



ACADEMIC STUDIES ABROAD

Student Visitor Visa - UK

This information applies to U.S. passport holders aged 18 or older who are studying in the UK for 6 months or less (i.e. for an ASA semester or summer program).

IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING VISA REQUIREMENTS CAREFULLY TO ENSURE YOU COMPLY.

- 1) Your Student Visitor Visa will be issued to you when you pass through Immigration at the airport, upon arrival in the UK, as long as you bring the proper documentation with you. The Student Visitor Visa allows you to study in the UK for a maximum of 6 months. To see what kind of documentation is required to be issued the Student Visitor Visa and what this visa does and does not allow, read on.
- 2) You may not participate in paid or unpaid employment during your stay in the UK if you are on a Student Visitor Visa. If you want to work, intern or volunteer while in the UK, you must apply for Entry Clearance 60-90 days prior to departure and during the application process, request Permission to Work. (You can ASA for info on how to apply for Entry Clearance.) Entry Clearance can only be obtained in the U.S., prior to departure, and you must apply for it 60-90 days prior to your departure.
- 3) You may not participate in an internship during your stay while on a Student Visitor Visa. (ASA neither arranges nor has information about internships.)
- 4) **The UK does not grant extensions to the Student Visitor Visa.** Therefore, if you are undecided about your length of study (i.e. you're going for a semester but may want to stay for an Academic Year; or you are going for a summer and may want to stay for the Fall), then you must apply for yearlong Entry Clearance from the British Consulate before you depart.
- 5) **The first time you enter the UK, you must show the Immigration Officer proof of a round trip plane ticket. You will not be allowed to enter the UK with a one-way ticket.** Your round trip plane ticket must show that you'll be in the UK for less than 6 months.
- 6) RE: TRAVELING BEFORE OR AFTER YOUR PROGRAM. If you are traveling in Europe prior to starting your semester abroad and you are passing through the UK, you need to bring the below-listed documents with you, present them at Immigration during your transit through the UK, and then ask to be re-admitted as a "student visitor" upon your return to the UK. If you are traveling in Europe after your semester abroad, you should ask to be re-admitted into the UK as a "visitor." You should NOT be re-admitted as a "student visitor" once you have completed your course. If you are coming back into the UK for less than 48 hours just to board your return flight to the U.S., you will be considered as making a transit to a country outside the Common Travel Area and the Immigration Officer may not allow you to re-enter the UK. (The Common Travel Area is defined as England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and the Republic of Ireland. Dublin is located in the Republic of Ireland.)
- 7) RE: FLYING TO THE UK FROM THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: If your flight into the UK originates in the Republic of Ireland (includes Dublin and Shannon airports), you are unlikely to encounter any Immigration Officers when you enter the UK because both the UK and the Republic of Ireland are in the Common Travel Area. Therefore, you will NOT be able to get a Student Visitor Visa if you enter the UK via the Republic of Ireland. You can still enter the UK and study there if you arrive via the Republic of Ireland, but *only for a maximum of 3 months* because you will not have the chance to get a Student Visitor Visa. In this case, keep any travel ticket as proof of your date of entry into the UK. **For this reason, we strongly discourage you from arriving in the UK via a flight from the Republic of Ireland because the only way for you to get a Student Visitor Visa would be to leave the Common Travel Area (i.e. France, Spain, etc.) and then return via one of the UK borders in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.**

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION...

In order to be granted your Student Visitor Visa, you must present the following documents to the Immigration Officer at the airport when you arrive in the UK. Be sure to pack these in your carry-on!

- 1) Valid U.S. passport that does not expire for at least 3 months *after* your proposed return date from the UK. Check your passport's expiration date NOW to see if you need to renew it!
- 2) Student Visitor Visa Letter / Offer Letter from your UK host institution
- 3) Student Visitor Visa Letter from ASA addressed "TO: The UK Border Agency."

Note: We'll mail letters 2) and 3) to you about a month before your program begins. Don't discard these letters, because you will be required to show them to Immigration **EACH TIME** you re-enter the UK (this includes returning to school from a trip to another country).

- 4) Proof of funding for your stay in the UK. Please note that your Student Visitor Letter from ASA confirms that you have met all your financial obligations with regard to tuition (course fees) and accommodations for the full term of your studies. *However*, per the terms of the Student Visitor Visa, you must *also* provide proof that you have funds to support yourself during your course. **You must provide proof that you possess a minimum of US\$200 per week of your stay in the UK**. This requirement can be fulfilled by showing traveler's checks OR bank statements from you or your parents. The purpose is to show you have enough money to live on for your stay.
- 5) Round Trip Plane Ticket. It **MUST** show the date you are leaving the UK at the end of your studies.

Further questions about UK Visas and Entry Clearance must be directed to www.britainusa.com or www.ukvisas.gov.uk. If you want to apply for Entry Clearance, you can contact ASA for instructions.