UK VISA REQUIREMENTS

ALL nationalities of the countries and territories listed below in red (underlined) need visas to enter or transit the UK.

ALL nationalities may transit the UK without a visa (TWOV) in certain circumstances. Please see below for details.

1. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.
2. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa for transit to the UK as part of a journey involving travel to and from the UK with a serving Chinese government minister or official.
3. Passport not recognised by HM Government – official visits to the UK should be issued on an official format (U.K.).
4. Holders of diplomatic or official passports do not require a visa for transit to the UK.
5. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit. Holders of diplomatic or special passports do not require a visa if they hold a valid electronic visa waiver (EVW).
6. Passports that include a personal ID number on the biodata page are exempt from the visa requirement.
7. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.
8. Holders may not use a B1/B2 USA visa to transit the UK.

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

Transit without visa (TWOV): ALL visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom AIRSIDE without a visa must:

(i) arrive and depart by air;
(ii) have a confirmed onward flight departing the same day from the same airport; and
(iii) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required).

Nationalities of the countries shown in RED (underlined) above need a visa to transit AIRSIDE unless they hold one of the following:

(i) a valid visa for entry to the United Kingdom or the USA (whether or not the holder is travelling to or from these countries); or
(ii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey to that country; or
(iii) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling FROM the Republic of Ireland; or
(iv) a valid Schengen ADS visa (having previously ratified ILO108).

A valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey from that country;

(v) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airline ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey TO that country; or
(vi) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling TO the Republic of Ireland;

(vii) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid airline ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey from that country; or
(viii) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling TO the Republic of Ireland;

Nationalities of ALL COUNTRIES (RED [underlined] and BLACK above) need a visa to transit LANDSIDE unless they hold one of the following:

(i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA (whether or not the holder is travelling to or from these countries); or
(ii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey to that country; or
(iii) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS and travelling FROM the Republic of Ireland; or
(iv) a valid Schengen ADS visa (having previously ratified ILO108).

E-visas or e-residence permits are not acceptable unless the airline is able to verify it with the issuing country.

The decision to allow a passenger to transit without a visa (TWOV) under the scheme is decided by an immigration officer at the UK border.

UK Permanent residents:
If a visa national is permanently resident in the UK they do not need a visa, as long as they return to the UK within two years of their last departure.

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

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

Seamen:
A seaman travelling on duty, who is a visa national (including those including those travelling through the UK) does not need to hold a visa if he holds a seaman’s book issued by one of these countries which also contains a statement that it is issued under ILO78 (or convention of 1958) or ILO81, having previously ratified ILO78 (or convention of 2003); Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (Dem.), Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Pakistan, Portugal, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe or the Republic of Ireland. Nationalities of all states listed above, which have also not been included on the list of visa exemptions will require a visa before travel to the UK.

If you doubt please telephone one of the numbers below for advice:

Produced by: CARRIERS LIASON SECTION, HOME OFFICE
This poster was last updated on March 2021