



Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

STUDYING IN THE UK – THE VISITOR VISA

If you are an adult (aged 16 or over) who is not a UK or Irish national and who wants to undertake a short course of study (less than 6 months) at the Conservatoire you should apply to come here as a **Visitor**. There are four types of Visitor visas and you should apply for permission to enter as a **Standard visitor**.

1. **Standard visitor (for tourism, visiting family and study up to 6 months)**
2. Marriage and Civil Partnership visitor
3. Permitted Paid Engagement visitor
4. Transit visitor

The **Standard visitor** route is suitable for those:

- studying on courses at RCS which are less than 6 months in length
- who wish to complete a period of research
- completing a study-abroad programme in the UK as part of an overseas course, where the programme is less than 6 months in length
- coming to re-sit an exam, re-take a module or undertake a viva if they are a postgraduate student
- sitting an entrance exam or audition
- re-sitting an examination or retaking a module
- taking an oral (viva) examination for part of a PhD qualification at RCS

If you are coming to the RCS to complete a short period of research or to learn how to conduct research, you must be studying a course abroad that is the equivalent of a UK degree level course. In addition, the research must form part of, or be relevant to, the course and you must provide confirmation of this from your overseas institution.

How do I apply?

If you are a [visa national](https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply) you must apply before travelling to the UK. You can apply online at: <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply>. The cost is £95.

If you are not a visa national you can apply for permission to enter on arrival in the UK. This is free of charge.

All the application requirements are listed at: <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa>

Even if you do not need to apply for permission to enter prior to arrival you may want to do so before you travel as it could save you time when you arrive at the UK border.

Nevertheless, you should apply for permission to enter before travelling to the UK if:

- you are travelling to the UK via the Republic of Ireland

- you have any unspent criminal convictions in any country, including the UK
- you have previously been refused entry, deported or otherwise removed from the UK
- you have breached the terms of any previous entry to the UK (for example, by working illegally or staying here after your permission to stay expired)
- you have previously applied for a visa and been refused
- you have been warned by a UK official that you should obtain a visa before you travel to the UK

How long can I stay?

Visitors are given immigration permission to come to the UK for 6 months. The visa vignette or stamp in your passport will be valid for 6 months. You must be able to prove that you are a genuine student and that you do not intend to use this route to live in the UK through frequent or excessive use of the route.

What are the restrictions?

You must not intend to:

- work in the UK, which includes:
 - taking employment in the UK; and
 - doing work for an organisation or business in the UK; and
 - establishing or running a business as a self-employed person; and
 - doing a work placement or internship; and
 - direct selling to the public; and
 - providing goods and services
- access medical treatment
- claim [public funds](#)