UK VISA REQUIREMENTS

ALL nationals of the countries and territories listed below in red (undefined) need visas to enter or transit the UK. ALL nationals of the countries and territories listed below in black need visas to enter or transit the UK landside.

ALL visas may transact the UK without a visa (TWOV) in certain circumstances. Please see below for details.

Airside Transit (where applicable): Airside transit passengers are those who do not need to change airports and do not need to pass through the UK border. Passengers cannot transit AIRSIDE to the Republic of Ireland or anywhere within the customs area.

Transit without visa (TWOV):

All Nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom AIRSIDE without a visa must:

(i) arrive and depart by air; and
(ii) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required).

Airside transit passengers are those who need or wish to pass through the UK border and enter or leave the country (e.g. to change aircraft, to collect baggage or arrive at airports where no airside transfer is possible).

Airside Transit: Transit without a visa (TWOV)

1. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.
2. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa. Service passport holders may transit without a visa.
3. Holders of a public affairs passport may transit without a visa. UK post embassies and public affairs passport holders do not require a visa if travelling with a confirmed Chinese government minister on an official visit to the UK.
4. Passengers arriving in the UK by HM Government – visa should be issued as a uniform format form (UK).
5. Holders of diplomatic or official passports may transit without a visa.
6. Holders of ordinary passports do not require a visa if they hold a valid electronic visa waiver (EVW) document.
7. Passports that include a personal ID number on the biodata page are exempt from the visa requirement.
8. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.
9. Holders may not use a B1/B2 USA visa to transit the UK.

1. All nationals of the countries and territories listed below in red (undefined) need visas to enter or transit the UK.
2. All nationals of the countries and territories listed below in black need visas to enter or transit the UK landside.

Airside Transit: Transit without a visa (TWOV)

All nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom LANDSIDE without a visa must:

(i) arrive and depart by air; and
(ii) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required).

Landside Transit: Transit passengers are those who need or wish to pass through the UK border and enter or leave the country (e.g. to change aircraft, to collect baggage or arrive at airports where no airside transfer is possible).

Landside Transit: Transit without a visa (TWOV)

1. Holders of diplomatic and special passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.
2. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa. Service passport holders may transit without a visa.
3. Holders of a public affairs passport may transit without a visa. UK post embassies and public affairs passport holders do not require a visa if travelling with a confirmed Chinese government minister on an official visit to the UK.
4. Passengers arriving in the UK by HM Government – visa should be issued as a uniform format form (UK).
5. Holders of diplomatic or official passports may transit without a visa.
6. Holders of ordinary passports do not require a visa if they hold a valid electronic visa waiver (EVW) document.
7. Passports that include a personal ID number on the biodata page are exempt from the visa requirement.
8. Holders of diplomatic passports do not require a visa for official visits, tourist visits or transit.
9. Holders may not use a B1/B2 USA visa to transit the UK.

The decision to allow a passenger to transit without a visa (TWOV) under the scheme is decided by an immigration officer at the UK border.

UK permanent residents

If a visa national is permanently resident in the UK for at least two years, they do not need a visa, as long as they return to the UK within two years of their last departure.

Passengers with the right of abode in the UK, do not need a visa.

If a visa national has a ‘certificate of entitlement to the right of abode’ label in their valid passport they do not need a visa.

If the passenger holds a refugee travel document issued by the UK they do not need a visa. If the passenger holds any other non-national or refugee travel document they need a visa to enter the UK. Whether holders of non-national and refugee travel documents require a direct airside transit visa (DATV) depends on their original nationality, and whether they qualify for one of the exemptions listed above. Persons recognised as stateless under the 1954 UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons are not required to hold a DATV and may transit airside without a visa.

Seamen

A seaman travelling on duty, who is a visa national (including those in transit through the UK) does not need a visa if he holds a valid seaman’s book issued by one of these countries which also contains a statement that it is issued under ILO108 or ILO185 (having previously ratified ILO108): Algeña, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bermuda, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Macau, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vatican City, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

If you do not have a B1/B2 visa, please contact: Visa Section, Immigration Office, U.S. Embassy, London.

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