

**UK ENTRY CLEARANCE (VISA) INFORMATION FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS**  
**v26Nov2021**

**All information in this document provided is correct to the best of our knowledge on the day of publication, and we accept no responsibility for its accuracy afterwards. UK Immigration Rules change frequently and for the most up-to-date information and guidance on visas and immigration you should always [visit the UK government website](#).**

Dear Student,

**Coming to the UK to study less than 6 months.**

Students on study placements in the UK for 6 months or less can enter the UK under the Visitor Entry regulations and should ensure that they buy **private medical insurance** for the duration of their stay.

The type of entry clearance you will need to enter the UK and study with us will depend on the nationality shown in your passport. For students coming to study for under 6 months this will be either;

1. Standard Visitor Visa (visa nationals)
2. Visitor Entry Clearance (non-visa nationals)

**Check the type entry clearance that you need here: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>**

**You are not allowed to work in the UK with either of these types of UK entry permission.**

In some special circumstances we may support an application for a **Student Entry Clearance** which may allow some work in the UK. Please let us know if you need to be considered for this visa instead, along with your reasons why.

**BU Letter - Permission to Enter the UK**

Once you have been accepted to BU we will send/email you a letter confirming your acceptance as an Exchange student; you must either submit this document with the rest of your supporting documents to apply for a Visitor Visa or have this document to hand at a UK Port of Entry if you enter on Visitor Entry Clearance. You will require other evidence depending on the type of clearance you need to enter the UK.

**The information below is set out to guide you on the correct type of permission to enter that you will need dependent on your nationality.**

**1. Standard Visitor Visa (Students from Ecuador, Kosovo and Turkey)**

Most nationals, so called *visa nationals* (please see full list at [this link](#)), must get Entry Clearance **before** travelling to the UK. The Home Office UK Visas and Immigration department's (UKVI) advice is that you should wait for the **Standard Visitor Visa** to be granted even before booking your travel.

When a **Standard Visitor Visa** application is successful, a vignette (sticker) will be put in your passport. You should not travel to the UK any earlier than the 'valid from' date on this vignette. Please note that you can only hold one type of permission to enter or stay in the UK at any one time. As part of enrolment at BU you will be required to upload a copy of your Standard Visitor Visa that is in your passport, without this you will not be able to complete enrolment.

A **Standard Visitor Visa** vignette will be given for the full 6 months and there will be no Biometric Resident Permit Card to collect in the UK.

### **1.1 How do I apply for a *Standard Visitor Visa* in the country I am living before I travel to the UK?**

- Complete the online visa application form on the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk). You should only need basic information from your personal and supporting documents i.e. passport, offer letter from BU etc.
- Follow the online instructions and pay the application fees and enrol your biometric details, which is a mandatory part of this application. As this part is outsourced to different commercial partner companies of the UKVI, you will need to follow the instructions that is relevant for the country you are making the application. You can read more information about this on [this GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk) and as you are making your application, these will be shown/emailed to you by either the UKVI or their commercial partner.

Please note that the date of your application is set by the payment date and it is not the date when you have your biometric appointment. Your supporting documents must already be prepared and finalised before you pay for your application and you cannot use any new ones that are dated between the date of application and your biometric appointment.

### **1.2 Supporting Documents**

Check the supporting documents that you need when applying for a Standard Visitor Visa here: <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor/apply-standard-visitor-visa>

Your supporting documents will need to be electronically uploaded during the application but please note that you should have the originals in your possession and also take them with you when you have your appointment. This is unless a supporting document only exists in electronic format in which case please make sure you can have a copy of it on you when you go for your appointment. This is to make sure that you can still provide them during your appointment, in case there has been an IT issue with your previously uploaded documents.

It takes about 15 working days (counting from the date of your biometric appointment) to make a decision on a standard application. If you do not have this much time to travel to the UK to start your study exchange, you should consider paying extra for a priority or super priority service. You can choose these and more added value services during your application and availability depends on the commercial partner.

## **2. Visitor Entry Clearance (students from USA, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, Finland, France, Germany Norway, Portugal and Sweden)**

Non Visa Nationals (e.g nationals who are not on the above visa nationals list), will get **permission to enter** as a visitor when you come through a port to the UK e.g. London Heathrow Airport, London St Pancras International train station etc.

You will not need to apply beforehand but will need to meet various criteria and have certain documents which may be asked for at border control.

You should not travel to the UK via the Republic of Ireland or via anywhere else in the [Common Travel Area \(CTA\)](#), if you do not already have a **Visitor Entry Clearance** vignette in your passport.

### **2.1 How can I get a *Visitor Entry Clearance* on Arrival at a UK Port of Entry?**

**Please note that this option is only available to non-visa nationals, and from 01 January 2021 to EEA and Swiss nationals, coming to study for a maximum of 6 months.**

From 09:00am on 01 December 2020, a national of an EU country, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland or the USA will be able to use the eGates to get **Visitor Entry Clearance** at the time they arrive in the UK. This is only possible if you hold a **valid passport with a biometric sign on it, and meet some other very basic requirements** - please [watch this video on using eGates](#).

Please note that even if you can use the eGates, you could randomly be selected to see a Border Force Officer (BFO) and prove that you meet the requirements to be given a **Visitor Entry Clearance**. Therefore, you must carry supporting documents (see list below) in your hand luggage when you travel.

Other non-visa nationals, or those without a biometric passport, or those (including the ones who do have a biometric passport but) who are coming through a port without eGates must either apply for a prior Standard Visitor Visa or go see a UK Border Force Officer (BFO) at that port and ask the BFO for **permission to enter as a Visitor**.

Getting permission to enter as a **Visitor** on entry will mean that you could spend longer going through the border, please be aware of this when booking onward travel to Bournemouth.

You need to clearly state to the BFO that you are “seeking permission to enter as a **Visitor** for no more than 6 months to do your study exchange” and present your supporting documents. If the Officer is satisfied that you are genuinely coming to the UK for study exchange at BU, they will then stamp your passport accordingly. It is your responsibility to check that the other stamp has the words “Leave to enter as short-term student”. If this does not happen, you may not be able to start your study exchange.

If you are getting your **Visitor permission to enter** at the port of entry to the UK from a BFO, they will stamp your passport with an ink stamp and you will need to show us this at enrolment.

If you use the eGates, there will be no stamp at all, and in that case, you must show us proof of your entry date when you come to BU e.g. your boarding card, train or ferry ticket.

## 2.2 What documents do I need at the UK Border

Check what documents you need to evidence at the UK Border here:

[https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa/y/usa/study/six\\_months\\_or\\_less](https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa/y/usa/study/six_months_or_less)

The below list is based on the same rules and specific to your study exchange at BU but your personal circumstances may require you to submit more evidence.

- i. your passport/travel document and this should be valid for the full duration of your stay in the UK and must have at least one full blank page
- ii. the supporting letter/email from BU stating your acceptance for study exchange
- iii. financial documents covering a 6 month period showing that you have funds available to you to meet the cost of return travel and maintain and accommodate yourself for the full duration of your study exchange (please note that you can use a combination of the below, not just one):
  - a) there is no set amount you must evidence but we recommend following the Student route finance requirements, which says you should have £1023 for every month you are studying. As a minimum however, you should have enough as per the [information about living expenses in Bournemouth](#) on our website. If you have paid for return flights, accommodation or course fees (if any), showing evidence of these would reduce the amount you need to prove that you have available.
  - b) if the funds are not in your name, you need to have proof of the relationship to the person who is funding you e.g. birth certificate for parents’ and a letter of consent from them stating that you have access to their funds to cover your expenses while studying in the UK. Providing proof of the source of the funds is also highly recommended e.g. payslips etc. Please note that the Home Office

will take into account all outgoings as well e.g. mortgage payments so available funds to you should be in excess of these.

- c) if you receive financial support (e.g. from your academic department), the evidence should detail what the financial support includes e.g. course fees, return flight etc.
  - d) if you are receiving a student loan and will continue to receive it while you are studying at BU, confirmation from the loan provider could also be used.
- iv. some evidence to support your intention to leave the UK and return to your country of residence before **Visitor Entry Clearance** e.g. a student status letter from your home institution confirming your studies there and that you will need to return to complete those studies.

Please note that your supporting documents can be originals (recommended) or good quality, legible copies as well but all must have been issued by the relevant authorities, organisations or persons.

All supporting documents should be in English or Welsh. However, if not then you must also have a translation, which must be dated and include confirmation that it is an accurate translation of the original document, the full name and signature of the translator or an authorised official of the translation company and the translator or translation company's contact details.

For more student friendly, concise information and guidance regarding not just immigration but all aspects e.g. healthcare and employment of studying in the UK as an international student, we highly recommend you [visit the UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\) website](#).

Kind regards

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