



Home Office

Short-term students

Version 8.0

This guidance is based on paragraphs A57A to A57H of the Immigration Rules.

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Contents..... | 2 |
| About this guidance..... | 4 |
| Contacts | 4 |
| Publication | 4 |
| Changes from last version of this guidance | 4 |
| Short-term students..... | 5 |
| Eligibility requirements for short-term student routes | 6 |
| Short-term student (6 months) and short-term student (11 months)..... | 6 |
| Short-term student (child) | 7 |
| Cost of application | 9 |
| Short-term students: applications for entry clearance or leave to enter..... | 10 |
| Genuine short-term student..... | 11 |
| Frequent or successive study | 11 |
| Studying at a UK Institution by distance learning..... | 12 |
| Part-time study on a course exceeding 6 months (or 11 months for English study) in the UK..... | 12 |
| Students starting a course on or before 31 January 2018 | 12 |
| Definition of a UK higher education institution (HEI) | 13 |
| Short-term students and employment..... | 13 |
| ATAS and TB certification | 15 |
| ATAS | 15 |
| TB certification | 15 |
| Accredited institutions | 16 |
| Short-term student (6 months) | 17 |
| Short-term student (11 months) | 19 |
| Short-term student (child) route..... | 20 |
| Entry clearance officers | 20 |
| Border Force officers at ports of entry | 20 |
| Private foster care..... | 21 |
| Private foster care: legislation..... | 22 |
| England and Wales..... | 22 |
| Scotland..... | 22 |
| Northern Ireland..... | 22 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Unaccompanied and accompanied children | 23 |
| Unaccompanied visa nationals | 23 |
| Accompanied visa nationals..... | 23 |
| Border Force officers at the port of entry | 23 |
| Travel, reception and care of all students aged under 18 under | 25 |
| When to grant and refuse entry clearance and leave to enter..... | 26 |
| Granting entry clearance | 26 |
| Refusing entry clearance | 26 |
| Granting or refusing leave to enter at a UK port | 26 |
| Visa nationals..... | 26 |
| Non-visa nationals..... | 27 |
| Length of leave | 27 |
| Refusing leave to enter..... | 27 |
| Extensions of stay in the UK..... | 27 |

About this guidance

This guidance tells you about the short-term student (STS) routes and how to consider an application from a short-term student for entry clearance or leave to enter under [paragraphs A57A to A57H of the Immigration Rules](#).

Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior caseworker cannot help you, or you think that the guidance has factual errors, then please email the Student Migration Policy team.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance, then you can email the Guidance Rules and Forms team.

Publication

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

- version **8.0**
- published for Home Office staff on **06 July 2018**

Changes from last version of this guidance

The guidance has been significantly re-drafted as a result of a review. Changes to the content of this guidance include:

- the following sections have been updated to give greater clarity:
 - the table of requirements on page 8
 - genuine short-term student section, including frequent and successive study, studying at a UK institution by distance learning and part-time study on a course exceeding 6 months (or 11 months for English study) in the UK
 - Border Force officers at ports of entry
 - references to the Higher Education Funding Council for England have been replaced with the Office for Students
 - guidance around ATAS and TB Certificates and when they are needed have been added
 - clarity has been given around the maximum length a student can extend their stay in the UK further to their declared intentions in their visa application.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Short-term students

This page gives further information about short-term students.

The short-term student routes (previously student visitor 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.

There are 3 short-term student routes:

- short-term student (6 months) – for applicants aged 16 and over for a maximum of 6 months' study
- short-term student (11 months) – for applicants aged 16 and over for a maximum of 11 months' English language study only
- short-term student (child) – for applicants aged under 16 for a maximum of 6 months' study

People should use Tier 4 of the points-based system if they want to come to the UK to study:

- an English language course that lasts longer than 11 months
- any other course that lasts longer than 6 months (other than distance learning, which is addressed under “Studying at a UK Institution by distance learning”)
- a course that includes a work placement or work experience, with the exception of electives, as in paragraph A57D(a)(iii) of the Immigration Rules

For more information on Tier 4 of the points-based system, see [Tier 4 visas](#) and [Tier 4 policy guidance](#).

People who have been granted a visa or leave to enter the UK as a visitor (for example, for tourism or to visit family) can study for up to 30 days provided study is not the main purpose of the visit. For more information see [visitor visa guidance](#).

Related content

[Contents](#)

Eligibility requirements for short-term student routes

This page tells you what requirements an applicant under a short-term student route must meet to qualify for a grant of entry clearance or leave to remain in that category.

Short-term student (6 months) and short-term student (11 months)

To be eligible to apply under this route applicants must:

- be genuinely seeking entry to study as a short-term student
- be aged 16 or over
- have been accepted:
 - on a course of study by an accredited institution
 - by a UK higher education institution (HEI) to undertake research or learn about research (short-term student (6 months) only)
 - to undertake an elective course linked to their graduate level study, where they are studying medicine, veterinary medicine and science, or dentistry as their principal course of study at an overseas HEI
- intend to leave the UK within 30 days of the end of their course or at the end of the 6 month or 11 month period of leave granted, whichever is the earliest
- maintain and accommodate themselves out of funds available to them
- meet the cost of their onward or return journey
- hold a valid entry clearance as a short-term student (when they arrive in the UK) if they are a [visa national](#) seeking to come to the UK for any length of time, or if they are a non-visa national seeking to come to the UK for more than 6 months

and where applicable

- hold a valid Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) clearance certificate
- hold a valid tuberculosis (TB) certificate

If the student is aged 16 or 17, they must also:

- show that suitable arrangements have been made for their travel to, reception and care in the UK
- have a parent or guardian in their home country or country of habitual residence who is responsible for their care and who confirms that they consent to the arrangements for the applicant's travel, reception and care in the UK

Applicants must not:

- fall for refusal under the general grounds for refusal
- intend to study at an academy or state-funded school (for example, one which provides free education and is funded mainly from public funds)
- intend to study in the UK for extended periods through [frequent or successive](#) periods as a short-term student
- intend to take employment (other than as an elective which meets paragraph A57D(a)(iii) of the rules), including:
 - paid or unpaid work
 - a work placement
 - work experience in the UK
- intend to be:
 - self-employed
 - involved in business activities or any professional activity in the UK
- have recourse to public funds
- add additional study after their arrival in the UK that will last in excess of the 30 day period at the end of the original period of entry requested.

Short-term student (child)

To be eligible to apply under this route applicants must:

- be aged under 16
- have been accepted on a course of study by an accredited institution
- intend to leave the UK within 30 days of the end of the course or at the end of the 6 month period of leave granted, whichever is the earliest
- maintain and accommodate themselves out of funds available to them
- meet the cost of their onward or return journey
- show that suitable arrangements have been made for their travel to, reception and care in the UK
- have a parent or guardian in their home country or country of habitual residence who is responsible for their care and who confirms that they consent to the arrangements for the applicant's travel, reception and care in the UK

If the applicant is a visa national, when they arrive in the UK they must either:

- hold a valid entry clearance as an accompanied short-term student (child), and travel with an adult identified on the entry clearance, who is being admitted to the UK at the same time
- hold a valid entry clearance as an unaccompanied short-term student (child)

Applicants must not:

- fall for refusal under the general grounds for refusal
- intend to study at an academy or state-funded school
- intend to study in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive periods as a short-term student
- intend to take employment including:
 - paid or unpaid work

- work placements
- work experience in the UK
- intend to be:
 - self-employed
 - involved in business or any professional activities in the UK
- have recourse to public funds

This table gives further information about the requirements for short-term students and their conditions of stay:

| Requirement | Short-term student (6 months) | Short-term student (11 months) | Short-term student (child) |
|--|---|---|---|
| Entry clearance mandatory | Visa nationals only | All applicants | Visa nationals only |
| Entry clearance application form | AccessUK application form located on GOV.UK . | AccessUK application form located on GOV.UK | AccessUK application form located on GOV.UK |
| Entry clearance endorsements | Cat C: short term student | Cat D: short term student | Cat C: short term student – child accompanied or short term student child - unaccompanied |
| Biometric Residence Permit | Not required | Required | Not required |
| Leave to enter endorsements | 6 months: short-term student | Code 3: 11 months: short-term student | Code 3: 6 months: short-term student |
| Length of leave | Maximum 6 months | Maximum 11 months | Maximum 6 months |
| Conditions of leave to enter | No work No recourse to public funds ATAS certificate required (if applicable) | No work No recourse to public funds ATAS certificate required (if applicable) TB certificate (if applicable) | No work No recourse to public funds ATAS certificate required (if applicable) |
| Are dependants allowed? | Not permitted | Not permitted | Not permitted |
| Is switching into this category permitted? | No | No | No |
| Is the Immigration | No | Yes | No |

| Requirement | Short-term student (6 months) | Short-term student (11 months) | Short-term student (child) |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Health Surcharge payable? | | | |
| Can you apply for further leave to remain (in country) after this visa? | No | No | No |
| Does police registration apply? | No | Yes, for further information please see: police registration | No |
| Does this category lead to settlement (Indefinite Leave to Remain)? | No | No | No |
| Knowledge of language and life | Not required | Not required | Not required |

Cost of application

To find out the cost of an application under the short-term student route see [UK Visa fees](#).

Related content

[Accredited institutions](#)
[Contents](#)

Short-term students: applications for entry clearance or leave to enter

This page applies to all 3 categories of short-term students and tells you how to consider applications for entry clearance or leave to enter as a short-term student.

The following people require entry clearance to the UK:

- all visa nationals who wish to enter the UK as a short-term student
- non-visa nationals who wish to enter as a short-term student for more than 6 months

You must refuse leave to enter to applicants who require entry clearance and do not hold it. [Appendix 2 in Appendix V of the Immigration Rules](#) lists the countries whose nationals need a visa to enter the UK.

When you consider an application you must check:

- the application is valid, see:
 - [part 3 of the Immigration Rules: paragraphs A57A to A57H](#)
- the applicant's passport or travel document is genuine, see:
 - Biometric information – case working
 - Biometric information – introduction
 - Biometric information – enrolment
- the applicant meets all the requirements of the route of entry
- there are no general grounds for refusal

You must also consider whether the applicant is a [genuine short-term student](#).

The Immigration Rules do not allow short-term students to extend their stay. You must [refuse any application for leave to remain](#).

Related content:

[Contents](#)

Genuine short-term student

This page applies to all 3 categories of short-term students and tells you how to decide whether an applicant is a genuine short-term student.

To decide whether or not an applicant is a genuine short-term student, you must be satisfied that they:

- have given a true account of how long they intend to study in the UK
- genuinely intend to study here on a course or courses that will be completed during their stay
- genuinely intend to study at an accredited institution
- do not intend to study at an academy or state-funded school, for example:
 - one that provides free education and is mainly funded from public funds- however, a short-term student can study at a UK Higher Education Institution (university) if they pay fees
- do not intend to use frequent and successive periods of study as a means to live in the UK
- have enough money to support themselves
- intend to leave the UK within 30 days of the end of their short period of study, or before their visa expires, whichever is soonest

A student who is undertaking one of the following can apply as a short-term student, if the study does not exceed 6 months on any one occasion:

- a study-abroad programme in the UK as part of an overseas course
- re-sitting an examination or retaking a module, or
- a postgraduate student who is taking their oral (viva) examination

Frequent or successive study

A student is likely to be considered as intending to study in the UK for extended periods through:

- successive use of the route if, for example, the student is seeking a second period of 6 months leave under the short-term study route where less than 2 months have passed since they last visited the UK for the purposes of short-term study
- frequent use of the route if, for example, the student is applying for in excess of 5 periods of 6 months leave under short-term study within a 5 year period

Where an application meets either of the above criteria, this will not automatically result in a refusal. You must consider the evidence as a whole to decide if the applicant is a genuine short-term study student. You must be satisfied that, where the student seeks to spend multiple periods in the UK as a short-term student, the frequent or successive study periods do not mean they are studying here full-time.

Example 1: a student may be attempting to study full-time if they spend a number of

months studying here, leave the UK for a short period and then return for a further course of study, this would be in breach of what is allowed under STS.

Example 2: A student who is studying a distance learning course, which meets the distance learning requirements below meets one or more of the frequent or successive study criteria whilst satisfying the requirement to not be studying in the UK full-time. This would not be in breach of what is allowed under STS.

Studying at a UK Institution by distance learning

The only situation in which a student may use short-term study (STS) to study a course that will not be completed within their 6 month stay, other than for an English language course, is where a student is undertaking distance learning.

An applicant who wishes to use short-term study to undertake distance learning in the UK must meet all of the following criteria. They must:

- be studying for the majority of their time outside of the UK for a UK qualification by distance learning
- be on a course that is longer than 6 months
- only enter the UK for limited periods, totalling no more than 56 days in the UK in any 6 month period - study completed during visits can include induction weeks, short periods of intensive face-to-face learning and exams or assessments

For the avoidance of doubt, a course can be both a distance learning and a part-time course. As long as the above criteria are met, the course will be considered a distance learning course for STS visa purposes.

Part-time study on a course exceeding 6 months (or 11 months for English study) in the UK

A student cannot study a course exceeding 6 months (or 11 months for English study) which is designated as part-time using the short-term study route. The only exception is a course which meets the requirements set out in the section 'Studying at a UK Institution by Distance learning'. Such a course will be considered a distance learning course for the purposes of the STS visa, even where 'part-time' is part of the course title.

Students wishing to undertake a part-time course at a UK higher education institution of Regulation Qualifications Framework (RQF) level 7 (Scottish Credit Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 11) or higher may do so through the Tier 4 visa route.

Students starting a course on or before 31 January 2018

As an interim measure, a student who applies to use the short-term study route to complete part of a course in the UK on or before 31 January 2018 can continue to renew their STS visa up to the end of 31 January 2019, if they meet the following criteria. They must be:

- studying outside the UK for a UK qualification (for example, by distance learning)
- on a course that is longer than 6 months
- required to spend a period of time in the UK studying as part of the course
- not spending more than 6 months studying here on any one occasion

If the course will not be complete by 31 January 2019, students will need to apply using the new provisions within Tier 4 (General) to continue studying beyond 31 January 2019.

Definition of a UK higher education institution (HEI)

An HEI is a UK recognised body or a body that receives public funding as a higher education institution from the:

- Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland
- Office for Students
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- Scottish Funding Council

The Home Office also accepts the following institutions as HEIs:

- Richmond, the American International University in London, because it is recognised in statute in the Education (Recognised Awards) (Richmond The American International University in London) Order 2006
- Health Education England, for sponsored students to undertake a recognised Foundation Programme for postgraduate doctors and dentists from 1 November 2016

You can check whether an institution is a UK HEI using the following websites:

| Country | Website |
|------------------|---|
| England | Office for Students (see the Register section of the website) |
| Scotland | Scottish funding council |
| Wales | Higher Education Funding Council for Wales |
| Northern Ireland | Department for the Economy |

You can find a list of UK recognised bodies on [GOV.UK](#).

Short-term students and employment

Short-term students are not allowed to work in the UK, either in a paid or an unpaid job. They are not allowed to enrol on a course of study that includes a work placement or work experience, with the exception of an elective course of study which meets the requirements set out in [paragraph A57D\(a\)\(iii\) of the Immigration Rules](#).

Short-term students can volunteer but may not do voluntary work. You must be clear on the difference between the two.

Voluntary workers:

- often have a contract with their employer (this means the employer must provide the work and the voluntary worker must attend at particular times and carry out specific tasks)
- are also usually remunerated in kind

Volunteers:

- do not have a contract of employment
- must not take the place of an employee
- must not receive payment in kind but reimbursement for reasonable travel and subsistence expenses is allowed
- usually help a charity or voluntary or public sector organisation

Related content

[Accredited institutions](#)

[Contents](#)

ATAS and TB certification

This page tells you who will need to obtain an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) clearance, and/or a Tuberculosis (TB) certificate.

ATAS

You will need to obtain an ATAS certificate, to provide with your application, if you are applying for postgraduate study or research in one of the subjects listed in [appendix 6 of the Immigration Rules](#).

You can find out if you need an ATAS certificate [here](#).

TB certification

You will need to obtain a TB certificate if you are coming to the UK for over 6 months and have been present in one of the countries listed in [Appendix T of the Immigration Rules](#) for more than 6 months immediately prior to your application.

If you are unsure where you can obtain a TB certificate, please review the [guidance](#).

Related content

[Contents](#)

Accredited institutions

This page tells you what an accredited institution is, how to decide if an institution is accredited for the purpose of short-term students and how to check the accreditation.

A short-term student must be accepted on a course of study provided by an accredited institution.

An accredited institution is one that falls into one of the following categories. It must:

- hold a sponsor licence for Tier 4 of the points-based system
- hold valid accreditation from:
 - Accreditation UK
 - the Accreditation Body for Language Services (ABLS)
 - the British Accreditation Council (BAC)
 - the Accreditation Service for International Colleges (ASIC)
- hold a valid and satisfactory full institutional inspection by one of the following bodies:
 - Bridge Schools Inspectorate
 - Estyn
 - Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
 - Education Scotland
 - Office for Students (OfS)
 - the Independent Schools Inspectorate
 - Ofsted
 - the School Inspection Service
 - the Education and Training Inspectorate Northern Ireland

An overseas higher education institution (this does not apply to short-term student (child)) can be accredited if it:

- offers only part of its programmes in the UK
- holds its own national accreditation and offers programmes that are an equivalent level to a UK degree

To check that an overseas higher education institution offers programmes equivalent to UK degrees, you should check the [UK NARIC](#) website.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Short-term student (6 months)

This page tells you about the short-term student (6 months) route found in [paragraphs A57C and A57D of the Immigration Rules](#).

A short-term student (6 months) can come to the UK for up to 6 months to:

- study a course (meaning one or more consecutive or concurrent programmes of study that will be completed within the validity period of the short-term study visa)
- complete a period of research
- complete research tuition (for example, to learn about research)
- complete one or more elective courses linked to their overseas study, where they are studying medicine, veterinary medicine and science, or dentistry as their principal course of study equivalent to at least degree level study in the UK

Applicants who apply for entry clearance or leave to enter to study or conduct research as a short-term student (6 months) must meet all the requirements of paragraphs A57C and A57D of the Immigration Rules, see: [Eligibility requirements of short-term student routes](#).

If a short-term student (6 months) is coming to the UK to study, you must check they have been accepted for a course of study at an [accredited institution](#). The applicant must provide an acceptance letter from the institution or institutions with details of the course.

If a short-term student (6 months) is coming to the UK to complete a short period of research, to learn how to conduct research or to complete an elective or electives, you must check that the applicant meets the requirements. They must:

- be studying a course overseas that is the equivalent of a UK degree level course:
 - you can check if the course is equivalent to a UK degree on UK NARIC
 - the research or elective must form part of, or be relevant to, the course
 - the applicant must provide confirmation of the course, and that the research relates to it, from their overseas education provider
- have been accepted by a UK higher education institution, which is funded by one of the following bodies, to do research, be taught about research (research tuition) or to complete an elective or electives at the UK institution:
 - Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland
 - Office for Students
 - Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
 - Scottish Funding Council

The following links show institutions that are a UK higher education institution as described above:

- [Department for the Economy](#)

- Office for Students
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- Scottish Funding Council

A short-term student (6 months) cannot:

- undertake research in any other circumstances
- be employed as a sponsored researcher - to do so they must apply either under Tier 2 or Tier 5 (Government Authorised Exchange) of the points-based system

Related content

[Contents](#)

Short-term student (11 months)

This page tells you about the short-term student (11 months) route found in [paragraphs A57C and A57E of the Immigration Rules](#).

This route is for applicants who want to come to the UK to solely study English language for more than 6 months but no more than 11 months.

For the purpose of this route, 'English language study' is a course that teaches English as a foreign language only and does not include other subjects. An applicant cannot study mixed courses under this route.

You must refuse any other applications for an 11 month visa to study on any other course lasting more than 6 months, including applications to undertake research as a short-term student (11 months).

You must check that the applicant has been accepted for a course of study at an [accredited institution](#). They must provide an acceptance letter from the institution with details of the course.

Applicants for entry clearance or leave to enter as a short-term student (11 months) must meet all the requirements of paragraphs A57C and A57E of the Immigration Rules, see: [Eligibility requirements for short-term student routes](#).

You must refuse leave to enter to applicants who do not have entry clearance as a short-term student (11 months) if they intend to remain in the UK in excess of 6 months.

All applicants under this route must [register with the police](#) if they are a:

- national or citizen of a country or territory listed in Appendix 2 to the Immigration Rules
- stateless person
- person holding a non-national travel document

All applicants will be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge at the reduced rate for students when they make their application for entry clearance. See: [immigration health surcharge](#) for more information.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Short-term student (child) route

This page tells you about the specific requirements of the short-term student (child) route found in [paragraphs A57C and A57G of the Immigration Rules](#).

This route is for people under the age of 16 who want to come to the UK to study for up to 6 months on a course that does not include a work placement or work experience.

You must check that they have been accepted for a course of study at an [accredited institution](#). The applicant must provide an acceptance letter from the institution with details of the course.

Entry clearance officers

Entry clearance officers must enter the following information on Proviso to show the Home Office duty to safeguard children has been met:

- the name, address and landline telephone number of the parent or carer in the child's home country
- the host in the UK
- the person accompanying the child

If details are missing, unclear or other factors raise concerns about the child's welfare, you must make further enquiries to confirm the identity and residence of the host and make sure the child is expected.

If you remain concerned about the child's welfare in the UK, you must refuse the application.

Border Force officers at ports of entry

This tells Border Force officers what to do to meet the section 55 duty set out in Children guidance in the immigration A to Z guidance. If you have any concerns about a child's welfare, you must speak to the port Safeguarding and Modern Slavery (SAMS) officer or Higher Officer in the first instance and where appropriate, contact your local authority children's services department or the police. Children's services will advise on the suitability of the sponsor and will take the child into their care, if they agree that the sponsor is unsuitable or if there is no responsible sponsor.

To gain entry to the UK, a short-term student (child) must give evidence that they have a parent or guardian who is responsible for their care in their home country or the country in which they live. The parent or guardian must consent to the arrangements for the child's travel, reception and care in the UK. Most applications made for entry clearance or leave to enter will be made by the parent or the guardian and present no difficulty.

Where the application is not made by the parent or guardian, and there are no other factors in the application which are a cause for concern, a letter from the parent or guardian which consents to the child's application is enough to establish that this requirement has been met. If the child's parents are divorced, the consent must come from the parent who holds legal custody of, or sole responsibility for, the child.

If the application raises child trafficking concerns, you must consult the guidance on human trafficking.

Private foster care

A short-term student (child) is considered to be in private foster care when they are:

- under 16 years old (or under 18 years old for those with a disability)
- being cared for on a full-time basis for more than 28 days
- not being cared for by parents or close relatives

Parents or other carers, and other parties to the foster care arrangement (for example, the education provider), must notify the local authority when a foster care arrangement is made. The Home Office must tell the local authority where the child will be staying if this has not been done.

A short-term student (child) is not in private foster care when a parent, close relative or legal guardian is looking after them.

If the application is made by the parent or guardian, you do not need to make detailed enquiries about whether the adult who will be accompanying the child is acceptable, unless you have cause for concern.

If the application is not made by the parent or guardian, you must make enquiries about the accompanying adult or adults and record the following details:

- names and passport number (to be included on the child's visa)
- address in the home country
- any address in the UK or abroad
- employment details
- their relationship with:
 - the child
 - their parent or guardian
 - their host in the UK

You will need to see a letter of consent from the parent or parents or the legal guardian regarding the arrangements for the child's travel to, and reception and care while in, the UK. This letter must include:

- the name and date of birth of the intended foster carer
- the address where the child will be living
- the relationship of the foster carer to the child

- authority from the parent or parents or legal guardian for the foster carer to care for the child during their stay in the UK
- a letter from the education provider with:
 - details of the foster care arrangement
 - confirmation that they have notified, or will notify, the local authority with a reply from the authority if they have one

You must make every reasonable effort to check that these documents are genuine.

Private foster care: legislation

Private foster care is covered by the following legislation for the different countries in the UK:

England and Wales

The following legislation relates to private foster care in England and Wales:

- part IX of the Children Act 1989
- The Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations 2005

Scotland

The following legislation relates to private foster care in Scotland:

- Foster Children (Scotland) Act 1984
- Foster Children (Private Fostering) Regulations 1985 - these regulations require parents (including a guardian or relative) to:
 - notify the local authority of arrangements to be made for the fostering of their children privately under the 1984 act
 - make provision for the local authority to investigate the suitability of such private fostering arrangements in the interests of the child and for the visiting of such foster children by the local authority
- [Regulation of Care \(Scotland\) Act 2001](#) - where the Care Commission is responsible for the regulation of the functions of local authorities regarding private foster care arrangements

Northern Ireland

The following legislation relates to private foster care in Northern Ireland:

- The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 - articles 106/107
- Children (Private Arrangements for Fostering) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 - these regulations are equivalent to those in England: health and social care trusts must be notified of private foster care arrangements lasting more than 28 days in relation to children under 16 years old (or under 18 if they have a disability)

Unaccompanied and accompanied children

The information on a child's visa will differ depending on whether they are accompanied or unaccompanied.

Unaccompanied visa nationals

You must pay particular attention to applications from and the circumstances of a child coming to the UK on their own.

A child with an 'unaccompanied' visa may travel with or without an accompanying adult.

Accompanied visa nationals

If a child is travelling with an adult, they must hold a visa which identifies the adult that is accompanying them to the UK. The identification used is the adult's passport number, initial and surname, which is included in the child's visa vignette.

If the child intends to travel with 2 adults during the validity of the visa, (for example the child may arrive with one parent and then travel for a day trip to France with the other) each of the adults' passport numbers must be entered onto the child's visa vignette. There is not enough space on the vignette to include the names of 2 people as well as their passport numbers.

The endorsement must read 'only valid if acc by (passport numbers etc of adults)'.

The child's visa will only be valid if they are accompanied by the identified adult or adults.

You must refuse a child who tries to enter the UK with an adult other than the person identified on their visa.

Border Force officers at the port of entry

This section is directed at Border Force officers. If you have concerns about the identity of the accompanying adult, you must:

- check the passport number, initial and surname in the passport of the accompanying adult against the detail recorded for the child's visa on the Central Reference System (CRS) computer record
- advise the decision making centre that issued the visa, through a visa concern report on CRS, so they may make a note against the record, in case subsequent applications are made by the same person
- refer to the port Safeguarding and Modern Slavery (SAMS) or Higher officer

The terms of the visa are not met if the accompanying adult has travelled with the child, but has remained airside and does not accompany the child into the UK. You must make further enquiries of the child and the accompanying adult, if the

accompanying adult remains airside. It is appropriate for you to refuse the child entry in these cases.

If the accompanying adult has legitimately got a replacement passport since the child's visa was issued, you can accept as evidence the old cancelled passport to confirm the child is accompanied by the identified adult.

If the old passport has been retained by the issuing authority, the new passport is acceptable if it gives the original passport number in full and contains an official endorsement which confirms it replaces the previous passport. Photocopies of the original passport are not, on their own, reliable evidence of identity.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Travel, reception and care of all students aged under 18 under

The Home Office has a statutory duty of care towards children under [section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009](#), and it is mandatory for staff to complete the e-learning course on this duty. For more information, see: Safeguard and promote child welfare.

The applicant must show that suitable arrangements have been made for their travel to, and arrival and care in, the UK. You must make every reasonable effort to make sure the documents presented to you are genuine.

If a foster carer or relative, who is not a parent or guardian, has responsibility for their care, the applicant must provide a letter of consent from their parent or parents or legal guardian regarding arrangements for their travel to, and reception and care while in the UK which must include:

- the name and date of birth of the intended foster carer or relative
- the address where the applicant will be living
- the relationship of the foster carer or relative to the applicant
- authority from their parent or parents or legal guardian allowing the foster carer or relative to care for the applicant during their stay in the UK
- a letter from the education provider to include details of the foster care arrangements, and confirming they have or will notify the local authority - they should include the reply from the local authority if they have one

Private foster care arrangements must be notified to the relevant local authority by:

- the parents or other carer of the child
- other parties to the arrangement, for example the education provider

Unless there is cause for concern, the evidence can be either:

- they are accompanied by a parent, or parents
- suitable arrangements for private foster care exist, as above

For further information on Home Office requirements on foster care, see:

- private foster care
- private foster care: legislation

Related content

[Contents](#)

When to grant and refuse entry clearance and leave to enter

This page tells you when you can grant and when you must refuse entry clearance or leave to enter for a person who applies for a short-term student visa.

Granting entry clearance

You must grant entry clearance if the applicant:

- meets all the requirements of paragraph A57C and either A57D, A57E or A57G of the Immigration Rules
- none of the general grounds for refusal apply

You must consider the application in line with the short-term student rules as set out in this guidance. If you approve the application, you must endorse the visa as follows:

| Type of student | Visa endorsement |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Short-term student (6 months) | Category C: short term student |
| Short-term student (11 months) | Category D: short term student |
| Short-term student (child) | Category C: short term student (child) |

Refusing entry clearance

You must refuse the application if the applicant has not provided the necessary evidence that they meet all the requirements of the relevant short-term student route, or if any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 320 apply.

Granting or refusing leave to enter at a UK port

Visa nationals

Before you grant leave to enter, you must be satisfied that:

- the applicant has a valid entry clearance
- there are no reasons to believe that the applicant gave false information to get entry clearance or that the circumstances have changed since it was issued
- none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 and 321 of the Immigration Rules apply

If you are satisfied that the applicant meets all the requirements, endorse the document with an open date stamp.

Non-visa nationals

If you are satisfied that the applicant meets all the requirements, and is not seeking leave to enter for a period exceeding 6 months, you must grant leave to enter for 6 months using the short-term student stamp.

Length of leave

- Border Force officers can only grant leave to enter at the border for the purposes of short-term study for a maximum of 6 months.

Refusing leave to enter

You must refuse leave to enter as a short-term student if:

- a visa national or an applicant who seeks entry for more than 6 months does not have entry clearance
- the applicant has not provided the necessary evidence that they meet the requirements of the short-term student rules
- any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 and 321 apply

Extensions of stay in the UK

You must refuse any applications for leave to remain as a short-term student under paragraph 322(1) of the Immigration Rules because there are no provisions in the Immigration Rules to grant leave for this purpose.

See: short-term student refusal wording for suggested wording.

Related links

Police registration

[Immigration Rules appendix 2: police registration](#)