

Most common visa questions

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

If you are a visa-national you must obtain a visa before travelling.

If you are a non-visa national (see below) then you do not need to make a formal visa application before arrival if you plan to stay less than 6 months. You may get a stamp in your passport at the airport upon arrival. Some 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 immigration personnel upon request.

Non-visa national countries

Argentina	Hong Kong	Panama	USA
Australia	Israel	Paraguay	All EU and EEA
Brazil	Japan	South Korea	
Canada	Malaysia	Taiwan	
Chile	Mexico	Tibet	
Honduras	New Zealand	Uruguay	

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

11. If I cannot leave the UK due to Covid-19 travel restriction, can I extend my visa in the UK?

The rules regarding Covid-19 are being updated continuously and we recommend that you consult the Home Office website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents#if-youre-in-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>