

# Top tips for your UK visit visa application



UK Visas  
& Immigration



**WELCOME  
TO  
GREAT**

BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND



*Nationals of some countries may not require a visa to visit the UK. For those that do there are some things you can do to ensure that making your application is quick and straightforward. This guide provides some top tips and advice on Standard visitor visas.*

*Further information on visa types and how to apply is available at [www.gov.uk/visas-immigration](http://www.gov.uk/visas-immigration)*

## **Standard Visitor visa**

### **1. Apply early**



You can apply for your visa up to three months before you travel. Summer is our busiest period for processing visas so apply as far in advance as you can. Our service standard is 15 working days, applicants in some locations may be able to pay for the Priority Visa service and receive a decision within five working days.

### **2. Choose the right visa**



There are different types of visa for visiting the UK. These vary according to the purpose of your trip and how long you plan to stay. It's important you chose the right visa for your trip and understand what activities you can and can't do with each visa type. Visit [www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa](http://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa) to find the right visa for you.

### 3. Check what documents you need



All visa applications require you to provide additional documents, which will vary according to the type of visa you're applying for. Once you know what type of visitor visa you need, you can check what documents you need for your application at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/visitor-visa-guide-to-supporting-documents](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visitor-visa-guide-to-supporting-documents)

Make sure you have the documents ready when you apply, try not to rush your application and ensure that all the information you provide is correct.

### 4. Ensure you can pay the visa fee



Visa fees vary according to the type of visa and how long it lasts for. When you apply, ensure you have sufficient funds to pay the visa fee, including those for dependents, who usually pay the same amount as the main applicant.

You can find out much your visa will cost at [www.gov.uk/visa-fees](http://www.gov.uk/visa-fees)

### 5. Go priority if you need your visa quickly



If you are on a tight timescale you may be able to use our priority services, which will place your application at the front of the queue. In many countries we offer a range of fee-paid services and options for additional flexibility, for example 24 hour visas, 3-5 day visas or the Keep Your Passport service, which enables customers to retain their passport for the majority of the application processing period.

Find what services are available from your local visa application centre:

- Europe, Africa and parts of the Middle East visit [www.tpcontact.co.uk](http://www.tpcontact.co.uk)
- All other countries visit [www.vfsglobal.co.uk](http://www.vfsglobal.co.uk)

## 6. Booking your travel



As part of the application process, you will need to demonstrate any plans for your visit to the UK, for example tour and accommodation details. However, we advise applicants not to confirm any travel arrangements until their visa has been granted. Our processing times vary according to the type of visa application and can also vary during busy periods.

## 7. If you need help



You can contact UKVI by e-mail and receive a reply within 24 hours in a range of languages via our International Enquiry Service. If you need to speak to someone you can call the helpline. Visit [www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-outside-uk](http://www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-outside-uk) for details. Please note that British Embassies and Consulates cannot answer visa questions.

## 8. Overstaying your visa



It is important that you understand and comply with the conditions of your visa and do not overstay. If you overstay your visa by even one day, you can be banned from returning to the UK for up to ten years. This means you would not be able to gain further work or study in the future.

## 9. Plan your visit



To find out more about Britain, its sport, culture, countryside and shopping visit [www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com)