

Summer Schools & visas

Every year, King's offers a [variety of summer schools and short courses](#), at both university and pre-university level. If you need a visa to come to the UK, this advice guide aims to provide you with information on the appropriate visa options for your summer school.

Short-term Study visas

A Short-term Study visa is likely to be the appropriate visa option for the majority of students coming for a summer school at King's. The process of applying for this visa is different depending on whether you are a **visa national** or **non-visa national**. Please refer to [Appendix 2 of the UKVI's Immigration Rules for Visitors](#) – if your country of nationality is not listed in Appendix 2, then you are a non-visa national.

Visa National

You will need to apply for your visa before travelling to the UK. You will [apply online](#) then complete your application by submitting your supporting documents and biometric information at your [local visa application centre](#). You can apply in any country (apart from the UK) and standard visa application times are around 3 weeks. Standard applications cost £89; if you need your visa quickly, you can apply for a priority service for an additional fee.

Non-Visa National

You do not need to apply for this visa prior to travelling to the UK (but may choose to if you require a multiple entry visa or have previously received a visa refusal), but you will be required to show all of your supporting documents (see below) on arrival into the UK. At that point the immigration officer will stamp your passport - this stamp is considered to be your visa and should state something like "short term study" or "STS".

Documents needed

You will need to prepare the following original documents in order to apply or be granted entry:

- Current passport
- One passport-sized colour photograph
- Visa support letter issued by King's College London
- Evidence that you have enough money to support yourself during your stay in the UK. There are no specific requirements for how much this will be, but you will need to calculate tuition fees, accommodation, travel and living expenses (we would recommend showing at least £1265 per month living expenses) for the full duration of your stay.
- Details of your accommodation arrangements and travel plans. (If applying from overseas, do not pay for your accommodation or flights until after your visa is granted)

Visa conditions

If you have applied for your visa prior to travelling to the UK, you should be issued with a multiple entry visa. Non-visa nationals issued a stamp on entry will only be issued a single entry stamp. As a short-term student, your visa will restrict the following:

- You cannot work in the UK (paid or unpaid), including work placements as part of your course
- You cannot undertake any business activity in the UK
- Any spouse/children cannot be sponsored as your dependent(s). They will have to apply for their own visitor visa(s).
- You cannot claim any public funds in the UK
- You cannot access the National Health Service for free. You should therefore ensure that you purchase private medical insurance prior to travelling to the UK.
- You cannot extend your visa in the UK, or switch to a different visa category in the UK.

Standard Visitor visas

In the vast majority of cases, it's **not** possible to attend a summer school at King's on a Standard Visitor visa (often known as a "tourist" visa). The reason for this is that Paragraph 25 of [Appendix 3 of the Immigration Rules](#) states that visitors to the UK may carry out a maximum of 30 days' study, as long as **the main purpose of the visit to the UK is not study**. As a result, most students will therefore need to apply for a Short-term Study visa as per the previous page of this guide. If in any doubt at all, please [contact us](#) to discuss further before travelling to the UK- *don't* assume that your Standard Visitor visa will be fine, as you may end up not being able to attend the summer school!

The only exception to this is for holders of a **long-term Standard Visitor visa**. The usual Standard Visitor visa is normally granted for a period of 6 months. However, a long-term Standard Visitor visa allows multiple visits of up to 6 months at any one time, over an overall validity period of 2, 5 or 10 years. The UKVI recently updated their [Visitor visa guidance](#) to confirm that, on occasion, a long-term Standard Visitor visa holder can be permitted to enter the UK solely to take a course or period of study. Again, the study must be less than 30 days in total, and the main purpose of holding the long-term visit visa must continue to be mainly for permitted activities other than study. The time spent studying in the UK must not exceed the time spent carrying out other activities in the UK.

For long-term Standard Visitor visa holders who wish to come to the UK for a summer school, we would recommend [contacting us](#) to explore in more detail, as we can give case-by-case advice tailored to your circumstances.

Other visa types

There are some other visa options that would permit study on a summer school at King's. These include (but are not limited to):

- Tier 5 (Youth Mobility Scheme)
- A Tier 4 visa sponsored by another UK university. In this case, it *might* be possible that your summer school would be considered as "supplementary study"- but you will need to contact us to discuss further before embarking upon this route.
- UK Ancestry visa
- PBS Dependant visa
- EEA Family Member permit

If in any doubt, we would be happy to discuss your options- so don't hesitate to get in touch.

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