



Home Office

Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules

ARCHIVED

Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

About this guidance

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>Immigration Rules, paragraphs 56D – 56F</p> <p>This guidance tells you how to consider applications from a visitor for marriage or civil partnership under paragraphs 56D – 56F of the Immigration Rules.</p> <p>For more information on these paragraphs of the Immigration Rules, see related link.</p> <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 a 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 the previous version 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>In this section</p> <p>Changes to this guidance</p> <p>Contacts</p> <p>Information owner</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
--	--	---

Key facts: Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

This page lists the key facts for visitors to the UK for marriage or civil partnership.

Category: Visitor for marriage or civil partnership.	
Eligibility requirements	<p>The applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be genuinely seeking entry as a general visitor for a limited period not exceeding six months • hold a valid UK entry clearance for entry in this capacity • leave the UK at the end of their visit • maintain and accommodate themselves and any dependants without using public funds • meet the cost of the return or onward journey • show they intend to give notice of marriage or civil partnership, or marry or form a civil partnership • produce satisfactory evidence of the arrangements for giving notice of marriage or civil partnership, or for their wedding or civil partnership to take place 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 • intend to take employment • intend to produce goods or provide services within the UK • intend to undertake a course of study • be a child under the age of 18 • intend to receive private medical treatment • be in transit to a country outside the common travel area • do any of the activities of a business, sports or entertainer visitor, for more information on these categories, see related links: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business visitors ○ Sports visitors ○ Entertainer visitors
Application forms	VAF1F
Cost of application:	UK Visas and Immigration fees
Entry clearance mandatory?	Yes
Is biometric information required for applications made in the UK?	Yes
Code of leave to enter granted	Code 3

Entry clearance endorsements	C: VISIT - MARRIAGE/CP'. LTE 6 MONTHS CODE 3.
Conditions of leave to enter	Code 3. No work or study allowed. No recourse to public funds.
How long is leave to enter normally granted for?	Total stay must not exceed six months.
Are dependants allowed?	No, dependants must qualify as a visitor in their own right.
Work and study allowed?	No
Is switching into this category allowed?	No
Does time in this category lead to settlement (indefinite leave to remain)?	No
Is knowledge of language and life required?	No
CID case type	V1X
Immigration Rules paragraphs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paragraph 41 (i) - (ix) and (xi) - (xii) (general visitor) • paragraph 56D-56F (Visitor for marriage or civil partnership). <p>For more information, see Immigration Rules – Part 2: paragraphs 40-56Z.</p>

Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

Changes to this guidance

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page lists the changes to the 'Visitor for marriage or civil partnership' guidance, with the most recent at the top.</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th data-bbox="488 391 808 427">Date of change</th><th data-bbox="808 391 1749 427">Details of change</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td data-bbox="488 427 808 544">20 March 2014</td><td data-bbox="808 427 1749 544">Six month review by the modernised guidance team:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor housekeeping changes.</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="488 544 808 884">27 September 2013</td><td data-bbox="808 544 1749 884">Six month review by the modernised guidance team:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant or refuse entry at UK port:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ sub-heading 'Granting leave to enter', first paragraph, second bullet point amended• Contacts:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ third paragraph, added Border force and International group contacts• Minor housekeeping changes.</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="488 884 808 1024"></td><td data-bbox="808 884 1749 1024">For previous changes you will need to access the archived guidance. See related link: Marriage or civil partner visitor guidance.</td></tr></tbody></table>	Date of change	Details of change	20 March 2014	Six month review by the modernised guidance team: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor housekeeping changes.	27 September 2013	Six month review by the modernised guidance team: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant or refuse entry at UK port:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ sub-heading 'Granting leave to enter', first paragraph, second bullet point amended• Contacts:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ third paragraph, added Border force and International group contacts• Minor housekeeping changes.		For previous changes you will need to access the archived guidance. See related link: Marriage or civil partner visitor guidance.	<p>Related links</p> <p>Contacts</p> <p>Information owner</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
Date of change	Details of change									
20 March 2014	Six month review by the modernised guidance team: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor housekeeping changes.									
27 September 2013	Six month review by the modernised guidance team: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grant or refuse entry at UK port:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ sub-heading 'Granting leave to enter', first paragraph, second bullet point amended• Contacts:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ third paragraph, added Border force and International group contacts• Minor housekeeping changes.									
	For previous changes you will need to access the archived guidance. See related link: Marriage or civil partner visitor guidance.									

Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

Entry or extension requirements

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This section tells you the requirements the applicant must meet to gain entry clearance or leave to remain in the UK as a visitor for marriage or civil partnership.</p> <p>All nationalities must have entry clearance.</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 requirements of the Immigration Rules• there are no general grounds for refusal, and• the couple plan to marry or form a civil partnership during the period for which they are granted leave. <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. <p>Requirements for entry under the Immigration Rules</p> <p>Under paragraph 56D of the Immigration Rules, a visitor for marriage or civil partnership must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be genuinely seeking entry as a general visitor for a limited period not exceeding six months• hold a valid UK entry clearance for entry in this capacity• leave the UK at the end of their 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>In this section</p> <p>Evidence needed to marry or form a civil partnership</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
--	--	--

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
- show they intend to give notice of marriage or civil partnership, or marry or form a civil partnership
- produce satisfactory evidence of the arrangements for giving notice of marriage or civil partnership, or for their wedding or civil partnership to take place in the UK.

The applicant must not:

- intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits
- intend to take employment
- intend to produce goods or provide services within the UK
- intend to undertake a course of study
- be a child under the age of 18
- intend to receive private medical treatment
- be in transit to a country outside the common travel area
- do any of the activities of a business, sports or entertainer visitor, for more information on these categories see related links.

Requirements for an extension

There is no provision within the Immigration Rules for an extension of stay as a visitor for marriage or civil partnership.

Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

Evidence needed to marry or form a civil partnership

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you the evidence a visitor for marriage or civil partnership must provide to show they intend to marry or form a civil partnership.</p> <p>An applicant must be able to produce satisfactory evidence, if required, of arrangements for giving notice of marriage or civil partnership, or for their wedding or civil partnership to take place in the UK.</p> <p>Examples of evidence accepted (this is not an exhaustive list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmation of an appointment to give notice of marriage. For example, an appointment card or an email.• Confirmation of the church or registry office booking. For example, email confirmation or a receipt for payment. <p>Couples can get married or register a civil partnership in any location licensed for the purpose of marriage or civil partnerships.</p> <p>Once both partners are in the UK they will need to give official notice of their marriage or civil partnership at a designated register office.</p> <p>In the case of those wishing to marry in an Anglican Church, where there are religious preliminaries, there is no requirement for a marriage visitor to show their entry clearance to a member of the clergy. Both non-visa and visa nationals still require a marriage or civil partnership visit entry clearance before travelling to the UK.</p> <p>For those applying to marry in Scotland and Northern Ireland, where it is possible to give notice of marriage or civil partnership by post, the visit visa must be valid at the time of giving notice.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
--	---	---

Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

Granting or refusing

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This section tells you how to grant or refuse an application from a visitor for marriage or civil partnership.</p>	<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 the UK</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
--	---	--

ARCHIVED

Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

Grant or refuse entry clearance

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you how to grant or refuse an application for entry clearance in the visitor for marriage or civil partnership category.</p> <p>Grant entry clearance You must grant entry clearance if the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• meets all the requirements of paragraph 56D of the Immigration Rules, and• none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 320 apply. <p>Length of leave Six months with the endorsement:</p> <p>C: VISIT - MARRIAGE/CP'. LTE 6 MONTHS CODE 3.</p> <p>The endorsement must be valid from the date the applicant intends to travel to the UK.</p> <p>Multi entry visas Entry clearance officers (ECOs) have the discretion to issue a multiple entry visa, valid for up to one year, in cases where there will be a delay between giving notice and the marriage or civil partnership taking place. Applicants must show evidence that arrangements have been made either for a notification of the ceremony or for the ceremony to take place during their period of leave.</p> <p>Refusing entry clearance You must refuse entry clearance under paragraph 56F if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant has not provided the required evidence that they meet all the requirements of paragraph 56D, or• any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraph 320 apply. <p>For more information, see related link: Immigration Rules – Part 2: paragraphs 40-56Z.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry at UK port</p> <p>Grant or refuse extension of stay in the UK</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
--	--	---

Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

Grant or refuse entry at UK port

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</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 visitor for marriage or civil partnership category.</p> <p>Granting leave to enter</p> <p>Before you grant leave to enter, you must be satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant has valid entry clearance• there are no reasons to believe:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the applicant gave false information to obtain the entry clearance○ that circumstances have changed since it was issued, or○ the purpose of entry is different from that for which the entry clearance was issued• none of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 or 321 of the Immigration Rules apply. <p>If you are satisfied the person meets all the requirements, endorse the entry clearance with an open date stamp and record on the landing card with the code VMA.</p> <p>Length of leave</p> <p>Six months.</p> <p>Refusing leave to enter</p> <p>You must refuse leave to enter as a visitor for marriage or civil partnership if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the applicant does not have entry clearance• the applicant has not provided the required evidence that they meet all the requirements of paragraph 56D of the Immigration Rules, or• any of the general grounds for refusal in paragraphs 320 or 321 apply. <p>For more information on general grounds for refusal, see related link.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry clearance</p> <p>Grant or refuse extension of stay in the UK</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
--	---	--

Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

Grant or refuse extension of stay in the UK

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page tells you how to grant or refuse an application for an extension in the visitor for marriage or civil partnership category.</p> <p>There are no provisions in the Immigration Rules for extensions of leave as a marriage or civil partnership visitor to be granted. As such, you must refuse any extension under paragraph 322 (1) of the Immigration Rules.</p>	<p>In this section</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry clearance</p> <p>Grant or refuse entry at UK port</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
--	---	---

ARCHIVED

Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

Contacts

<p>About this guidance</p> <p>Key facts</p> <p>Entry or extension requirements</p> <p>Granting or refusing</p>	<p>This page directs you to who you should contact for help with a specific case relating to visitors for marriage or civil partnership</p> <p>If you have read the relevant Immigration Rules and this guidance and still need more help with this category, you must first ask your senior caseworker or line manager.</p> <p>If the question cannot be answered at that level you may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email the study and visit operational policy team, see related link, for guidance on the policy.• For entry clearance officers: email International group decision quality ECO support team, see related link: Email: ECO support.• For Border Force officers: email BF OAS enquiries, see related link. <p>Changes to this guidance can only be made by the modernised guidance team (MGT). If you think the policy content needs amending, you must contact the study and visit operational policy team who will ask MGT to update the guidance, if appropriate.</p> <p>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 link: Email: Modernised guidance team.</p>	<p>Related links</p> <p>See also</p> <p>Changes to this guidance</p> <p>Information owner</p> <p>Links to staff intranet removed</p>
--	--	--

Visitor for marriage or civil partnership

Information owner

[About this guidance](#)

[Key facts](#)

[Entry or extension requirements](#)

[Granting or refusing](#)

This page tells you about this version of the 'Visitor for marriage or civil partnership' guidance and who owns it.

Version	8.0
Valid from date	20 March 2014
Policy owner	Study and visit operational policy team
Cleared by director	Sonia Dower
Director's role	Director, operational policy and rules
Clearance date	28 May 2013
This version approved for publication by	Richard Short
Approver's role	Grade 7, modernised guidance team
Approval date	18 March 2014

Changes to this guidance can only be made by the modernised guidance team (MGT). 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 modernised guidance team 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 link: Email: Modernised guidance team.

Related links
See also

[Changes to this guidance](#)

[Contacts](#)

Links to staff intranet removed