

Glasgow School of English

Student Visa Guidance from 3rd March 2010



Do I need a visa?

You may need to apply for a visa to study in the UK. If you are from the EU, Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein or Switzerland, you do not require a visa to study in the UK. All other nationalities need a visa. The type of visa you need depends on your nationality, your age, and what you would like to do in the UK. You can check if you need a visa at the UK Visas website here: <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/doineedvisa>.

What type of visa do I need?

There are 3 types of visa you could use to study courses at Glasgow School of English. Only the General Student Visa is part of the new Points-Based Visa System (PBS) and is sometimes referred to as a Tier 4 (General) visa.

- General Student Visa (GSV)**
 You must study a full-time course (15 hours per week or more). Your level of English must be at least B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). You can extend your stay by applying for a new GSV while you are in the UK. You can bring your dependants (such as your partner or children) if you are studying for more than 6 months. You can work or volunteer up to a maximum of 10 hours per week during your course. You must be at least 16 years old.
- Student Visitor Visa (SVV)**
 You can study any course, any hours per week, at any level, for up to 6 months. You cannot extend your stay. You cannot bring your dependants, work, volunteer, or extend your stay. You must be at least 18 years old.
- Child Visitor Visa (CVV)**
 You can study any course, any hours per week, at any level, for up to 6 months. You cannot extend your stay. You cannot bring your dependants, work, volunteer, or extend your stay. You must be under 18 years old.

Please see the table below to decide which visa you need.

Do you want to study 6 months or more?	Yes	No		
Do you intend to work, volunteer, or extend your stay while in the UK?		Yes	No	
Are you under 18?			Yes	No
You need a...	GSV	GSV	CVV	SVV

Do I apply for a visa before I leave my country?

You will need to apply for a visa **before** you leave your country if you are from a 'visa national' country on this list: <http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/appendix1>. If you are from a country that is not on the list ('non-visa national') you must apply in advance for a General Student Visa (GSV) but you can get a Student Visitor Visa (SVV) at an airport upon arrival in the UK if you show your confirmation letter from the school.

Visa Application Centres

In some countries the UKBA works with a local company that acts as a Visa Application Centre (VAC) and conducts visa processing. The VAC will be able to help you to collate the correct documents and will ensure that you have all the necessary details on your visa application. The VAC will then be responsible for forwarding your application to the British Embassy or Consulate on your behalf. You can find your nearest VAC here: <http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/wheretosapply>.