

Visa Information for Exchange, Erasmus, Study Abroad and Summer School coming to LJMU

International Students coming to the UK to study at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) usually require immigration permission (which may be a visa) in order to enter and study in the UK.

There are two main immigration permission routes to study in the UK.

- Visitor – less than 6 months
- Student Visa – more than 6 months

Which immigration route you require depends on the length of your studies. The different immigration routes have different conditions attached. It is important that you obtain the right permission for your study exchange in the UK.

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UK Visa overview for Study Exchange international students

(including students from the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland)

All Study exchange international students (including EEA citizens since 1 January 2021) will be required to obtain immigration permission to enter the UK, except citizens of the Republic of Ireland or others who already hold some type of UK immigration permission which allows study in the UK.

In some cases, immigration permission requires an application for prior Entry Clearance (a visa) before coming to the UK. This is the case for most international students coming to the UK for studies that are longer than 6 months, and for nationals of some countries (visa nationals) who require entry clearance to come to the UK for less than 6 months.

In some cases, immigration permission can be granted upon arrival at the UK border for nationals of some countries (non-visa nationals) without needing prior entry clearance, if coming to the UK to study for less than 6 months.

- Normally, if you are coming to the UK to study at LJMU for less than 6 months, you can come to the UK as a Visitor.
- If you are coming to the UK to study at LJMU for more than 6 months, you will need a Student Visa.

Visitor (study of less than 6 months)

- Permission in the UK as a [Visitor](#) allows study for up to 6 months
- Visitor is the suitable immigration permission for most study abroad and exchange placements which are 6 months or less i.e: one semester
- Visitor permission allows study in the UK of less than 6 months but cannot be used to work or carry out any business (this includes work experience or work placements, unless the placement is an eligible medical, veterinary or dentistry elective).

If you are coming to LJMU to study for less than 6 months, you can come to the UK as a **Visa Nationals and Non-Visa Nationals**

- If you are from one of the countries on the [Appendix 2: Visa National list](#), you are considered a visa national. You will need to apply for and be granted a Visitor visa before you travel to the UK.
- If you are not from one of the countries on the [Appendix 2: Visa National list](#), you are considered a non-visa national and can travel to the UK and be granted entry at the border. However, you can also apply for a visa in advance if you would like to and there may be advantages to doing so. You will want to look at both sets of information to decide.

Application Guidance – Visa Nationals

If you are a visa national, you should apply for and obtain Entry Clearance (a visa) before you come to the UK. The earliest you can apply is up to 3 months before you travel. You will need to show your passport and visa to the Border Force officer when you arrive at the UK border.

Additionally, you should carry evidence in your hand luggage / on your mobile phone of your LJMU Confirmation of Placement letter, accommodation in Liverpool and evidence of your finances in case a UK Border Force Officer asks to see them.

- A Visit visa is normally valid for up to 6 months
- A Visit Visa costs £115

The International Student Advice team at LJMU have detailed guidance and information on [Visit Visas for study](#) on the International Student Support section of the LJMU website.

- Find out more about applying for a [Standard Visit visa](#)

Guidance on your arrival in the UK – Non Visa Nationals

If you are a non-visa national, you can obtain immigration permission at the UK border when you arrive, you may encounter a UK Border Force officer to receive an entry stamp in your passport.

- Entry as a visitor granted upon arrival in the UK for non-visa nationals is normally for up to 6 months
- Entry as a visitor granted upon arrival in the UK for non-visa nationals is free of charge

Evidence for your arrival at the UK Border – Non-Visa Nationals

- Your valid passport
- You should carry your LJMU Confirmation of Placement letter, proof of your accommodation in Liverpool and evidence of your finances with you in your hand

luggage / on your mobile phone, so you can present them to a UK Border Force officer to provide evidence for the purpose of your stay, if requested.

- Confirm if asked, that you are coming to the UK to study as an exchange student on a formal agreement between our universities for less than 6 months

Using the e-gates at the UK border – Some nationalities (including EEA citizens)

If you are a citizen of a European Economic Area member state, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea or the United States of America, you may be able to use the e-gates at the UK border for quicker entry into the UK without needing to see a Border Force officer

- You can only use the e-gates if you have a biometric passport.

You should carry evidence of your purpose of visit in your hand luggage in case you encounter a Border Force Officer.

- Find out more about [using e-gates at the UK border](#)

Student Visa

All nationals (except Irish citizens or those with existing immigration permission in the UK which permits study) coming to the UK for study placements of more than 6 months, will need to apply for and obtain a Student Visa before arrival.

- **[Student Visas:](#)**
 - A student visa is immigration permission which allows you to study a specific course of study or exchange programme of any length at LJMU.
 - A student visa is required for studies of longer than 6 months
 - Visa sponsorship from LJMU is required and you will need a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) to apply for the visa
 - Restricted employment is usually permitted on a student visa
 - An application for prior Entry Clearance (a Student visa) must be made and obtained in your home country before coming to the UK

A Student Visa application should normally be made in your home country/ your country of normal residence:

- A Student Visa costs £490 from outside the UK
- There is also an additional [Immigration Health Surcharge](#)
 - (normally £470 per year)

The International Student Advice team at LJMU have detailed guidance and information on [Student Visas for study of more than 6 months](#) on the International Student Support section of the LJMU website.

- Find out more about applying for a [Student Visa](#)

Evidence for enrolment at LJMU

- In order to complete your registration on arrival at LJMU you should present your passport and visa (if you have a visa).
- LJMU will also need to see evidence of the date of your arrival in the UK for studies: This will be the immigration stamp in your passport issued at the UK border, or if you used the e-gates your boarding pass and travel ticket.

Travelling during your studies

- If you have a Student Visa or a Visit Visa, your visa should be multiple entry, so you should be able to leave and re-enter the UK during your course.
- If you are a Non-Visa national studying in the UK as a visitor without a visa, each time you exit the UK, you will need to obtain new permission to re-enter the next time – see evidence for your arrival in the UK Non-Visa Nationals
- In all cases, you should carry Confirmation of Study Letter/LJMU student card in your hand luggage in case you need to prove to the UK Border Force Officer that you are still studying.

Staying in the UK after your studies

- If you wish to remain in the UK after the end of your course, you may do so until no later than the end date of your Student Visa or Visit visa.
- If you are a non-visa national and you are studying in the UK for less than 6 months as a visitor without a visa, you should not stay in the UK for more than 6 months.
- It is not possible to extend a visit visa in the UK, nor to switch to a Student Visa.

Healthcare and medical treatment in the UK

- If you are studying in the UK with a Student Visa, you will have paid the Immigration Health Surcharge which allows you to access general healthcare in the UK without additional charge.

- If you are in the UK studying as a visitor for less than 6 months, you should obtain private medical insurance to cover the full length of your stay in the UK.

The United Kingdom Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) have detailed guidance on healthcare and medical treatment while in the UK.

- Find out more about [healthcare and medical treatment in the UK](#)

Work placements and internships

Work placements and internships are not permitted under the UK immigration rules if in the UK as a visitor.

Work is restricted if in the UK with a Student Visa.

- o Normally students with a student visa are allowed to work part time during term time (either 10 or 20 hours per week)
- o Normally students with a student visa are allowed to work full time during official vacation periods and after the end of the course until the end of the visa
- o It may be possible to undertake short periods of work experience or internships if in the UK with a student visa, if the work is within the permitted hours during term-time or if it is during official vacation periods
- o Full time work placements during term-time is only permitted if the work placement is an integral and assessed part of your course of study at LJMU

and meets the visa sponsorship requirements

Sources of Information and Advice

The International Admissions team at LJMU issue Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) for students applying for a Student Visa and can also provide information and guidance to applicants on student visa applications.

- <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/international/thinking-of-applying/meet-the-team>

The International Student Advice Team can provide students already studying at LJMU with specialist immigration and visa related advice.

- InternationalAdvice@ljmu.ac.uk
- www.ljmu.ac.uk/discover/student-support/international-student-support

The United Kingdom Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) also provide detailed information and guidance on visa/ immigration and related matters for international students coming to study in the UK.

- www.ukcisa.org.uk

Full information on the immigration rules, requirements for student visas and visitors and guidance on the application process for visas can be found on the UK government website.

- www.gov.uk/student-visa
- www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa