UK VISA REQUIREMENTS

UK nationals may transit the UK without a visa (TVD) in certain circumstances. Please see below for details.

Airside Transit (where available):
Airside transit passengers who do not need to change airports and do not need to pass through the UK border. Passengers cannot transit AIRSIDE to the Republic of Ireland or anywhere within the Schengen area.

Transit without visa (TWOV)
ALL visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom AIRSIDE without a visa must:
(i) arrive and depart by air; and
(ii) have a confirmed onward flight departing the same day from the airport; and
(iii) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country required)

National of the countries shown in RED (underlined) above need a visa to transit AIRSIDE unless they hold one of the following:
(i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA (whether or not the holder is travelling to or from these countries);
(ii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM the country in respect of which the visa is held and it is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid visa entry;
(iii) a valid permanent residence permit issued by:
(a) Australia
(b) Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
(c) New Zealand
(d) US issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid US immigrant visa endorsed with a US arrival stamp (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Resident card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or an expired I-519 letter authorising extension; or a NIBS or BIVS and travelling on a valid US visa

Landside Transit:
Landside transit passengers are those who need or wish to pass through the UK border and enter the UK (e.g. to change airport, to collect baggage or arrive at airports where no airsside transit is possible)

Transit without visa (TWOV)
ALL visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom LANDSIDE without a visa must:
(iv) arrive and depart by air; and
(v) have a confirmed onward flight that departs before 23:59hrs the following day; and
(vi) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required)

National of all COUNTRIES (RED [underlined] and BLACK above) need a visa to transit LANDSIDE unless they hold one of the following:
(i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airline ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey TO that country; or a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airline ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey FROM that country; or a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey to the country in respect of which the visa is held and it is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid visa entry; or
(ii) a valid permanent residence permit issued by:
(a) Australia
(b) Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
(c) New Zealand
(d) US issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid US immigrant visa endorsed with a US arrival stamp (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Resident card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or an expired I-519 letter authorising extension; or a NIBS or BIVS and travelling on a valid US visa

The decision to allow a passenger to transit without a visa (TWOV) under the scheme is decided by an immigration officer at the UK border. UK permanent residents
If a visa national is permanently resident in the UK they do not need a visa, as long as they return to the UK within two years of their last departure.

Passengers with the right of abode in the UK
If a visa national has a ‘certificate of entitlement to the right of abode’ label in their valid passport they do not need a visa.

Holders of non-national and refugee travel documents
If the passenger holds a refugee travel document issued by the UK they do not need a visa. If the passenger holds any other non-national or refugee travel document they need a visa to enter the UK. Whether holders of refugee travel documents require a direct airsride transit visa (DATV) depends on whether they qualify for one of the exemptions listed above. Persons recognised as stateless under the 1954 UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons are not required to hold a DATV and may transit airsride without a visa.

Seamen
A seaman travelling on duty, who is a visa national (including those in transit through the UK) does not need a visa if he holds a valid seaman’s book issued by one of these countries which also contains a statement that it is issued under ILO (or convention of 1958) or ILOs, previously revised ILO108 (or convention of 1958), Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bermuda, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova Republic of, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom (including the Falkland Islands and Gibraltar), Uruguay. The seaman does not need to be a national of the country that issued the document

Produced by CARRIERS LIAISON SECTION, HOME OFFICE
This poster was last updated in September 2023