



Home Office

Guidance for institutions with non-visa national students

0.1

Guidance on what accredited institutions need to do for non-visa nationals who wish to study with them.

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About this guidance

This guidance tells accredited institutions how to ensure a non-visa national planning to study in the UK obtains the correct leave

Publication

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was published:

- version **1.0**
- published on **30 May 2019**

Changes from last version of this guidance

Not applicable

Related content

[Contents](#)

Related external links

Non-Visa Nationals

This page tells accredited institutions the ways non-visa nationals (NVNs) can travel to the UK for Short-term Study (STS). The [short-term student routes](#) are for people who want to come to the UK to study for a short period of time on a course that does not include a work placement or work experience, with the exception of electives which meet paragraph A57D(a)(iii) of the Immigration Rules.

Who is a non-visa national?

A non-visa national (NVN) is any non-EEA national whose nationality does not appear on the list of visa nationals found in [Appendix 2 of Appendix V of the Immigration Rules](#).

Short-term Study (STS)

A NVN does not need to apply for entry clearance to be able to study in the UK for 6 months or less under the STS route. However, a NVN can choose to apply for a STS entry clearance for this type of study in advance of travel if they so wish.

Electronic Gates (e-gates)

Nationals of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and the United States of America are eligible to use e-gates when travelling to the UK as a visitor (standard) within the Immigration Rules or with entry clearance. These nationals **must not** use an e-gate if they wish to study in the UK as a short-term student for less than 6 months, unless they have obtained prior entry clearance.

Institutions should advise students of these nationalities that they need to see a Border Force officer to obtain an STS stamp on entry to the UK. This is in line with all of the advice on gov.uk and in ports of entry.

Travel through the Common Travel Area (CTA)

Where a NVN student will be travelling to the UK through Ireland, they will not pass through UK immigration control.

If the student has been landed in Ireland (as they are visiting Ireland before journeying onto the UK) and then come into the UK, they have 3 months deemed leave from their date of entry in the UK, during which time they can study. To be aware, the immigration act also provides exemptions to this, meaning if an individual is subject to one of these exemptions they require leave to enter and would require to seek entry from a BF officer. These exemptions include:

- (i) Persons subject to a deportation order
- (ii) Persons whose exclusion has been deemed conducive to the public good on grounds of national security
- (iii) People without leave who have previously been refused leave to enter the UK

Where the course the student plans to study is in excess of 3 months they would need to apply for STS entry clearance in advance of travel or re-enter the UK via a different route and request a short-term study stamp.

Where a NVN has obtained STS entry clearance in advance of travel, the STS vignette in the passport does not need to be stamped by a Border Force officer to be valid. The institution should take a copy of the vignette, and evidence that the student entered the UK during the validity period of the vignette (e.g. flight details) to confirm they have STS leave.

If their course exceeds 3 months, and they have not chosen to apply for entry clearance in advance of travel, they will need to leave the CTA before the 3-month period is finished and obtain an STS stamp from a BF official upon re-entry to continue their studies.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Related external links

[Common Travel Area Guidance](#)

[The Immigration \(Control of Entry Through Republic of Ireland\) Order 1972](#)

[Short-term Study Guidance](#)

What to do if a student presents with visit leave?

This page tells accredited institutions how they should advise non-visa nationals (NVNs) who arrive at their institution to complete a short course but present with visit leave.

How can a non-visa national receive visit leave?

Nationals of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and the United States of America are eligible to use e-gates when travelling to the UK as a visitor or with entry clearance. Therefore, if a national of one of these countries arrives at your institution with no entry stamp or vignette in their passport, then they hold visit leave in the UK.

All other non-visa nationals will have a stamp from a Border Force official granting visit leave in the UK.

Does visit leave entitle someone to study?

The rules limit visitors to a maximum period of 30 days' study. The permitted 30 days can either be in one period or multiple periods totalling no more than 30 days, for example, study on 30 separate days.

How can a student study for over 30 days after presenting with visit leave?

If a NVN presents at your institution with a visit stamp from a Border Force officer, or no stamp as they have entered through an e-gate, you can enrol that student and allow them to begin their studies. However, you **must** advise the student that they will need to leave the UK before they have completed 30 days of study and request an STS stamp from a Border Force officer on their return to the UK.

You will be required to obtain a copy of the STS stamp they receive on entry on file to allow them to continue their studies.

Can a student make an in-country application to amend their leave to STS?

There is no application route to convert visit leave into short-term study leave. A student may submit an application for [Leave Outside the Immigration Rules](#), but this is not the recommended option.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Related external links

[Visit Leave Guidance](#)

[Leave Outside the Rules Guidance](#)