

Introduction

Nationals from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland, require a short term study visa to do a short course, or part-time study at Cambridge. The visa entitles students to stay in the UK for up to six months but those undertaking part-time study, with multiple sessions across a year or two, are expected to leave the UK between each course session.

This document describes how to apply for your short term study visa, what the International Student Team (IST) requires from you and your responsibilities under this visa. The Home Office requires the University to ensure that those studying with us have the correct immigration permission. A visitor visa does not normally allow for study in the UK.

Do I need a visa to come to Cambridge?

If you have received this document from the University, based on the nationality declared in your application, we believe that you require a visa for short term study to come to Cambridge. Do not assume that you can study without a visa, even if you are allowed to travel to the UK for a short period. Visitor visas would not normally allow you to study at Cambridge. You should not travel to the UK without obtaining a visa for short term study, or ensuring you have the correct documentation for presentation at the border if you are a non-visa national.

Non visa nationals

If you are a non-visa national (nationals outside the EEA but **not** listed at page 25 of [Immigration Rules – Appendix V](#)) you are not required to make a visa application in advance overseas. However, you must obtain the correct immigration permission on entry. Non-visa nationals should present the short term study invitation letter (and carry any other [supporting documentation](#)) at the UK border, even if not prompted, and request a short term study stamp in their passport. Students receiving their immigration permission at the UK border **must ensure** that they are not issued with a standard visitor stamp if study is the main purpose of the visit.

If you arrive at Cambridge with a visitor visa or without the correct immigration status for study purposes, the University cannot allow you to start your course. If you believe that you do not need to apply for a short term study visa, please inform us immediately, giving reasons and providing a copy of any existing visa.

You are able to apply for a short term study visa if:

- you are from outside the EEA and Switzerland and meet the other eligibility requirements :
 - Aged 18 or over
 - Have been offered a place on a course at Cambridge and intend to leave the UK at the end of the study or at the end of the six months, whichever is sooner
 - Have evidence of sufficient money to support yourself, and pay for your return journey, without working or using help from public funds

Students enrolled on a course of study overseas are able to enter the UK on a short term study visa to conduct research related to the course. Visiting research students also need a letter from your home University, confirming that the time at Cambridge is part of your studies overseas.

When and how to apply for your visa

1. Faculty or Department contact the IST with details of the intended visit to confirm admission to a course or research visit.
2. You will be issued with a short term study visa letter which states the course name and duration as well as any other relevant details. Please note that this letter is specifically for immigration purposes and will be different from any initial invitation you receive from your Faculty or Department.
3. Having received the University's letter you can apply for the [short term study visa](#). This letter should be included in the supporting documentation for your application. Please read the Home Office guide on [other documents to include](#) in your application. You should make the following selections on the application form to ensure that you apply for the correct visa:

Reason for visit: Visit

Visa type: Special visitor

Visa sub type: (Special) Student visitor, up to 6 months

4. If you have any difficulties with, or queries about, the visa application please contact both your Faculty or Department and the [International Student Team](#) who will be able to advise.

Short term study visas on arrival

Upon arrival at Cambridge you must present your passport and visa to the relevant Department or Faculty who will make arrangements with you for this. Your immigration documents will be checked and, providing these are valid for study, you will be able to start your course. Students who do not present documents valid for study may not be permitted to undertake the study at Cambridge.

For non-visa nationals making multiple visits to Cambridge for a period of study, immigration documents will need to be presented on each occasion. The short term study stamp issued at the border is only valid for visit.