Visa information

Student mobility in the United Kingdom

If you are a student in France and you have been accepted in one of the following programmes in a UK higher education institution, then you may need to apply for a Student Visa.

Relevant programmes:

1. A bachelor’s degree or a master’s degree;
2. a dual-degree or an exchange programme;
3. a PhD as a full-time non-working student.

This is the overview from the UK Government pages:

If your mobility lasts:

- > 6 months
  - you need to apply for a Student visa

- ≤ 6 months
  - you can stay in the UK as a student for up to 6 months without a visa

Before registering you must have the following supporting documents in your possession:
1. A Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from your UK course provider;
2. A valid passport;
3. Evidence of your English proficiency (for ex. the UKVI IELTS Academic test).

Application costs
- £348 to apply for a Student visa (reduced by £55 if you are a French student);
- £470 immigration health surcharge (IHS) for each 12 months of your visa. Applicants with a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) will be entitled to a full refund.

Where and when to apply
- The earliest you can apply is 6 months before you start your course.
- Submit your visa application on the GOV.UK student visa page. EU nationals will usually apply using the UKVI ID check app and will not be required to attend a Visa Application Centre to give biometrics.
- You will receive a decision within 3 weeks.

When can you arrive in the UK?
You can arrive in the UK 1 month before your course starts.

This is called the Visit route.

What you need at the UK border:
A valid passport

To be able to enter the UK:
- you must be studying at an accredited higher education institution (HEI);
- the HEI must provide you with an offer letter confirming the course to be studied or the course being studied overseas;
- you must be able to demonstrate that you are able to support yourself financially;
- you must be able to accommodate yourself throughout your studies;
- you must leave the UK at the end of the 6-month period.

What you cannot do as a visitor
If you enter on the Visit route you are not able to be employed, this includes unpaid work and work experience.
The only exception is if you are undertaking a clinical placement in medicine, veterinary medicine or dentistry.

When can you arrive in the UK?
You can arrive in the UK up to 1 week before your course starts.

The British Council is not a visa advisory service. Please refer to official UK governmental websites for guidance.

This document has last been updated 27 July 2021.