



Immigration advice for visa nationals attending Summer School – March 2019

This guidance is based on frequently asked questions. It is not intended to be used on its own and you should use it in combination with the detailed guidance available on our [website](#).

How do I know if I am a visa national?

Check the list in Appendix 2 on [this page](#). If your country is on that list, you are a visa national.

What is a visa national?

If you are a visa national, it means that you cannot travel to the UK without obtaining a visa in advance.

What type of visa should I apply for?

If you are coming to the UK for the main purpose of attending Summer School, the most suitable visa type is likely to be a **Short-term Study visa**. If you think that the Short-Term Study visa may not be suitable for you, please [Contact ISVAT](#) for advice.

How long is a Short-Term Study visa valid for?

6 months.

Can I extend the Short-Term Study visa?

No, it cannot be extended.

Can I apply for the 11 month Short-Term Study visa?

No because that is only for English language courses which last more than 6 months. If you are attending Summer School, you are not eligible to apply for the 11 month Short-Term Study visa. If you choose to apply regardless, your application should be refused.

Can I switch to a different visa whilst in the UK as a Short-Term Student?

It is not possible to apply for any other UK visas whilst in the UK as a Short-Term Student. If you need to change to a different type of visa, you will need to do that from outside the UK.

What documents should I prepare?

You will need a [visa letter from Summer School](#)

You should also refer to these webpages which explain the other documentary requirements in detail:

- [ISVAT](#)
- [UKCISA](#)
- [UKVI](#)

Can ISVAT provide me with a Summer School Visa Letter?

No, the Summer School office produces all visa letters. Please [email them directly](#) if you have specific queries. ISVAT cannot assist with visa letter queries.

Can I use a print out of the PDF version of the Summer School visa letter?

Yes, you can submit a PDF copy of your visa letter with your visa application. You can select an option on the [LSE e-shop](#) to receive your Summer School visa letter as a PDF via email.

Can my Short-Term Study visa application be refused?

Yes, if you do not meet the requirements for Short-Term Study, your application could be refused which could affect future immigration applications.

What is the best way to prepare a successful application?

Unfortunately it is not possible to guarantee that a visa application will be successful. The best way to prepare a successful application is to read the [guidance](#) we refer you to in this document and prepare your original supporting documents accordingly. If you have questions which are not answered within our guidance, you can [contact us for advice](#).

What do I do when I receive my visa?

Check that it is correct; check your details, the visa type, the start and expiry dates. If there are errors you will need to get it corrected before travelling to the UK. [Contact ISVAT](#) for advice if required.

Help, my application has been refused!

[Contact ISVAT](#) immediately. ISVAT will respond and ask you to provide a scan/clear picture of the refusal notification and information about what you included in your application so that they may advise you on your options.

What do I do when I arrive at the UK border?

You must show your passport and Short-Term Study visa. We recommend that you also have your Summer School visa letter in your hand luggage along with the other documents you used in your visa application in case they are requested. If asked questions at the UK border, you should answer honestly and politely. When the Border Force Officer grants you entry to the UK, your visa should be endorsed with a date stamp.

I've been advised not to enter the UK via Ireland, why is this?

The Republic of Ireland is not part of the UK but it is part of the Common Travel Area, so you will not pass through UK immigration control upon arrival in the UK. This means your visa will not be stamped upon arrival in the UK. If you choose to travel via Ireland, please keep evidence of your flights (e.g. e-tickets and boarding passes) to prove when you entered the UK. [UKCISA](#) has further information about this.

Can I leave and re-enter the UK as a Short-Term Student?

Your visa should be multiple entry but please do check it when you receive it. If you leave the UK (e.g. if you choose to take a trip to Paris for the weekend or if you'd like to travel in between two Summer School sessions), we recommend that you carry evidence of your study in your hand luggage to prove that you are re-entering for further study. We do not recommend that you attempt to re-enter the UK using Short-Term Study if you have no further studies remaining (e.g. after Summer School has ended).

How long can I stay in the UK after Summer School ends?

You are permitted to stay in the UK for up to 30 days after your course ends or until the end of your visa, whichever is sooner.

Can I add another session of the Summer School after I have arrived?

The immigration rules allow you to add another programme of study as long as it can be completed within 30 days of your initial studies ending. You may be able to add one more session, but not two as this will exceed 30 days.

What are the permitted activities on Short-Term Study?

[This website](#) explains what you can and can't do. Work is not permitted however you can volunteer. There is a difference between voluntary work and volunteering. You can find the official definition on page 13 of [this document](#). Please note that doing an unpaid internship or working for free to gain work experience is not volunteering; that is voluntary work which is not permitted whilst in the UK as a Short-Term Student.

I'd prefer a Tier 4 visa for Summer School, is that possible?

If you will only be attending the Summer School at LSE, you cannot be sponsored under Tier 4 by the LSE.

I'm doing Summer School as a condition of my offer for a degree at LSE, should I use Short-Term Study or Tier 4?

If you will be attending Summer School as a condition of your main programme at LSE, it may be possible to apply for a Tier 4 visa for Summer School however that will depend on the timing of the Summer School session you attend. Please [contact ISVAT](#) for advice about your specific circumstances.

I'm doing Summer School before starting a degree at another university, can I apply for a Tier 4 visa from inside the UK?

If you are in the UK on a Short-Term Student visa, it will not be possible for you to apply for a Tier 4 visa whilst in the UK. You would need to return to your home country to apply for a Tier 4 visa. Discuss your plans with the other university to see if they have any advice. Depending on when that course starts, it may be possible for you to attend Summer School as 'supplementary study' before your main course begins. This will depend on course dates and visa validity dates, which your main institution will be able to tell you.

I am a dual national; which nationality should I use to enter the UK?

It is your decision. You must choose which nationality you would like to apply for the visa with. Even though the visa will be linked to one nationality, you will need to declare both nationalities when you apply for the visa. [Contact ISVAT](#) for advice if you have questions about this.

What immigration documentation do I need to show at Summer School registration?

You'll need to show your passport and visa, which will usually be a Short-Term Study visa vignette (sticker) in your passport. The Summer School will send you further information on registration in advance of the summer.

I already have a UK visa can I use it to register for Summer School?

This depends on what visa you have. [Contact ISVAT](#) for advice.

If I get ill while I'm in the UK, can I use the National Health Service and do I get free medical treatment?

You won't have free access to the UK's National Health Service (NHS) whilst in the UK as a Short-Term Student therefore we recommend that you obtain your own private medical insurance before you travel.

Does Short-Term Study give me permission to visit other countries too?

No. The Short-Term Study visa is only applicable to the UK; which is England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. If you would like to visit other countries (including the Republic of Ireland and other European countries), you should check the immigration requirements for that country before you travel.