



UK Visas & Immigration

Applying for a UK visa

DO I NEED A VISA TO VISIT THE UK?

If you hold a passport issued by the UK or any other country in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, you do not need a visa to travel to the UK.

For other passport holders, whether or not you need a visa depends on your nationality and reason for travel. You can check if you need a UK visa on our website:

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

WHICH TYPE OF VISA DO I NEED?

It is essential that you apply for the correct visa for your visit to the UK. This will depend on a number of factors, including the main purpose of your visit and any other activities you have planned for your time in the UK. Further information on visit visas is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/visit-visas>

APPLYING FOR A VISA

You can apply for a visa online at <https://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk>

To apply for a visa to come to the UK you will need to:

- Fill in an application form (in English)
- Book an appointment to attend one of our Visa Application Centres
- Gather supporting documents
- Enrol your fingerprints and facial image (known as biometric information) at a Visa Application Centre
- Pay a fee

In some instances you will also need to attend an interview

We aim to process 90% of (non-settlement) visa applications within 15 working days. The majority of applicants (94%) get a decision within this timeframe, with many much more quickly. You can view current processing times for your location on our website.

Some applications can take longer to process, so to ensure you receive your visa in good time it is best that you apply as early as possible. Applications can be submitted up to 3 months before travel.

We also offer a range of premium services, including our priority 3-5 day visa service which is available in over 60 countries. To view the services available in your area, please visit <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/countries/>

GENERAL VISITORS and BUSINESS VISITORS

General visitors come to the UK as a tourist or to stay with friends.

Business visitors come to do business related activities in the UK.

To come to the UK as a general visitor or a business visitor you will need to show that you:

- Are 18 or over
- Intend to visit the UK for no more than 6 months
- Intend to leave the UK at the end of your visit.
- Have enough money to support and accommodate yourself without working or help from UK-public funds, or will be supported and accommodated by relatives or friends.
- Can meet the cost of the return or onward journey.
- Are not in transit to a country outside the Common Travel Area (Ireland, the UK, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands).

You will also need to show that during your visit you do not intend to:

- Live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits.
- Take paid or unpaid employment, produce goods or provide services, including selling goods or services directly to members of the public.
- Do a course of study (although some short courses are allowed).
- Marry or register a civil partnership, or give notice of marriage or civil partnership
- Receive private medical treatment

As a **general visitor** you also need to show that:

- You do not intend to carry out the activities of a business visitor, a sports visitor or an entertainer visitor

As a **business visitor** you also need to show that:

- you are based abroad and do not intend to transfer your base to the UK, even temporarily
- you receive your salary from abroad (although it is acceptable for you to receive reasonable travel and subsistence expenses while you are in the UK)
- not be replacing someone in the UK, including for temporary leave period

Please always be honest when making a UK visa application. False declarations and / or forged documents will lead to a mandatory refusal of your application and a ten year ban.

Always visit our website for full and up-to-date visa information, including guidance on whether you need a visa, or whether it is advisable to apply for a visa

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration>