

SHORT-TERM STUDY VISA APPLICATION

WHO IS A SHORT-TERM STUDENT

The category allows you to come to the UK if you are 18 years or older, and want to enter:

- for up to 6 months to study a short course; or
- for up to 11 months to study an English language course; or
- if you are enrolled on a course abroad that is at least equivalent to the level of a UK bachelor's degree, you can enter for up to 6 months to do research, or to receive tuition on how to conduct research, at a UK institution

You can also use this visa in the following circumstances:

- you are a PhD student who is based off-campus outside the UK but who needs to come to Aberdeen to meet with your supervisor
- you are a PhD student who needs to come back to the UK for your viva exam
- you are an undergraduate or postgraduate student who needs to come back to the UK for resit exams

In the above circumstances the maximum period allowed as a Short-term Student is **6 months**. If you need to return to Aberdeen each year, for example because you are a PhD student based off-campus, you should avoid making frequent visits which are close together (for example, you should not come back to Aberdeen immediately after having spent a prolonged period here). UK Visas or Border Force staff will consider the purpose of your visit, the number of visits made over a 12-month period (including the length of stay on each occasion) and the time between visits (for example, if a student returns straight to the UK having already just spent 6 months here). As a general guide a stay of 6 months in any 12-month period is acceptable.

Further information can be found at: www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be made online (unless you are in Cuba or North Korea).

Go to: www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa/apply

Under **Select Visa Type** choose the options **Study** then **Study (non Points-Based System)**, then the specific category which would normally be **Study – Short-term student 6 months**

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

Current passport or travel document
Passport size colour photograph (as specified in the guidance)
TB Test Certificate (**only** if coming from listed countries for 11 months for English Language)
Financial evidence (bank statements or payslips for the last 6 months)
Proof of accommodation
Letter from the University

Further information can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/343241/2014_08_Visitor_Documents.pdf

LETTER FROM THE UNIVERSITY

This will need to confirm the purpose of your visit (resits, viva exam, off-campus study visit) and will be issued by the relevant office:

Exam resit:	Online store
Viva Exam:	Your department
PhD Study Visit:	Your department
English Language:	Language Centre
Short Course:	Study Abroad Office

General letters can be ordered from the online store – www.store.abdn.ac.uk
Go to **Product Catalogue** then **Students** then **Letter Requests**. You will find a choice of letters so you need to select the one which is most appropriate for the visa application.

DO I REALLY NEED TO APPLY FOR A VISA?

Certain nationalities - see www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa - can enter the UK without obtaining a visa before travelling and request to be admitted as a Short-term Student provided that they present the necessary evidence on arrival. This just means that if students do not obtain a visa first, they must make sure they are carrying the correct documents with them in their hand luggage, otherwise they will be refused entry. The advantage of applying for a visa prior to travelling to the UK is knowing in advance that permission to enter has been granted, although it is still advisable to carry the relevant documents. This is because an Immigration Officer at the port of entry can still request these. If you are coming to the UK for study purposes, it is important to be granted entry as a Short-term Student and not just as a Standard Visitor (tourist).

CONDITIONS OF SHORT-TERM STUDY VISA

- Short-term Study visas are issued for a maximum stay of **6 months** (except for 11 month English Language programmes)
- You cannot take either paid or unpaid work
- You cannot apply to extend your stay from within the UK
- You cannot switch into another immigration category from within the UK

If you wish to return to full-time study, you must ask the University whether in your particular circumstances it will be possible to assign a CAS for a Tier 4 visa application.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

The Immigration Health Surcharge was introduced in April 2015. This does **not** apply to those coming for short-term study of less than 6 months; however, this does now mean that you may have to pay for some health services (particularly if you intend to travel to other parts of the UK). It is, therefore, advisable to get medical insurance before travelling to the UK.