



Home Office

Short-term Student (English language)

Version 3.0

This guidance is based on Appendix Short-term Student (English Language) of the Immigration Rules.

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About this guidance

This guidance tells you about the Short-term Student (English Language) route and how to consider an application from a short-term student for entry clearance under [Appendix Short-term Student \(English language\)](#).

Contacts

If you are an accredited institution providing a course and you are also a student sponsor that holds a premium account, you can direct questions about this guidance to your Premium Account Manager. Otherwise you can contact the [educator's helpdesk](#).

If you are a caseworker and have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior caseworker cannot help you, or you think that the guidance has factual errors, then please email the Student Migration Policy team.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance, then you can email the Guidance Rules and Forms team.

Publication

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was published:

- version **3.0**
- published for Home Office staff on **01 October 2021**

Changes from last version of this guidance

Accreditation Body for Languages (ABLS) removed from the list of approved Accreditation bodies. ABLS are no longer providing accreditation services as of 1 October 2021.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Short-term Students (English Language)

This page gives further information about the Short-term Student (English Language) route.

The Short-term Student (English Language) route is for people aged 16 or over who want to come to the UK to study an English language course with an accredited provider that will last longer than 6 months. Study of up to 6 months with an accredited provider is permitted as a visitor under [Appendix V: Visitor](#). Someone granted entry clearance under the Short-term Student (English Language) route can study on an English Language course (that does not cover any other subject areas) for up to 11 months.

People should use the Student or Child Student routes if they want to come to the UK to study:

- an English Language course that lasts between 6 and 11 months and are aged below 16
- an English Language course that lasts longer than 11 months
- any other course that lasts longer than 6 months (unless studying for a period of distance learning as a Visitor on a course otherwise taught overseas)

For more information on the Student and Child Student routes see [Appendix Student](#) and [Appendix Child Student of the Immigration Rules](#).

Recreational study for visitors

People who have been granted an entry clearance or permission to enter the UK as a Visitor (for example, for tourism or to visit family) can study on a recreational course for up to 30 days with any type of provider, but this excludes English Language courses. All English Language study undertaken as a visitor must be with an accredited provider.

For more information see [Visitor visa guidance](#).

Related content

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Validity requirements for the Short-term Student (English Language) route

This page tells you what requirements an applicant under the Short-term Student (English Language) route must meet to make a valid application for entry clearance.

Validity requirements

In order to make a valid application under the Short-term Student (English Language) route, an applicant must:

- apply online using the form 'Short-term Student visa'
- pay any application fee and Immigration Health Charge
- provided any required biometrics
- provided a passport or other travel document that establishes their identity and nationality
- be outside the UK
- be aged 16 or over on the date of application

If an applicant does not meet one or more of these requirements, you should consider whether to reject the application. If you are unsure, you should speak to a senior caseworker.

Entry clearance requirement

A person seeking to come to the UK as a Short-term student must obtain entry clearance on this route before arriving in the UK. They cannot apply for permission to enter at the UK border.

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Suitability and Eligibility requirements for the Short-term Student (English Language) route

This section tells you what requirements an applicant under the Short-term Student (English Language) route must meet to be granted permission.

Suitability requirements

Applicants must not fall for refusal under the [Part 9: grounds for refusal](#)

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to apply under this route applicants must:

- be genuinely seeking entry to study as a short-term student
- be aged 16 or over
- have been accepted on an English Language course of study by an accredited institution and provide written evidence of this from the institution
- intend to leave the UK either
 - within 30 days of the end of their course of study
 - at the end of 11 monthswhichever is the earliest
- maintain and accommodate themselves out of funds available to them
- meet the cost of their onward or return journey
- have paid their course fees on the date of application, or hold enough funds to pay their course fees and be able to demonstrate these funds as specified in [Appendix Finance](#)
- hold a valid tuberculosis (TB) certificate where applicable

If the student is aged 16 or 17, they must also:

- show that suitable arrangements have been made for their travel to, reception and care in the UK
- have consent from both parents, a parent with sole responsibility, or a legal guardian to the arrangements for the applicant's travel, reception and care in the UK

Applicants must not:

- intend to study a course that lasts longer than 11 months
- intend to study at an academy or state-funded school (for example, one which provides free education and is funded mainly from public funds)
- make the UK their main home – for example by using the route to live in the UK for extended periods through [frequent or successive](#) periods as a short-term student

- intend to take employment, become self-employed, or undertake any business activity

This table gives further information about Short-term Students and their conditions:

Requirement	Short-term Student (English Language)
Entry clearance mandatory	All applicants
Entry clearance application form	AccessUK application located on GOV.UK
Age requirement	16 or over on date of application
Entry clearance endorsements	Cat D: short term student
Biometric Residence Permit	Required
Entry clearance endorsements	Code 3: 11 months: short-term student
Length of permission	Maximum 11 months
Conditions of entry clearance	Study only on the course for which permission is granted No work No recourse to public funds
Are dependants allowed?	Not permitted
Is switching into this category permitted?	No
Is the Immigration Health Surcharge payable?	Yes
Can you apply for further permission to stay (in country) after this visa?	No
Does police registration apply?	Yes, for further information please see: police registration

Cost of application

The Short-term Student (English Language) route application costs £186. To find out the cost of an application see [UK Visa fees](#).

Related content

[Accredited institutions](#)

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Short-term students: applications for entry clearance

This page tells you how to consider applications for entry clearance under the Short-term Student (English Language) route.

Border Force staff must refuse permission to enter to an individual who arrives at the UK border without holding entry clearance on the Short-term Student (English Language) route and applies for permission to enter for the purpose of undertaking English Language study of between 6 and 11 months in length. Students studying a course of under 6 months in length can enter as a Visitor to study at an accredited institution.

When you consider an application, you must check that:

- the application is valid, see [paragraphs STS 1.1 to STS 1.4](#) of the Short-term Study rules
- the applicant's passport or travel document is genuine
- the applicant meets all suitability and eligibility requirements of the route
- there are no grounds for refusal

All applicants will be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge at the reduced rate for students when they make their application for entry clearance. See: [immigration health surcharge](#) for more information.

You must also consider whether the applicant is a [genuinely intends to study as a short-term student](#) as their reason for travelling to the UK.

The Immigration Rules do not allow short-term students to extend their stay. You must [refuse any application for permission to stay](#).

Related content:

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TB certification

This page tells you who will need to obtain a Tuberculosis (TB) certificate.

TB certification

The applicant will need to obtain a TB certificate if they are coming to the UK for over 6 months and have been present in one of the countries listed in [Appendix T of the Immigration Rules](#) for more than 6 months immediately prior to their application.

Information on how an applicant can obtain a TB certificate can be found in the [Tuberculosis tests for visa applicants guidance](#).

Related content

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English language courses up to 11 months)

This page tells you about English language courses that an applicant can be granted permission to study on the Short-term Student (English Language) route.

For the purpose of this route, 'English language study' is a course that teaches English as a foreign language only and does not include other subjects. An applicant cannot study mixed courses under this route. You must refuse any other applications for any other type of course.

You must check that the applicant has been accepted for a course of study at an [accredited institution](#). They must provide an acceptance letter from the institution with details of the course.

Students are able to extend their course up to a maximum of 11 months, provided the student is studying at the same institution. For example, if a student originally applies for an English Language course of 7 months in length, but once they have been granted permission wishes to extend that course to 11 months with the same provider, this is permitted. A student is not permitted to switch to a different provider, or switch onto a different course with their current provider.

Applicants for entry clearance on the Short-term Student (English Language) route must meet all the requirements of paragraphs [STS 3.1 to STS 7.2 of the Immigration Rules](#), see: [Eligibility requirements for Short-term Student \(English Language\) route](#).

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Accredited institutions

This page tells you what an accredited institution is, how to decide if an institution is accredited for the purpose of Short-term Student (English Language) applications and how to check the accreditation.

A short-term student must be accepted on and study an English course provided by an accredited institution.

An accredited institution is one which:

- is a licensed Student sponsor listed on the [Student sponsor register](#)
- holds valid accreditation from:
 - [Accreditation UK](#)
 - the [British Accreditation Council \(BAC\)](#)
 - the [Accreditation Service for International Colleges \(ASIC\)](#)
- holds a valid and satisfactory full institutional inspection by one of the following bodies:
 - [Estyn](#)
 - [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#)
 - [Education Scotland](#)
 - [Office for Students \(OfS\)](#)
 - [the Independent Schools Inspectorate](#)
 - [Ofsted](#)
 - [the Education and Training Inspectorate Northern Ireland](#)
- is an overseas higher education institution which offers only part of its programmes in the UK

To check that an overseas institution is an overseas higher education institution, as defined in paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules, you must check that it offers programmes equivalent to UK degrees, by checking on the [Ecctis \(formerly UK NARIC\)](#) website.

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Intention to study as a Short-term Student

This page tells you how to decide whether an applicant meets the study requirement of the Short-term study rules at STS 5.1. and therefore, genuinely intends to study as a short-term student in accordance with the short-term study rules.

To decide whether or not an applicant meets the requirements of STS 5.1, and genuinely intends to study as a Short-term Student, you must be satisfied that they:

- have given a true account of how long they intend to study in the UK
- genuinely intend to study here on a course or courses that will be completed during their stay
- genuinely intend to study at an accredited institution
- do not intend to study at an academy or state-funded school, for example:
 - one that provides free education and is mainly funded from public funds- however, a short-term student can study at a UK Higher Education Institution (university) if they pay fees
- do not intend to use [frequent and successive](#) periods of study as a means to live in the UK or to circumvent the requirements of the Student or Child Student routes
- have enough money to support themselves
- intend to leave the UK within 30 days of the end of their declared period of study, or at the end of 11 months when their visa expires, whichever is soonest

You must refer to the requirement(s) in the rules that you are not satisfied is met if refusing on one or more of these grounds. You must clearly set out why you are not satisfied the requirement is met. For example, you may not be satisfied that the person intends to leave or will be studying on a course that does not meet the requirements of the route.

Frequent or successive study

A student is likely to be considered as intending to study in the UK for extended periods through:

- successive use of the route if, for example, the student is seeking a second period of 11 months permission under the short-term study route where less than 2 months have passed since they last left the UK, having last visited the UK for the purposes of short-term study
- frequent use of the route if, for example, the student is applying for multiple periods of permission under the Short-term Student (English Language) route within a 5-year period

Where an application meets either of the above criteria, this will not automatically result in a refusal. You must consider the evidence as a whole to decide if the applicant is a genuine Short-term Student. You must be satisfied that, where the

student seeks to spend multiple periods in the UK as a Short-term Student, the frequent or successive study periods do not mean they are studying a course that lasts longer than 11 months. If a student is looking to utilise the Short-term Student (English Language) route on multiple occasions, a student would generally be expected to be studying towards a higher level of English Language proficiency against the Common European Framework of Reference for Language (CEFR) i.e. B1 level on the first instance then B2 level on the second instance. However, there may be circumstances where an applicant requires a further period of study at the same level, for example a student who hasn't achieved the English proficiency in the previous application.

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[Accredited institutions](#)

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Travel, reception and care of Short-term Students aged 16 or 17

This section tells you about suitable care arrangements for Short-term Students aged 16 or 17.

The Home Office has a statutory duty of care towards children under [section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009](#), and it is mandatory for staff to complete the e-learning course on this duty. For more information, see: Safeguard and promote child welfare.

The applicant must show that suitable arrangements have been made for their travel to, and arrival and care in, the UK if they are aged 16 or 17. You must make every reasonable effort to make sure the documents presented to you are genuine.

The applicant must show that suitable care arrangements are in place by providing written consent with the applicant from:

- both parents
- one parent if that parent has sole legal responsibility for the applicant
- the applicant's legal guardian

The written consent must confirm support for all the following:

- the application
- the applicant's living and care arrangements in the UK
- the applicant's travel to, and reception arrangements in, the UK

If a foster carer or relative, who is not a parent or guardian, has responsibility for their care, the letter of consent from their parent or parents or legal guardian regarding arrangements for their travel to, and reception and care while in the UK should include:

- the name and date of birth of the intended foster carer or relative
- the address where the applicant will be living
- the relationship of the foster carer or relative to the applicant
- authority from their parent or parents or legal guardian allowing the foster carer or relative to care for the applicant during their stay in the UK
- a letter from the education provider to include details of the foster care arrangements, and confirming they have or will notify the local authority - they should include the reply from the local authority if they have one

There is a separate legal requirement that private foster care arrangements must be notified to the relevant local authority by:

- the parents or other carer of the child
- other parties to the arrangement, for example the education provider

Unless there is cause for concern, the evidence of consent relating to care arrangements in the UK can be either confirm:

- they will be accompanied by a parent, or parents (the parent or parents should have, or be able to obtain, permission in a suitable category that enables them to travel to the UK with the child)
- suitable arrangements for private foster care exist, as above

For further information on Home Office requirements on foster care, see:

- [private foster care](#)
- [private foster care: legislation](#)

Related content

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When to grant and refuse entry clearance

This page tells you when you can grant and when you must refuse entry clearance for a person who applies for the Short-term Student (English Language) route.

Granting entry clearance

You must grant entry clearance if the applicant:

- meets all the requirements stated in Appendix Short-term Student (English Language) of the Immigration Rules
- none of the Part 9: grounds for refusal apply

You must consider the application in line with the short-term student rules as set out in this guidance. If you approve the application, you must endorse the visa as follows:

Type of student	Visa endorsement
Short-term student (11 months)	Category D: short term student

Refusing entry clearance

You must refuse the application if you are not satisfied that the applicant meets all the requirements of the Short-term Student (English Language) route, or if you are satisfied that any of the Part 9: grounds for refusal apply.

Extensions of stay in the UK

You must refuse any applications for permission to stay as a Short-term Student under [paragraph 9.14.1 of Part 9](#) of the Immigration Rules because there are no provisions in the Immigration Rules to grant permission for this purpose.

See: short-term student refusal wording for suggested wording.

Related content

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Police registration

[Immigration Rules appendix 2: police registration](#)

Conditions of permission for Short-term students

A Short-term student is not allowed to:

- access public funds
- work
- study on any course apart from the one for which they were granted permission to study

Short-term students and employment

Short-term students are not allowed to work in the UK, either in a paid or an unpaid job. They are not allowed to enrol on a course of study that includes a work placement or work experience.

Short-term students can volunteer but may not do voluntary work. You must be clear on the difference between the two.

Voluntary workers:

- often have a contract with their employer (this means the employer must provide the work and the voluntary worker must attend at particular times and carry out specific tasks)
- are also usually remunerated in kind

Volunteers:

- do not have a contract of employment
- must not take the place of an employee
- must not receive payment in kind but reimbursement for reasonable travel and subsistence expenses is allowed
- usually help a charity or voluntary or public sector organisation

Police registration

All applicants granted permission under this route must [register with the police](#) if they are a:

- national or citizen of a country or territory listed in Appendix 2 to the Immigration Rules
- stateless person
- person holding a non-national travel document

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