport
 - Collect Biometric Resident Permit (BRP) in the UK- use Alternative Location Code (ACL) [2HE322](#) to collect from University of Birmingham or Post Office.



Student Route visa- what activities are permitted?

- Study
- Work- As a Student Route visa holder studying a full time course at the University, hours of work permitted as per the UKVI rules are:
 - 10 hours per week during term time if studying a course below degree level; OR
 - 20 hours per week during term time if studying a full time course at degree level and above;
 - Permitted to work full time during vacation periods and after finishing studies (until visa expires).



Student Route visa- you cannot

- ❑ claim public funds (benefits) and pensions
- ❑ work in certain jobs, for example as a professional sportsperson or sports coach
- ❑ be self-employed
- ❑ study at an academy or a local authority-funded school (also known as a maintained school)



Right to Study Check (RTS)

- January 2021 EEA nationals brought in line with UK domestic immigration law
- Expected to undertake RTS
- Online process only
- Documents Required for RTS
 - Passport (for all)
 - Evidence of EUSS pre-settled status
 - Evidence of EUSS settled status
 - Pending EUSS application
 - Student visa
 - Or any other visa category that permits study (standard visitor visa)
- Students invited by email to complete RTS



Resources

Check if you need a UK visa:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

Standard visitor visa:

<https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa>

Student Route visa:

<https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

Applying for a Student Route visa to study

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/visas/student.aspx>



Q & A Session

To log an enquiry online:

www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk

