ACADEMIC STUDIES ABROAD
Short Term Study Visa* - UK

***As of April 2015, formerly called the Student Visitor Visa.**

This information applies to U.S. passport holders aged 18+ who plan to study in the UK for 6 months or less (e.g. a semester or summer program).

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

1) Your **Short Term Study Visa** will be issued to as a stamp in your passport when you pass through Immigration at the airport upon arrival in the UK, as long as you bring the proper documentation with you. The Short Term Study Visa allows you to study in the UK for a maximum of 6 months. It cannot be extended. To see what kind of documentation is required to be issued the Short Term Study 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.
3) You may not participate in an internship during your stay in the UK.
4) You may not participate in volunteering during your stay in the UK, even if it's unpaid.
5) **The UK does not grant extensions to the Short Term Study 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 a Tier 4 visa from UK Visas and Immigration before you depart. (See link on page 2.)
6) **When you arrive in the UK, you must show the airport Immigration Officer proof of a round trip plane ticket.** This purpose is to show your intention to leave the UK. Your round trip plane ticket must also show that you'll be in the UK for less than 6 months.
7) RE: TRAVELING BEFORE OR AFTER YOUR PROGRAM.
    a. If you are traveling in Europe *before* the start of your program 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.
    b. If you are traveling in Europe *after* your semester abroad, you should ask to be re-admitted into the UK as a "visitor" in case you come back to the UK before finally returning home. 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.)
8) 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 Short Term Study 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 an opportunity to get a Short Term Study 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 Short Term Study Visa would be to leave the Common Travel Area (i.e. go to France, Spain, etc.) and then return via one of the UK borders in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.**

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON GOING THROUGH PASSPORT CONTROL

SEEING AN OFFICER VS. E-GATES

When you arrive at immigration you will see the option to go through eGates (electronic-only kiosks) or see an immigration officer (an actual person).

DO NOT go through these eGates! You will NOT receive the correct stamp!

If an immigration officer is still trying to funnel you through the eGates, kindly show them the below waiver either on your phone or a printed version. Your ASA program manager will have sent this to you in a message explaining what to do with this waiver as well as when to show it to a member of staff.

Border Force

Please present on arrival into port to a member of staff

Request for a passport stamp

I am coming to the UK as one of the following and need to see an officer to obtain a passport stamp:

- A short-term student (for up to six months)
- The holder of a Tier 5 Creative and Sporting Certificate of Sponsorship (up to 3 months).
- To undertake a Permitted Paid Engagement.

If you enter through the eGates you will *NOT* receive the correct stamp which will jeopardize your full stay in the United Kingdom. You may have to be very assertive during this transaction but it is VERY important you *DO NOT* go through the eGates.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION…

In order to be granted a Short Term Study Visa, YOU MUST PRESENT THE FOLLOWING DOCUEMNTS TO AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT THE AIRPORT WHEN YOU ARRIVE IN THE UK.

1) Valid U.S. passport that does not expire for at least 6 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) Offer Letter/Certificate of Unconditional Acceptance *from your UK host institution* (will be emailed to you either with your ASA Pre-Departure Handbook, or with your final pre-departure email a few days before departure)

3) Visa Letter *from ASA* addressed "TO: UK Visas and Immigration." (will be emailed to you either with your ASA Pre-Departure Handbook, or with your final pre-departure email a few days before departure)

4) Proof of funding for your stay in the UK. Please note that your Short Term Study Visa Letter from ASA confirms that you have met all your financial obligations with regard to tuition (course fees) and accommodation (housing) for the full term of your studies. *However,* per the terms of the Short Term Study Visa, you must *also* provide proof that you have funds (spending money) to support yourself during your course. **You must bring 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 entire stay in the UK.

5) Round Trip Plane Ticket. Must show the date you will leave the UK at the end of your program.

Don't discard the above documents! You will need to present them to Immigration EACH TIME you re-enter the UK (this includes returning to school from a trip to another country).

At your arrival airport, DO NOT use the "E-Gates" or electronic-only kiosks at Immigration – you MUST see an Immigration Officer (a live person) who will physically stamp your passport.

When speaking with the Immigration Officer, make it clear your purpose of stay is to STUDY and ensure they see your Offer Letter/Certificate of Unconditional Acceptance from your UK university.

BEFORE LEAVING THE IMMIGRATION CHECKPOINT, CHECK YOUR PASSPORT AND ENSURE THAT THE STAMP SAYS "SHORT-TERM STUDENT"! If it does not, speak up. The wrong stamp may negatively impact your stay in the UK, as well as future stays in the UK and future UK visa applications.

Further questions about UK Visas must be directed to
https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas