

UK visa requirements for overseas visitors

Welcome to Oxford

The University is delighted to be able welcome you as a visitor. The University encourages the international exchange of knowledge and experience to enhance the academic and research environment for staff and students.

Please be aware that visitors coming to the University from outside of the UK/Ireland will be required to gain entry to the UK under an immigration category appropriate for the agreed activity. The host department/college at Oxford will provide visitors with a formal letter of invitation to facilitate UK visa/ visitor entry applications.



Visitor visa categories

Standard Visitor – Academic

Required for:

- Academics coming for up to 6 months to carry out collaborative research, or their own personal research
- Academics on sabbatical leave who wish coming for over 6 (up to 12) months to carry out their own personal research only (e.g. research for a book)
- Academics coming to share knowledge and experience
- Academics coming on a formal exchange arrangement
- Academics coming to take part in a single conference/lecture
- Senior eminent doctors coming to take part in research, teaching and/or clinical practice

Standard Visitor – Business

Required for:

- Attending interviews, meetings and conferences;
- Conducting site visits and arranging/signing trade agreements
- Giving a one-off or short series of talks and speeches provided these are not organised as commercial events and are not making profit
- Translating for a business person
- Board-level directors attending board meetings
- Scientists sharing knowledge and experience relevant to an international project being led from the UK (but not conducting research)

Standard Visitor – Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE)

Required for:

- Giving one/short series of paid lectures specific to the visitor's field of expertise as a guest lecturer, not filling a teaching role
- Visiting examiners or assessors who are highly qualified in their field of expertise to examine students or participate in and/or chair a selection panel

PPE activities must be completed in the first 30 days of the visit.

Visa nationals:

- Required to apply for the appropriate visitor visa in advance of travel to the UK
- List of visa nationals in [Appendix V Visa national list](#) of the Immigration Rules

Non visa nationals:

- Applies to any nationality not on above Home Office list visiting for up to 6 months
- Do not have to apply for a visa in advance of travel to the UK
- Depending on the date of travel, may be required to apply for permission to travel in advance by obtaining an [Electronic Travel Authorisation \(ETA\)](#)
- Will enter the UK under the Visitor route relevant to their activities
- May be questioned about the purpose of their visit

eGates

Nationals from EU/EEA countries, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland & USA who have a biometric passport:

- can use the eGate upon arrival
(eGates cannot be used if entering the UK with children under 10 years old)
- will not normally need to speak to Immigration Control, or receive a stamp in their passport

Please note that those who enter the UK as a tourist without seeking advice on, and entering under, the correct visa route may not take part in any academic/business activities within the University.

Tourists may only take part in typical tourist activities such as visiting the University's museums and colleges open to the public.

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Application requirements

Non-visa nationals who qualify as Academic visitors coming for more than six months and all Visa nationals will need to apply for a visa in advance of travel. The application process varies slightly from country to country so visitors are encouraged to check specific requirements in their country of application.

The general application requirements for Academic, Business and Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE) Visitors under a Standard Visitor visa can be found at www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply

Applicants applying before travelling will complete an online application and be required to enrol their biometric details (fingerprints and photographs) as part of the application process. Academic visitors coming to the UK for more than six months from specified countries will also be required to have a Tuberculosis test further information can be found at www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa/overview

Documentation required for visa application/entry request

Visitors applying for a visa in advance of travel and those requesting entry at the UK airport may be required to provide the following documentary evidence:

- Passport (current and potentially previous)
- Current photograph (visa applicants only)
- Evidence of marital status (if bringing spouse)
- Evidence of current employment
- Bank statements, payslips, other evidence of overseas income
- Details of accommodation in UK and return travel bookings
- Letter of invitation from Oxford
- Any information about activity to be undertaken
- Evidence of working at HEI/in field of expertise prior to application (academic visitors) i.e. letter from overseas employer
- Evidence that a paid engagement relates to expertise, qualification, occupation i.e. qualification, letter from overseas employer, publication record (PPE visitors)

Visa/entry conditions

Academic, Business and PPE visitors must:

- Intend to leave the UK at the end of the period of the visit
- Not exceed the maximum time permitted;
- Academic visitors – 6 or 12 months
- Business visitors – 6 months
- PPE visitors – 6 months but PPE activities must be completed within the first 30 days after they arrive
- Be able to maintain and accommodate themselves (and any dependants) without using public funds
- Be able to meet the cost of an onward or return journey
- Not intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits
- Not intend to take paid or unpaid employment
- Not intend to produce goods or provide services within the UK
- Not intend to undertake a course of study as the main purpose of the visit (any incidental study must not exceed 30 days in total)
- Not be a child under the age of 18
- Not intend to marry or form a civil partnership
- Not intend to give notice of a marriage or civil partnership
- Not intend to receive private medical treatment
- Not be in transit to a country outside the common travel area

Immigration checks

Visitors coming under the Academic, Business or PPE visitor routes are required to report to the department/college HR before the visit commences so that a copy of the passport and visitor visa/stamp may be copied.

PLEASE NOTE: those who were required to apply for an ATAS certificate for their research must present their ATAS certificate before they can start their visit or given any access.

Staff Immigration Team