

Immigration information for students registering on professional diploma and short courses



Congratulations! You have been offered a place on one of LSTM's professional diploma or short courses. This information sheet aims to give you some **basic advice** about what to do in order to obtain the **correct visa for your studies**.

European Economic Area nationals

If you are a European Economic Area (EEA) or Swiss national then you only need a **valid passport** or **national identity card** in order to enter the UK to commence your studies.

If your family members are also EEA or Swiss nationals, they can come to the UK in the same way as you, without restriction. If your family members are not EEA or Swiss nationals then you should contact the Academic Registrar for further advice.

Further information for EEA and Swiss nationals can be found at:

<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Preparing--planning/EEA-and-Swiss-students/>

EEA and Swiss nationals can ignore the rest of this information sheet as it does not apply to them.

Non-EEA nationals

Already hold a valid UK visa?

Some students who apply to study at LSTM already hold a valid UK visa and make the assumption that they do not need to apply for a new one. Not all visa categories permit study, some restrict the type of study you can undertake or the institution you can study at. Some visas even prohibit study altogether. **If you hold a valid UK visa it is vital that you check with us to ensure that it does not prohibit or place any restrictions on study. Under no circumstances can we enrol students with visas that prohibit or restrict study. It is your responsibility to check the status of your current visa with us well in advance of the start of the course.**

What type of visa should I apply for?

Students accepted on one of LSTM's professional diploma or short courses need to apply for a **Short-term Study Visa**. Depending on your nationality it may be **compulsory** for you to apply for a visa **before** you arrive in the UK.

Visa nationals

If you are a national or citizen of a country listed in Appendix 1 of the Immigration Rules then you are classed as a **visa national**. Visa nationals **must** apply for a **Short-term Study Visa** before they travel to the UK. An up to date list of visa national countries can be found on the UKVI website:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/300984/Appendix_1.pdf

Non-visa nationals

If you are a national or citizen of a country that **does not** appear in Appendix 1 of the Immigration Rules then you are classed as a **non-visa national** and it is not compulsory for you to apply for a Short-term Study Visa before you travel. Instead, you can apply for a Short-term Study Visa on arrival in the UK.

Entering the UK via the Republic of Ireland

If you intend to enter the UK via the Republic of Ireland then you should contact LSTM's Academic Registrar for further advice.

How do I apply for a visa before I travel to the UK (If I need to)?

Information and application forms can be found on the UKVI website:

<https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa/overview>

If you are completing an online application you need to select

- Reason for Visit: Study
- Visa Type: Study (non Points Based System)

- Visa Sub Type: Study – Short-term student 6 months

What evidence will I need to provide in order to show that I meet the Immigration Rules for a Short-term Study Visa?

Applications should include:

1. One passport sized colour photograph
2. Current passport
3. Confirmation of Place letter
4. Evidence that you have enough funds to support yourself during your studies e.g. bank statements and payslips for the last 6 months. Under the Short-term Study Visa category, there is no set amount that you must show for living costs. However, you must show that you have enough funds to support yourself without working or accessing public funds. We advise that students allow £1,015 per month for living costs. If you will be joined by family members then you should allow an additional £680 per month per family member. If you will be staying with friends or family whilst studying which will decrease your living costs then you should include evidence of this with your application.
5. Any other relevant supporting documents. For guidance see:

<https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa/documents-you-must-provide>

You must submit original documents along with a photocopy of each. Supporting documents that are not in English should be accompanied by a translation which can be independently verified.

If you are a **non-visa national** and you choose not obtain a visa before you travel you will need to produce evidence that you meet the Immigration Rules for a **Short-term Study Visa** on your arrival in the UK. You do not need to complete an application form or provide a colour photograph and the process is free of charge. See points 2-5 above for guidance on what evidence to show in support of your application.

When should I apply for a Short-term Study Visa?

You can apply for a **Short-term Study Visa** up to three months before the date you intend to travel to the UK.

How long will my application take to be processed?

Processing times vary depending on the time of year and the country you are applying in. Guidance on processing times can be found on the UKVI website:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/general-info/processing-times/>

How long will I be granted permission to stay in the UK?

You should be granted immigration permission to enter the UK for 6 months, if the course of study is 6 months or under.

What conditions will be attached to my visa?

You will have the same conditions, whether you applied for a visa before travel or not:

- you will not be allowed to work while you are in the UK, this includes paid or unpaid voluntary work
- you will not be allowed to undertake a work placement as part of your study.
- you must leave the UK before your immigration permission as a Student Visitor expires
- you will not be allowed to extend your stay in the UK beyond the date that your original immigration permission ends.
- you will not be allowed to apply to switch into any other immigration category while you are still in the UK as a student visitor.

Can I bring my family?

The immigration rules do not allow those on Short-term Study Visas to bring family members to the UK, because there is no such category as 'dependant of a short-term student'.

If you are applying for a Short-term Study visa and you have a spouse, partner, child or other person who wants to come with you to the UK, they must apply to come in their own right as general visitors. General visitors are not allowed to work or study (although in certain circumstances study of up to 30 days is permitted). If your family members wish to study, they should also apply for a Short-term Study Visa.

Further Information

For further information on visas and immigration please contact the Academic Registrar:

Ruth Pollard
Ruth.pollard@lstmed.ac.uk
+ (0)151 705 3176

Although this document is correct at the time of print, UK Immigration Rules change frequently. You should check the following sources of information for the correct application procedures