**TRAVEL VIA THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (COMMON TRAVEL AREA)**

The UK, the Republic of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands form what is known as the Common Travel Area.  You will not pass through Immigration Control when you land in the UK because there are no border controls when travelling between the countries of the Common Travel Area. This is what causes confusion because you pass through the domestic flight or ferry channel.

The situation is the same for all airports in the Republic of Ireland (Southern Ireland) such as Dublin and Shannon.  It would be different if you were arriving in Belfast because this is part of the UK.

**Tier 4 Visa Holders**

You will be issued with a short-term entry clearance vignette in your passport that gives you 30 days in which to travel to the UK and then go to a Post Office in Aberdeen to collect a ‘Biometric Residence Permit’ (BRP) which shows your permission to be in the UK.

When entering via the Common Travel Area your passport will be stamped (endorsed) but **not the vignette**. It is, therefore, **very important** that you keep your travel ticket, boarding pass for flight to Scotland or other proof of your date of entry to the UK. You **must** have these to register at the University and also to take to the Post Office to collect your BRP as instructed in the decision letter sent to you by UK Visas.

Further information on BRPs can be found on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/492617/OA_BRP_Leaflet__OLF_.pdf>

**Short-term Study Visa Holders**

If you obtain an entry clearance vignette for Short-term study in advance of travelling, this will neither be stamped (endorsed) when you enter the Republic of Ireland nor on entry to Scotland. Your passport will be stamped with an Irish immigration stamp.

You **must** keep proof (for example; your travel ticket, boarding pass for flight to Scotland or other proof of your date of entry to the UK) that you travelled from the Republic of Ireland and the date you arrived in Scotland.

You will be allowed to register at the University on producing the entry clearance vignette in your passport and proof that you arrived through the Republic of Ireland (as mentioned above).

**Non-Visa Nationals**

For non-visa nationals (see <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>) who travel to the UK without an entry clearance vignette with the intention of requesting admittance as a Short-term student on entry, you will not be granted the correct length of permission to enter the UK.  Visitors entering the UK from the Republic of Ireland are granted entry to the Common Travel Area with an Irish immigration stamp for a three-month period from the date of entry into the Common Travel Area.  This is normally not long enough for your period of study and you will have to travel outside the UK (for example, Paris or Amsterdam) and back again in order to obtain the necessary permission to stay for the remainder of your course. You will need to carry documents with you as proof of your studies.

This option is **not recommended** but a Non-visa national who still chooses to enter the UK via the Republic of Ireland without first obtaining a visa **must** retain their travel ticket, boarding pass for flight to Scotland or other proof of the date of entry. You will be allowed to register at the University on producing these documents but you will also have to show that you intend to leave the UK before the end of the three months in order to obtain a stamp for the remaining period of your study.