



UK Visas  
& Immigration

# Applying for a UK Visitor Visa

THIS  
IS  
**GREAT**  
BRITAIN



# The UK's visa service globally



**87%**

of all visitor visa applications are successful



**1.97 million**

people were granted a visitor visa in the last year



**99%**

of all visa applications issued within 15 working days

# The UK's visa service

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## Our visa service

- We have reformed our visa service to make it easier to apply and visit the UK.
- We aim to deliver excellent customer service, make accurate decisions and keep the UK safe and secure for residents and visitors.
- We have over 200 visa applications centres around the world.
- We offer a priority visa service in over a hundred countries and premium service lounges in 30 locations.
- In the year ending Sept 2015 we issued 1.97 million visitor visas.
- 96% of visitor visas are issued within the standard 15 working days processing time.



# Visitor visa routes – recent changes

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We have simplified the immigration system for people visiting the UK. The changes created an easier-to-use system with more flexibility for applicants.

There are now just four visitor routes;

- Visit (standard)
- Visit (marriage & civil partnerships)
- Visit (permitted paid engagements)
- Visit (transit)

Routes for ‘student visitor’ and ‘parent of a child at school’ have been moved out of the visitor visa category. Further information is available at [www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa](http://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa)



# Standard visitor visas

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## Standard visitor visas

Suitable if you want to come to the UK for

- ✓ Leisure, for example a holiday or to see friends.
- ✓ Business, or to take part in sports or creative events.
- ✓ Another reason, such as private medical treatment.

You can apply for a visa up to 3 months before your date of travel to the UK and should get a decision on your visa within three weeks.

- ✓ You can usually stay in the UK for up to 6 months.
- ✓ You might be able to stay for up to 11 months if you're coming to the UK for private medical treatment or for 12 months if you are an academic visitor..

## Standard visitors are allowed to:

- ✓ Take part in any of the business-related activities mentioned in our visitor rules.
- ✓ Study for up to 30 days, as long as it's not the main reason for your visit.
- ✓ Take part in an exchange programme or educational visit – as long as you're under 18.

## Standard visitors are not allowed to:

- X Do paid or unpaid work.
- X Live in the UK for long periods of time through frequent visits.
- X Marry or register a civil partnership, or give notice of marriage or civil partnership.
- X Get public funds.



# Standard visitor visas - eligibility

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To be eligible for a visitor visa you must show that:

- ✓ You'll leave the UK at the end of your visit.
- ✓ You're able to support yourself and any dependents for the duration of your trip
- ✓ You're able to pay for your return or onward journey and any other costs relating to your visit.
- ✓ Any business or other activities you want to do in the UK is allowable in the rules.

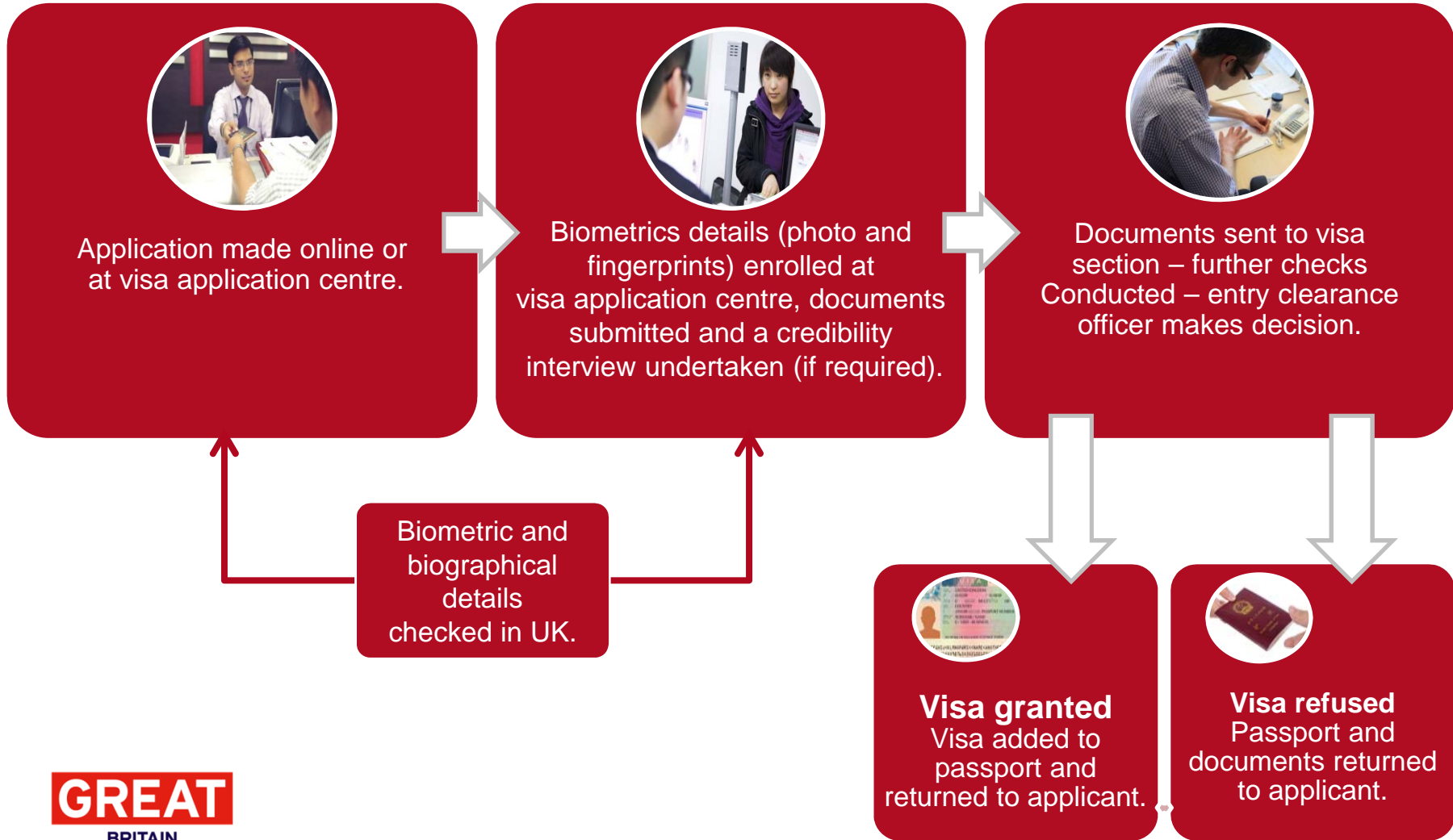
To be eligible for a long-term visitor visa you must show that:

- ✓ You have a frequent and ongoing need to come to the UK.
- ✓ The reason why you need to come to the UK is unlikely to change while your visitor visa is valid.
- ✓ You plan to leave the UK at the end of each visit.

Other conditions apply for academic visitors and those applying to visit for private medical treatment



# Visa application process



# Documents you must provide

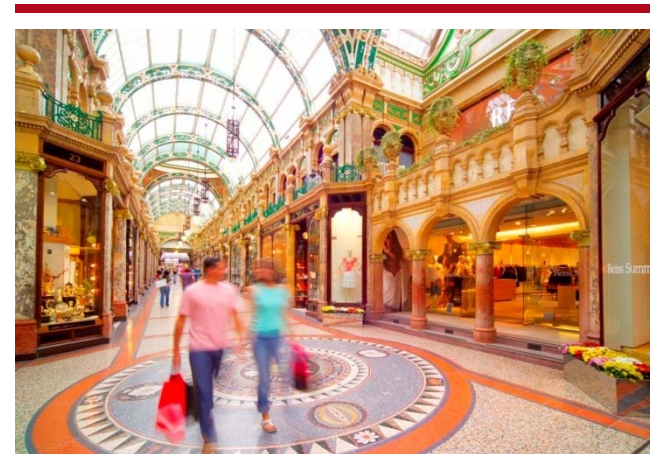
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When you apply you'll need to provide:

- ✓ A current passport or other valid travel identification
- ✓ One passport sized colour photograph.
- ✓ Evidence that you can support yourself during your trip, for example bank statements or payslips for the last 6 months.
- ✓ A page in your passport that's blank on both sides for your visa.
- ✓ A certified translation of any documents you provide that aren't in English.

You might need to provide additional documents if you're visiting:

- ✓ For private medical treatment.
- ✓ As an academic on sabbatical and want to stay for 12 months.
- ✓ As a prospective entrepreneur.





# Any questions?

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