

Most common visa questions

1. Do I need a visa to come to the UK?

Visa Nationals

Visa nationals are people travelling with passports on the UK government Visa National List. You can see the list here: [visa nationals list](#)

If you are a **visa national**, you will always need to apply for a visa before you travel.

Non-Visa Nationals

Non-visa nationals are people travelling with passports from countries **not** on the Visa National list.

If you are a **non-visa national** and plan to stay less than 6 months, then you do not need to make a visa application before travel. You will not get a stamp in your passport at the airport upon arrival. Many non-visa nationals may enter through the e-gates without showing any documents – although we strongly recommend that you to have a visa letter from IH London on hand to show Border Force officers if needed.

You will need to complete an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) before you travel.

If you plan to stay more than 6 months, you will need a visa before you travel.

Non-visa national countries include:

All EU and EEA	Chile	Mexico	Saudi Arabia
Argentina	Hong Kong	New Zealand	South Korea
Australia	Israel	Oman	Taiwan
Bahrain	Japan	Peru	Uruguay
Brazil	Kuwait	Paraguay	UAE
Canada	Malaysia	Qatar	USA

You can check if you need a visa quickly and easily with this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

2. Can I study if I have been successful with the EU settlement scheme or pre-settled status?

Yes, this is fine.

3. Can I book and take an exam on a visitor visa?

Yes, you can.

4. Can I book a course if I am already in the UK on a Standard Visitor visa?

Yes, you can.

5. Can I extend my course in the UK?

As long as you are within your visa period, yes you can. You cannot extend a Standard Visitor visa or a Short-term Study visa in the UK though. For extending a Student Visa in the UK, you will need to be sponsored for a new period, so please consult your new sponsor.

6. Can you sponsor me for a Student Visa?

Yes, International House London is a Student Visa sponsor. We will collect certain documents from you and then assess if we can go ahead with sponsorship. Please contact us on info@ihlondon.com if you believe this is the correct visa type for you.

7. Can I change schools if I have a Short Term Study Visa?

No, that is not possible.

8. Can I work whilst I'm studying in the UK?

It is not possible to work on a Standard Visitor visa or Short-term study visa. Also with a Student Visa (sponsorship) it is not possible to work whilst studying at a language school – please consult the Home Office website and Student Visa guidance notes for conditions regarding work.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/976139/student-route-casework-guidance-v3.0-ext.pdf

9. How about temporary au pair work:

Being an au pair is classed as work. Therefore you must have a visa that permits work in order to be an Au Pair. Please consult the Home Office website:

<https://www.gov.uk/au-pairs-employment-law/au-pairs>

10. Can I travel with my EU ID card or do I have to travel with a passport?

You must have a valid passport, with at least 6 months before expiry, in order to enter the UK

For all visa questions we strongly advise you to consult the Home Office website directly:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>