

This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.



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Business visitors

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Business visitors

About this guidance

<p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>Immigration Rules paragraphs 46G-46L</p> <p>This guidance tells you how to decide applications for business visitors as described in paragraphs 46G-46L of the Immigration Rules.</p> <p>For more information on the Immigration Rules, see the related link.</p> <p>The business visitor category is for people who work abroad but intend to visit the UK for a short time to do business on their own or their employer's behalf. Business visitors includes those coming for short visits as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• academic visitors• visiting professors• teachers accompanying students• film crews• representatives of overseas news media• secondees• religious workers• advisers, consultants, internal auditors, trainers or trouble shooters• those doing one-off training• overseas scientists or researchers advising on international research projects being led in the UK• overseas employees of international law firms with offices in the UK, and• those doing one or more activities specified in the business visitor rules. <p>The Immigration Rules also include Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test and doctors or dentists on clinical attachment in the definition of 'business visitors'. For guidance on these routes, see related links.</p> <p>Indefinite leave to remain and dependants of visitors</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Changes to this guidance</p> <p>Contact</p> <p>Information owner</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L</p>
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	<p>There are no provisions within the Immigration Rules to grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• indefinite leave to remain (settlement) in any of the visitor categories• entry to the UK as the dependant of a visitor. A dependant or family member will need to qualify in their own right in one of the visitor categories. <p>Changes to this guidance – This page tells you what has changed since previous versions of this guidance.</p> <p>Contact – This page tells you who to contact for help if your senior caseworker or line manager can't answer your question.</p> <p>Information owner – This page tell you about this version of the guidance and who owns it.</p> <p>Safeguard and promote child welfare – This page explains your duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and tells you where to find more information.</p>	
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Key facts: Business visitors

This page lists the key facts extracted from the guidance on business visitors as described in paragraphs 46G–46L of the Immigration Rules.

Category: Business visitors	
Eligibility requirements	<p>The applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be genuinely seeking entry as a business visitor for a period not exceeding six months (or 12 months for an academic visitor)• leave the UK at the end of the period of the visit• maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants without using public funds• meet the cost of the return or onward journey <p>The applicant must be doing one or more of the following during their visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• general business activities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ attend meetings, conferences and interviews, provided they were arranged before arrival in the UK and, if the applicant is a board-level director attending board meetings in the UK, provided they are not employed by a UK company (although they may be paid a fee for attending the meeting)○ attend trade fairs for promotional work only, provided they are not directly selling○ arrange deals, or negotiating or signing trade agreements or contracts○ carry out fact-finding missions○ conduct site visits○ work as a driver on a genuine international route delivering goods or passengers from abroad○ work as a tour group courier, providing the applicant is contracted to a firm with headquarters outside the UK, is seeking entry to accompany a tour group, and will depart with that tour, or another tour organised by the same company○ speak at a one-off conference which is not organised as a commercial concern, and is not making a profit for the organiser• represent a foreign manufacturer by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ carrying out installing, debugging or enhancing work for computer software companies○ servicing or repairing the employer's products within the initial guarantee period, or○ being briefed on the requirements of a UK customer, provided this is limited to briefing and does not include

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	<p>work involving use of the applicant's expertise to make a detailed assessment of a potential customer's requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• represent a foreign machine manufacturer, as part of the contract of purchase and supply, in erecting and installing machinery too heavy to be delivered in one piece• act as interpreters or translators for visiting business people, provided they are all employed by, and doing the business of, the same overseas company• erect, dismantle, install, service, repair or advise on the development of foreign-made machinery, provided they will only do so in the UK for up to six months• take part in a location shoot as a member of a film crew meaning they are a film actor, producer, director or technician paid or employed by an overseas firm other than one established in the UK and are coming to the UK for location sequences only for an overseas film• represent overseas news media including as a journalist, correspondent, producer or cameraman• act as an academic visitor• act as a visiting professor• be a secondee to a UK company which is directly contracted with the visitor's overseas company• undertake some preaching or pastoral work as a religious worker• act as an adviser, consultant, internal auditor, trainer or trouble shooter, to the UK branch of the same group of companies as the applicant's overseas company• undertake specific, one-off training on techniques and work practices used in the UK• share knowledge or experience relevant to, or advise on, an international project that is being led from the UK as an overseas scientist or researcher, advise a UK client on litigation and/or international transactions as an employee of an international law firm which has offices in the UK. <p>The applicant must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits• take employment• be paid from a UK source• produce goods or provide services within the UK• undertake a course of study except as provided in paragraph 46HA• be a child under the age of 18• intend to marry or form a civil partnership• intend to give notice of a marriage or civil partnership• intend to receive private medical treatment
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be in transit to a country outside the common travel area • have recourse to public funds.
Application forms	Academic visitor – Online applications (VAF1E where online form not available) All other business visitors – Online applications (VAF1C where online form not available).
Cost of application:	UK Visas and Immigration fees
Entry clearance mandatory?	Only for visa nationals and for academic visitors seeking more than six months leave to enter.
Is biometric information required for applications made in the UK?	Yes.
Code of leave to remain granted	Code 3
Entry clearance endorsements	<p>Visa nationals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C: VISIT: BUSINESS: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3 • D: ACADEMIC VISITOR: 12 MONTHS: CODE 3 • C: VISIT: VISITING PROFESSOR: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3 • C: VISIT: RELIGIOUS WORKER: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3. <p>Non-visa nationals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D: VISIT: BUSINESS: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3 • D: ACADEMIC VISITOR: 12 MONTHS: CODE 3 • D: VISIT: VISITING PROFESSOR: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3 • D: VISIT: RELIGIOUS WORKER: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3
Conditions of leave to remain	No work or study allowed. No recourse to public funds.
How long is leave to remain normally granted for?	Academic visitors with entry clearance - 12 months All other business visitors - six months.
Are dependants allowed?	No – dependants must qualify as a visitor in their own right.
Work and study allowed?	No work, must not intend to study for more than 30 days.
Is switching into this category allowed?	No
Does this category lead to settlement (indefinite leave to remain)?	No
Is knowledge of language and life required?	No
CID case type	Visitor (Business) – LTE Visitor (Business) – LTR
Immigration Rules paragraphs	Paragraph 46G-46L

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Changes to this guidance

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page lists the changes to the 'Business visitor' guidance with the most recent at the top.</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th data-bbox="490 400 831 443">Date of the change</th><th data-bbox="831 400 1727 443">Details of the change</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td data-bbox="490 443 831 592">6 November 2014</td><td data-bbox="831 443 1727 592">Change request: Changes made throughout the guidance to reflect the rules change of 6 November 2014</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="490 592 831 970">22 October 2014</td><td data-bbox="831 592 1727 970">Change request:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conferences:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ New page.• Specified types of business visitor:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The second sentence has been amended.• Religious workers:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Third, fourth and fifth paragraphs are new.• Minor housekeeping changes.</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="490 970 831 1086">19 March 2014</td><td data-bbox="831 970 1727 1086">Six month review by the modernised guidance team:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor housekeeping changes.</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="490 1086 831 1198"></td><td data-bbox="831 1086 1727 1198">For previous changes you will need to access the archived guidance. See related link: Business visitor - Archive</td></tr></tbody></table>	Date of the change	Details of the change	6 November 2014	Change request: Changes made throughout the guidance to reflect the rules change of 6 November 2014	22 October 2014	Change request: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conferences:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ New page.• Specified types of business visitor:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The second sentence has been amended.• Religious workers:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Third, fourth and fifth paragraphs are new.• Minor housekeeping changes.	19 March 2014	Six month review by the modernised guidance team: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor housekeeping changes.		For previous changes you will need to access the archived guidance. See related link: Business visitor - Archive	<p>Related links</p> <p>See also</p> <p>Contact</p> <p>Information owner</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
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6 November 2014	Change request: Changes made throughout the guidance to reflect the rules change of 6 November 2014											
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Entry or extension requirements

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This section tells you what you must check to see if an applicant meets the entry or extension requirements in the business visitor category.</p> <p>All visa nationals and academic visitors applying to stay longer than six months will require entry clearance. For a list of visa nationals, see related link: Immigration Rules: Appendix 1.</p> <p>When considering an application you must check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the application is valid• the applicant's passport or travel document is genuine and valid• the applicant meets the substantive requirements of the category• there are no general grounds for refusal, and• the applicant has given their biometric information. <p>For more information, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specified application forms and procedures• Passports and travel documents• General grounds for refusal• Biometric information. <p>Requirements for entry under the Immigration Rules</p> <p>Under paragraph 46G of the Immigration Rules, a business visitor must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be genuinely seeking entry as a business visitor for period not exceeding six months (or 12 months for an academic visitor).• Leave the UK at the end of the period of the visit.• Maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants adequately:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ out of resources available to them without recourse to public funds or taking	<p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>Conferences</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules – Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L</p> <p>Immigration Rules: Appendix 1</p> <p>Immigration Rules - Introduction: paragraph 6</p>
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employment, or

- be maintained and/or accommodated by relatives or friends who can prove they are able and intend to do so, and are legally present in the UK, or will be at the time of their visit
- Meet the cost of the return or onward journey.

A business visitor must also do one or more of the following during their visit:

- general business activities:
 - attend meetings, conferences (see related link) and interviews, provided they were arranged before arrival in the UK and, if the applicant is a board-level director attending board meetings in the UK, provided they are not employed by a UK company (although they may be paid a fee for attending the meeting)
 - attend trade fairs for promotional work only, provided they are not directly selling
 - arrange deals, or negotiating or signing trade agreements or contracts
 - carry out fact-finding missions
 - conduct site visits
 - work as a driver on a genuine international route delivering goods or passengers from abroad
 - work as a tour group courier, providing the applicant is contracted to a firm with headquarters outside the UK, is seeking entry to accompany a tour group, and will depart with that tour, or another tour organised by the same company
 - speak at a one-off conference which is not organised as a commercial concern, and is not making a profit for the organiser
- represent a foreign manufacturer by:
 - carrying out installing, debugging or enhancing work for computer software companies
 - servicing or repairing the employer's products within the initial guarantee period, or
 - being briefed on the requirements of a UK customer, provided this is limited to briefing and does not include work involving use of the applicant's expertise to make a detailed assessment of a potential customer's requirements
- represent a foreign machine manufacturer, as part of the contract of purchase and supply, in erecting and installing machinery too heavy to be delivered in one piece

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- act as interpreters or translators for visiting business people, provided they are all employed by, and doing the business of, the same overseas company
- erect, dismantle, install, service, repair or advise on the development of foreign-made machinery, provided they will only do so in the UK for up to six months
- take part in a location shoot as a member of a film crew meaning they are a film actor, producer, director or technician paid or employed by an overseas firm other than one established in the UK and are coming to the UK for location sequences only for an overseas film
- represent overseas news media including as a journalist, correspondent, producer or cameraman (provided they are employed or paid by an overseas company and are gathering information for an overseas publication)
- act as an academic visitor
- act as a visiting professor
- be a secondee to a UK company which is directly contracted with the visitor's overseas company
- undertake some preaching or pastoral work as a religious worker
- act as an adviser, consultant, internal auditor, trainer or trouble shooter, to the UK branch of the same group of companies as the applicant's overseas company
- undertake specific, one-off training on techniques and work practices used in the UK
- share knowledge or experience relevant to, or advice on, an international project that is being led from the UK as an overseas scientist or researcher.
- advise a UK client on litigation and/or international transactions as an employee of an international law firm which has offices in the UK.

They must not:

- intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits
- take employment
- be paid from a UK source
- produce goods or provide services within the UK
- undertake a course of study, except as provided for in paragraph 46HA

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- be a child under the age of 18
- intend to marry or form a civil partnership
- intend to give notice of a marriage or civil partnership
- intend to receive private medical treatment
- be in transit to a country outside the common travel area
- have recourse to public funds.

For more information on the different types of business visitor you must see the link on the left: [Specific types of business visitor](#).

Requirements for an extension

The applicant must:

- continue to meet all of the requirements stated above (apart from seeking entry)
- have been last granted entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain as a business visitor.

The applicant must not:

- have already spent, or would not as a result of an extension of stay, spend more than six months in total in the UK as a business visitor, or 12 months if they are an academic visitor
- be in breach of immigration laws, except for any period of overstaying:
 - for 28 days or less which will be disregarded, or
 - if the application was submitted before 9 July 2012.

For more information, see related link: [Applications from overstayers \(non family routes\)](#).

Business visitor's pay

As well as the requirements stated above, a business visitor must not receive their pay from a UK source, unless they work for a multinational company which, for administrative reasons, handles payment of worldwide salaries from the UK.

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	<p>Whilst visitors cannot receive payment for work undertaken, an overseas business can bill UK clients for their time, providing they are contracted to provide services to a UK company and the majority of the contracted work will take place outside of the UK. The activities undertaken should form part of an ongoing contract between the two parties. The amount a client will be billed must not equate to the visitor's income or payment for activities directly undertaken.</p> <p>Reasonable expenses to cover the cost of travel and subsistence are allowed.</p>	
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Permissible study

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you how to consider if the applicant's proposed study is allowed under the study criteria for a business visitor.</p> <p>The key consideration is whether the study is incidental to the main purpose of the visit, such as attending meetings or undertaking internal audits.</p> <p>The Immigration Rules limit business visitors to a maximum period of 30 days study. This can either be in one period or in multiple periods totalling no more than 30 days, for example study on 30 separate days.</p> <p>Where the applicant is taking part in a recreational course (a course purely for leisure purposes), they can attend any type of institution. This does not include English language courses. Examples of recreational courses are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• activity courses, such as a day's horse riding, archery, a week's orienteering• arts and craft courses, such as a day's pottery, a week's painting, a month's woodworking• cultural courses, such as a day's theatre workshop, a week's music appreciation. <p>Courses that lead to formal qualifications are not normally considered recreational. Qualifications for this purpose do not include attendance certificates.</p> <p>Any other course, including all English language courses, must be provided by an institution which is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the holder of a sponsor licence for Tier 4 of the points-based system• the holder of valid accreditation from:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Accreditation UK○ the Accreditation Body for Language Services (ABLS)	<p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 41 and 46G-46L</p> <p>Accreditation UK</p> <p>BAC</p> <p>ASIC</p> <p>ABLS</p> <p>QAA</p> <p>Ofsted</p> <p>ISI</p> <p>Education Scotland</p> <p>Estyn (Wales)</p> <p>ETINI</p> <p>UK NARIC</p> <p>Bridge Schools Inspectorate</p>
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- the British Accreditation Council (BAC), or
- the Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC)
- the holder of a valid and satisfactory full institutional inspection, review or audit by one of the following bodies:
 - Bridge Schools Inspectorate
 - the Education and Training Inspectorate
 - Estyn
 - Education Scotland
 - the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)
 - Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)
 - the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)
 - the Schools Inspection Service (SIS)
 - the Education and Training Inspectorate Northern Ireland (ETINI), or
- an overseas Higher Education Institution:
 - offering only part of their programmes in the UK
 - holding its own national accreditation, and
 - offering programmes of an equivalent level to a UK degree.

[SIS](#)

Where a visitor holds a long term visa as a business visitor they can enter solely to take a course or period of study not exceeding 30 days. However, business visits must continue to be the primary reason for holding the business visit visa. If the person no longer intends to come to the UK for business visits, they must switch to the student visitor category.

Where a business visitor is pursuing a course of study overseas, or a distance learning course, and needs to come to the UK as part of this, they can do so on the same basis as outlined in the paragraph above.

Where a business visitor intends studying at either:

- at an institution which does not meet the above requirements, or
- for a period in excess of 30 days

you must refuse under:

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• paragraph 46I with reference to 46G(ii) and 41(v) for leave to enter applications, or• paragraph 46L with reference to 46J(i), 46G(ii) and 41(v) for leave to remain applications. | |
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Conferences

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you about the types of events that would be accepted as a conference for the purpose of the business visitor rules.</p> <p>Business visitors are permitted to attend conferences, which can include seminars, as long as these are arranged before their arrival.</p> <p>Whilst the majority of conferences will be formal speaker led events which usually last for a couple of days and focus on a specific topic or sector, they can also include familiarisation programmes, and seminars for overseas nationals coming to learn about UK practices. A familiarisation programme could be for overseas professionals coming to the UK to learn about UK practice in a specific area, for example, law, finance, or public administration. Where a business visitor is taking part in a familiarisation programme, they must be able to provide a programme of events for the conference, if requested.</p> <p>Whilst there is no restriction on the duration of a conference it would be reasonable to expect conferences to be no more than a couple of weeks in duration. Where the duration exceeds this you must check with the organisers to establish the programme of events and make sure this does not amount to a course of study.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Conferences</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L</p>
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Specific types of business visitor

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This section tells you about the requirements for specific types of business visitor.</p> <p>In addition to the general activities which a business visitor is allowed to do the following types of people can also enter the UK as business visitors to do specific activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• academic visitors• visiting professors• teachers accompanying students• film crews• representatives of overseas news media• secondees• religious workers• advisers, consultants, internal auditors, trainers or trouble shooters• those doing one-off training• overseas scientists or researchers advising or sharing knowledge as part of an international project being led in the UK• employees of international law firms with offices in the UK. <p>For more information, see links in this section.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Academic visitors</p> <p>Visiting professors and teachers accompanying students</p> <p>Secondees</p> <p>Religious workers</p> <p>Advisers, consultants, trainers and trouble shooters</p> <p>One-off training in techniques and work practices used in the UK</p> <p>Overseas Scientists and Researchers</p> <p>Employees of International Law Firms</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
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Academic visitors

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you about the requirements for academic visitors who are applying in the business visitor category.</p> <p>Academic visitors can stay in the UK for up to 12 months. To qualify as an academic visitor, the applicant must meet all the requirements of the business visitor category and must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be an academic who is either:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ on sabbatical leave from an overseas academic institution to carry out research (for example for a book)○ taking part in formal exchange arrangements with UK counterparts (including doctors)○ coming to share knowledge or experience, or to hold informal discussions with their UK counterparts, or○ taking part in a single conference or seminar that is not a commercial or profit-making venture• be an eminent senior doctor or dentist taking part in research, teaching or clinical practice. <p>An academic visitor must also be able to produce evidence they have been working as an academic in an institution of higher education overseas, or in the field of their academic expertise immediately before seeking entry clearance.</p> <p>For more information on the entry or extension requirements for business visitors, see related link.</p> <p>Applicants are unlikely to qualify as academic visitors if they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recent graduates, including those with UK degrees (their level of relevant expertise as an academic is likely to be insufficient).	<p>In this section</p> <p>Visiting professors and teachers accompanying students</p> <p>Film crews and representatives of overseas news media</p> <p>Secondees</p> <p>Religious workers</p> <p>Advisers, consultants, trainers and trouble shooters</p> <p>One-off training in techniques and work practices used in the UK</p> <p>Overseas scientists and researchers</p> <p>Employees of international law firms</p> <p>Related links</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People on sabbatical leave from private research companies.• Post-graduate researchers who are undertaking studies leading to an accredited UK academic qualification.• Named researchers undertaking grant funded research. They must apply under Tier 2 of the points-based system. See related link: Tier 2.• Lecturers undertaking a series of fee-paid lectures. They must seek entry under Tier 2 of the points-based system.• Sponsored researchers. They must enter the UK under Tier 5 (government authorised exchange) of the points-based system. See related link: Tier 5 (Temporary worker).	<p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L</p>
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Visiting professors and teachers accompanying students

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you about the requirements for visiting professors and teachers applying in the business visitor category.</p> <p>To qualify as a visiting professor or teacher accompanying students to the UK from an overseas academic institution on a study abroad programme, the applicant must meet all the requirements of the business visitor category rules, and must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• only undertake a small amount of teaching (this must be for the institution hosting the students they are supervising)• be employed and paid by the overseas academic institution, and• not intend to base themselves in the UK or to seek employment in the UK. <p>For more information on the entry or extension requirements for business visitors, see related link.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Academic visitors</p> <p>Film crews and representatives of overseas news media</p> <p>Secondees</p> <p>Religious workers</p> <p>Advisers, consultants, trainers and trouble shooters</p> <p>One-off training in techniques and work practices used in the UK</p> <p>Overseas scientists and researchers</p> <p>Employees of international law firms</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Entry or extension</p>
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Business visitors

Film crews and representatives of overseas news media

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you about the requirements for film crews and representatives of overseas news media.</p> <p>Film crews</p> <p>To qualify as a member of a film crew, the applicant must meet all the requirements of the business visitor category and must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be a film actor, producer, director or technician employed or paid by an overseas firm, other than one established in the UK, and• be coming for location sequences only for an overseas film. <p>Representatives of overseas news media</p> <p>To qualify as a representative of overseas news media, the applicant must meet all the requirements of the business visitor category and must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• representing an overseas news media organisation, including as a journalist, correspondent, producer or cameraman• employed or paid by an overseas company, and• gathering information for an overseas publication. <p>For more information on the entry or extension requirements for business visitors, see related link.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Academic visitors</p> <p>Visiting professors and teachers accompanying students</p> <p>Secondees</p> <p>Religious workers</p> <p>Advisers, consultants, trainers and trouble shooters</p> <p>One-off training in techniques and work practices used in the UK</p> <p>Overseas scientists and researchers</p> <p>Employees of international law firms</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p>
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This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.

		External links Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L
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Business visitors

Secondees

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you about the requirements for people seconded to a UK company who are applying in the business visitor category.</p> <p>To qualify as a secondee, the applicant must meet all the requirements of the business visitor category and must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be seconded from an overseas company to a UK company as a business visitor. The two companies must not be part of the same group of companies. If they are part of the same group, the person must apply under Tier 2 (Intra-company transfer) of the points-based system (PBS).• Be seconded temporarily as an extra member of staff to assist the UK company to deliver the contract, for example to clarify the company's specifications.• Remain employed and paid by the overseas company throughout their visit. <p>The UK company the applicant is seconded to must be providing goods or services to an overseas company on a direct contractual basis, not the other way around.</p> <p>For more information on the entry or extension requirements for business visitors, see related link.</p> <p>For more information on Tier 2 (Intra-company transfer), see related link: Tier 2.</p> <p>Applicants coming to work in the UK in any other circumstances must apply under the relevant tier of the PBS.</p> <p>Multiple entry Applicants who qualify as secondees must be granted leave to enter for a maximum of six months at any one time. There may be a need for a secondment to continue longer than six months and some secondees are likely to return to the UK for further periods. If you are</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Academic visitors</p> <p>Visiting professors and teachers accompanying students</p> <p>Film crews and representatives of overseas news media</p> <p>Religious workers</p> <p>Advisers, consultants, trainers and trouble shooters</p> <p>One-off training in techniques and work practices used in the UK</p> <p>Overseas scientists and researchers</p> <p>Employees of international law firms</p> <p>Related links</p>
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	<p>satisfied they still meet the requirements for which leave to enter was originally granted, you must allow multiple entry.</p> <p>Successive visits Due to the nature of the secondee arrangements an applicant may need to spend successive periods in the UK. If this is the case you must confirm this genuinely relates to the secondment and they intend to return home when they have completed the secondment. To do this you will need to check the employer's letter and/or contract the applicant sent with their application. Providing you are satisfied the successive periods relate to the secondment, you must not refuse the application on the basis the applicant has spent successive periods in the UK.</p>	<p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L</p>
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Business visitors

Religious workers

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you about the requirements for religious workers who are applying in the business visitor category.</p> <p>To qualify as a religious worker, the applicant must meet all the requirements of the business visitor category and must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• intend to do some preaching or pastoral work, and• not intend to take up an office, post or appointment in the UK. <p>Under these rules a business visitor is able to give sermons to a congregation and may undertake whole services providing that they are not filling a position.</p> <p>They can carry out pastoral duties, for example providing spiritual counselling to individuals. They can also perform ceremonies at individual events, such as weddings and funerals, providing there is a clear reason for this, such as a connection to the individuals concerned. Whilst they can perform individual services they must not be filling a normal role, even on a temporary basis.</p> <p>Religious workers entering under the business visitor route cannot undertake engagements which are of a commercial nature. For example, where attendees are required to pay to attend or where they will personally benefit from donations and the sale of merchandising.</p> <p>For more information on the entry or extension requirements for business visitors, see related link.</p> <p>Religious workers who intend to fill a vacancy as a religious worker must apply and qualify under Tier 2 (Ministers of religion) of the points-based system (PBS). For more information, see related link: Tier 2.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Academic visitors</p> <p>Visiting professors and teachers accompanying students</p> <p>Film crews and representatives of overseas news media</p> <p>Secondees</p> <p>Advisers, consultants, trainers and trouble shooters</p> <p>One-off training in techniques and work practices used in the UK</p> <p>Overseas scientists and researchers</p> <p>Employees of international law firms</p> <p>Related links</p>
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	<p>Religious workers intending to work temporarily as a religious worker must apply and qualify under Tier 5 (Religious workers) of PBS. For more information, see related link: Tier 5 (Temporary worker).</p>	<p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L</p>
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This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.

Business visitors

Advisers, consultants, internal auditors, trainers and trouble shooters

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you about the requirements for advisers, consultants, internal auditors, trainers and trouble shooters who are applying in the business visitor category.</p> <p>To qualify as an adviser, consultant, internal auditor, trainer or trouble shooter, the applicant must meet all the requirements of the business visitor category and must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be employed by an overseas company and be here to support a UK branch of their employer, and• remain employed and paid by the overseas company throughout the visit (which must be a one-off and short-term visit). <p>They must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work for or on behalf of the UK branch (whether paid or unpaid). For example, this includes, but is not limited to, providing services for the UK branch to other companies.• Work in a supernumerary capacity. For example, doing an internship, project management, or providing short term temporary cover for the UK branch.• Have direct involvement in producing goods for the UK company's clients.• Be on transfer to fill a skilled post in a UK entity related to the overseas company. Such people should apply under Tier 2 (Intra-company transfer) of the points-based system. <p>Internal Auditors</p> <p>Internal auditors from global corporations based overseas can undertake short visits to the UK for internal financial and general regulatory audits. An audit includes health and safety, and manufacturing audits, as well as financial audits.</p> <p>Internal audits are only permitted at the UK branch or office of the visitor's overseas employer. Individuals carrying out external audits at a UK company that is not part of their employer's corporate group should consider using Tier 2 of the points-based system.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Academic visitors</p> <p>Visiting professors and teachers accompanying students</p> <p>Film crews and representatives of overseas news media</p> <p>Secondees</p> <p>Religious workers</p> <p>One-off training in techniques and work practices used in the UK</p> <p>Overseas scientists and researchers</p> <p>Employees of international law firms</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p>
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	<p>For more information on the entry or extension requirements for business visitors, see related link: Entry or extension requirements.</p> <p>For more information on Tier 2 (Intra-company transfer), see related link: Tier 2.</p>	<p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L</p>
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Business visitors

One-off training in techniques and work practices used in the UK

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you about the requirements for people applying in the business visitor category who are taking part in one-off training in techniques and work practices.</p> <p>To qualify as a person doing one-off training, the applicant must meet all the requirements of the business visitor category and the training must be either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provided in-house by a UK company in the same group of companies as the applicant's overseas employer• related to a product or service supplied by a UK company• in UK training facilities which have been contracted by an overseas company (both the trainees and trainers from the overseas company will be business visitors),• corporate training delivered by an outside provider to overseas and UK employees of the same group of companies, or• corporate training directly linked to the applicant's employment overseas, and delivered by a UK company:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ that is not part of the individual's employer's group of companies, and○ whose principal business is not to provide training. <p>Unless stated otherwise, a person must be an employee from an overseas company.</p> <p>The training must typically be classroom based and/or involve familiarisation or observation.</p> <p>Where the training is being delivered by a UK company which is not part of the individual's employer's group of companies, you must check to make sure this is not the UK company's principal business activity.</p> <p>An example of this would be an oil company providing specialist training on a specific aspect of its work or technology.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Academic visitors</p> <p>Visiting professors and teachers accompanying students</p> <p>Film crews and representatives of overseas news media</p> <p>Secondees</p> <p>Religious workers</p> <p>Advisers, consultants, trainers and trouble shooters</p> <p>Overseas scientists and researchers</p> <p>Employees of international law firms</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p>
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	<p>The training must have a direct link to the individual's employment overseas.</p> <p>Visitors for other training, for example, English language training, must qualify under the Tier 4 student rules or student visitor rules.</p> <p>For more information on the entry or extension requirements for business visitors, see related link.</p> <p>For more information on the student and student visitor rules, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tier 4• Student visitors.	<p>See also</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L</p>
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Business visitors

Overseas scientists and researchers

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This page tells you about the requirements for overseas scientists and researchers applying in the business visitor category.

To qualify as an overseas scientist or researcher, the applicant must meet all of the requirements of the business visitor category, and they must be:

- A scientist or researcher paid and employed outside of the UK
- Advising on an international project that is being led from the UK;
- Seeking entry to advise on, or share knowledge or experience relevant to the project.

They must not be carrying out research in the UK, therefore any active research or testing role must be undertaken outside of the UK or under one of the points-based system work routes.

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[Film crews and representatives of overseas news media](#)

[Secondees](#)

[Religious workers](#)

[Advisers, consultants, trainers and trouble shooters](#)

[One-off training in techniques and work practices used in the UK](#)

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Related links

[Entry or extension requirements](#)

External links

This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.

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Business visitors

Employees of international law firms

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you about the requirements for employees of international law firms applying in the business visitor category.</p> <p>To qualify under the provisions for employee of overseas law firms, the applicant must meet all of the requirements of the business visitor category, and they must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be employed by the law firm's offices outside of the UK• be coming to the UK in order to advise UK clients on litigation or international transactions. <p>This provision only applies to legal firms that have a presence both in the UK and overseas. Where the individual represents a firm or practice where they do not have offices either in the UK or abroad they will not qualify under these requirements.</p> <p>This provision is specifically for experts in international law or transactions and therefore should only be used by employees of law firms that are sufficiently qualified such as lawyers or barristers.</p> <p>The majority of these types of cases will be where there is a cross-jurisdictional concern, such as a commercial purchase or takeover involving sites in more than one country. Given this, it is likely that the overseas based employees will be coming to advise on the aspects relating to their geographical location or expertise. The overseas employee must continue to be employed by the law firm's overseas office throughout, however the overseas office can bill its UK counterparts for the individual's time.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Academic visitors</p> <p>Film crews and representatives of overseas news media</p> <p>Secondees</p> <p>Religious workers</p> <p>Advisers, consultants, trainers and trouble shooters</p> <p>One-off training in techniques and work practices used in the UK</p> <p>Overseas scientists and researchers</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>External links</p>
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This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.

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Business visitors

Granting or refusing

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This section tells you how to grant or refuse entry or extension in the business visitor category.</p> <p>For more information, see links in this section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant or refuse entry clearance• Grant or refuse entry at UK port• Grant or refuse extension.	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry clearance</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry at UK port</p> <p>Grant or refuse extension of stay in UK</p>
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Business visitors

Grant or refuse entry clearance

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you how to grant or refuse an application for entry clearance in the business visitor category.</p> <p>Grant entry clearance</p> <p>You must grant entry clearance if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant meets all the requirements of paragraph 46G of the Immigration Rules, and• none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 320 apply. <p>For more information, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entry or extension requirements• General grounds for refusal. <p>Length of leave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• up to six months, or• up to 12 months for academic visitors only. <p>The endorsement is one of the following:</p> <p>Visa nationals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• C: VISIT: BUSINESS: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3• D: ACADEMIC VISITOR: 12 MONTHS: CODE 3• C: VISIT: VISITING PROFESSOR: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3• C: VISIT: RELIGIOUS WORKER: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3.	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry at UK port</p> <p>Grant or refuse extension of stay in UK</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>See also</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L</p>
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This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.

	<p>Non-visa nationals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• D: VISIT: BUSINESS: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3• D: ACADEMIC VISITOR: 12 MONTHS: CODE 3• D: VISIT: VISITING PROFESSOR: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3• D: VISIT: RELIGIOUS WORKER: 6 MONTHS: CODE 3 <p>The endorsement must be valid for the date the applicant intends to travel to the UK.</p> <p>Police registration The applicant must register with the police if they are approved leave in the UK for more than six months, see related link: Police registration.</p> <p>Refusing entry clearance When the applicant has not provided the required evidence they meet all the requirements of paragraph 46G, or if any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 320 apply, you must refuse the application.</p>	
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Business visitors

Grant or refuse entry at UK port

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you how to grant or refuse an application for entry at a UK port in the business visitor category.</p> <p>Granting leave to enter</p> <p>Before you grant leave to enter, you must be satisfied the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• meets the requirements of paragraph 46G of the Immigration Rules, and• none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 to 321 of the Immigration Rules apply. <p>For more information, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entry or extension requirements• General grounds for refusal. <p>For visa nationals, you must also be satisfied that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant has a valid entry clearance• there are no reasons to believe the applicant gave false information to obtain the entry clearance nor that circumstances have changed since it was issued. <p>For more information on UK visa requirements, see related link: Immigration Rules: Appendix 1.</p> <p>Non visa nationals</p> <p>If you are satisfied the person meets all the requirements you must grant leave to enter for up to six months with employment prohibited using code 5N. Use code 3 if you have doubts about the person but not enough evidence to refuse leave to enter.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry clearance</p> <p>Grant or refuse extension of stay in UK</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>See also</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L</p> <p>Immigration Rules: Appendix 1</p>
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Visa nationals

If you are satisfied the person meets all the requirements, endorse the entry clearance with an open date stamp and record the appropriate statistical code on the landing card:

- BVA – academic visitors
- BVR - religious workers
- BV – for all other business visitors.

Academic visitors

If you are satisfied the person meets all the requirements, you must grant:

- up to six months if they do not have entry clearance, or
- up to 12 months if they have entry clearance.

Refusing leave to enter

You must refuse leave to enter as a business visitor if:

- the applicant has not provided the required evidence that they meet all the requirements of paragraph 46G of the Immigration Rules, or
- any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 to 321 apply.

This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.

Business visitors

Grant or refuse extension of stay in UK

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you how to grant or refuse an application for an extension in the business visitor category.</p> <p>Grant extension</p> <p>Before you grant an extension, you must be satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The applicant meets all the requirements of paragraph 46J of the Immigration Rules. They must:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ meet the requirements of paragraph 46G (ii)-(iii)○ have been last granted entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain as a business visitor○ not have already spent more than six months in total in the UK as a business visitor, or 12 months as an academic visitor (or would do so if granted an extension of stay)○ not be in breach of immigration laws, except for any period of overstaying for less than 28 days which will be disregarded, or for any period of overstaying if the application was submitted before 9 July 2012• None of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 322 to 324 applies. <p>If the applicant was granted less than the maximum six months on entry (12 months for academic visitors), you must make enquiries to find out why before you grant an extension.</p> <p>For more information on the above, see related links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entry or extension requirements• General grounds for refusal• Immigration Rules - paragraphs 46G-46L. <p>Refuse extension</p> <p>You must refuse an extension as a business visitor if:</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry clearance</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry at UK port</p> <p>Related links</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>See also</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Immigration Rules - Part 2: paragraphs 46G-46L</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant has not provided the required evidence that they meet all the requirements of paragraph 46J of the Immigration Rules, or• any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 322 to 324 apply.	
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Business visitors

Contact

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Permissible study</p> <p>Specific types of business visitor</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you who to contact for more help with a specific case in the business visitor category.</p> <p>If you have read paragraphs 46G-46L of the Immigration Rules as well as this guidance and still need more help, you must first ask your senior caseworker or line manager.</p> <p>If the question cannot be resolved at that level, you may email:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study and visit operational policy team (see related link) for guidance on the policy.• For Border Force officers: email BF OAS enquiries (see related link). <p>Changes to this guidance can only be made by the guidance, rules and forms team (GRaFT). If you think the policy content needs amending you must contact the study and visit operational policy team, who will ask the GRaFT to update the guidance, if appropriate.</p> <p>The GRaFT will accept direct feedback on broken links, missing information or the format, style and navigability of this guidance. You can send these using the related link: Email: Guidance, forms and rules team.</p>	<p>Related links</p> <p>Changes to this guidance</p> <p>Information owner</p> <p>External links</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
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Business visitors

Information owner

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This page tells you about this version of the 'Business visitors' guidance and who owns it.

Version	11.0
Valid from date	6 November 2014
Policy owner	Study and visit operational policy team
Cleared by director	Lynne Spiers
Director's role	Acting director, operational policy and rules
Clearance date	20 June 2013
This version approved for publication by	John Thompson
Approver's role	Head of migration policy
Approval date	4 November 2014

Changes to this guidance can only be made by the guidance, rules and forms team (GRaFT). If you think the policy content needs amending, you must contact the study and visit operational policy team, see related link, who will ask the GRaFT to update the guidance, if appropriate.

The MGT will accept direct feedback on broken links, missing information or the format, style and navigability of this guidance. You can send these using the related link: Email: Guidance, rules and forms team.

Related links

[Changes to this guidance](#)

[Contact](#)

External links

Links to staff intranet removed