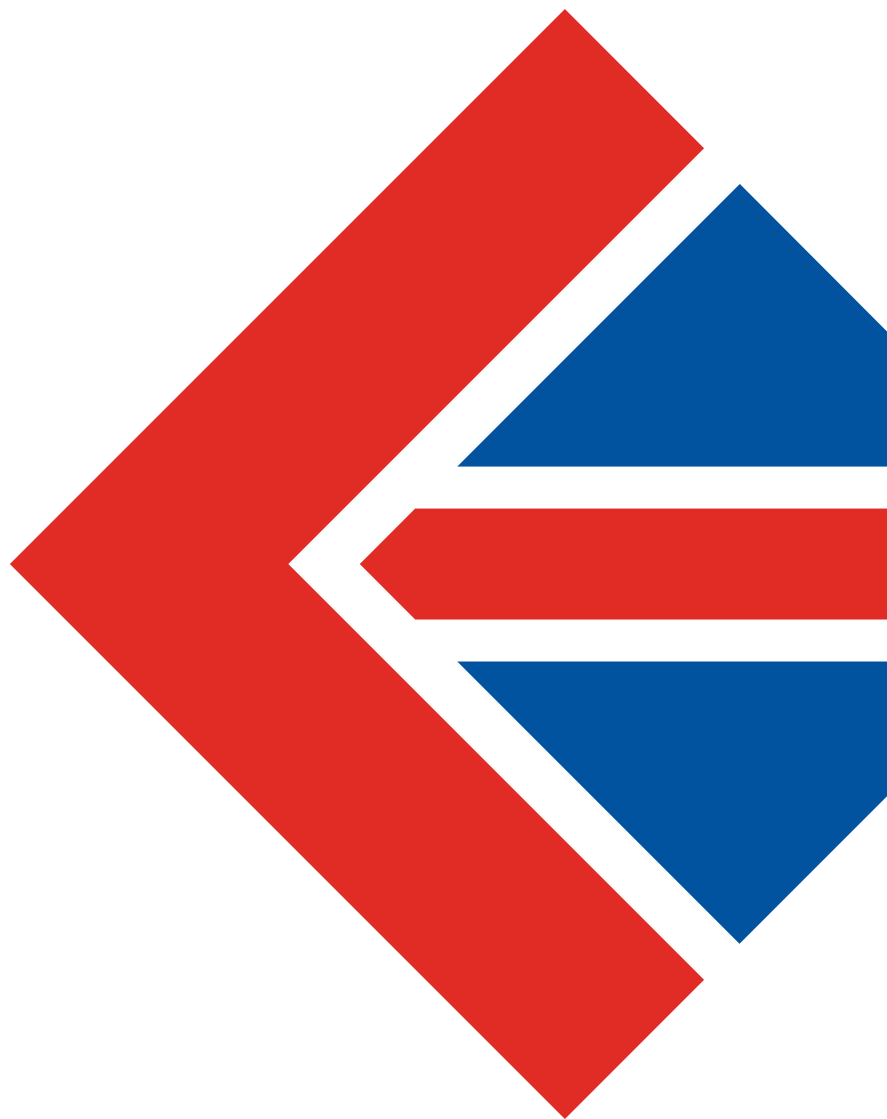


EXTENDED STUDENT VISITOR VISA - FAQ

January 2011



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Student Visitor Visa – what is it?

The Student Visitor Visa (SVV) is for students taking a short course of study in the UK for six months or less. As the name suggests, it falls under the visitor visa category rather than the main student visa category (Tier 4).

Like a visit visa, the SVV does not allow students to undertake any employment or bring dependants.

Under 18s/Over 18s

The SVV is only available to students over 18. Students under 18 wishing to come to the UK to undertake a course of study will have to apply as a general visitor.

How to Apply?

Students applying for a SVV need to use VAF1D. Under 18s have to use VAF1A.

In some countries students can also apply on-line. Please see www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas

Cost

The cost of a SVV is currently £70.

Extended Student Visitor Visa

In December 2010 Damian Green, the Immigration Minister, announced a new Extended Student Visitor Visa (ESVV) for English language students. The ESVV will only be available to students over 18 years old who want to study an English language course for between six and eleven months. The visa will be valid for 11 months. Students enrolling on other courses or English Plus courses will not qualify for the ESVV.

Students will need to show that their course is longer than 6 months. The ESVV will cost £70 and will be available to students applying from 10 January 2011.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who can apply for the Extended Student Visitor visa?

A: Students of all nationalities (including non-visa nationals) who are planning to come to the UK to study an English language course between 6 and 11 months long

Q: Can Students under 18 apply for the Extended Student Visitor?

A: No, this Visa is only available to those aged 18 or over.

Q: Is the Extended Student Visitor visa a replacement for the current 6 month Student Visitor route?

A: No. The Student Visitor route will remain in place. This is a concession to allow those wishing to coming to study English language courses only on courses for longer than 6 months and no more than 11 months.

Q: What do you define as an 'English language course only'?

A: Where 100% of the syllabus and teaching is English language.

Q: What level of English language course will this Extended Student Visitor visa apply to?

A: Students can study English language courses at any level under the Extended Student Visitor visa

Q: Is it possible to study non-English language courses if a Student comes to the UK as a 6 month student visitor?

A: Yes. The requirements for the existing 6 month Student Visitor route remain the same.

Q: Can students apply for an Extended Student Visitor even if their course is less than 6 months, especially if they would like to extend their course in the UK?

A: No. Students can only apply for the ESVV if their course is longer than 6 months.

Q: How much leave is a Student given if they are studying an English language course for longer than 6 months?

A: Students will be granted leave for 11 months.

Q: Do the same financial rules apply for an Extended Student Visitor visa as for the General Student Visa? In particular, what level of maintenance funds must they show, and does the 28 day rule apply?

A: Apart from the duration of the visa, all other rules are exactly the same as for the SVV.

Q: Can I transfer to another English language course once my initial English language course is completed?

A: Yes. You may move to another English language course e.g. if you progress faster than expected, provided you do not stay in the UK for longer than your visa states. You must not move onto a course of study in any subject other than English language.

Q: Can I transfer to another non-English language course once my English language course is completed?

A: No. The Extended Student Visitor visa does not allow students to transfer to another UK course once they have completed their English language course. If you wish to continue studying in the UK you will need to return to your home country and re-apply under the correct route.

Q: Can I transfer to an English language course offered by another education provider during the time I am studying under an Extended Student Visitor visa?

A: Yes, provided the other English language school provider holds a Tier 4 sponsor licence or is accredited by a UK Border Agency-approved accreditation body, and is prepared to enrol the Student onto their course.

Q: Can a Student work whilst studying under an Extended Student Visitor visa?

A: No. Students cannot take up any form of employment whilst in the UK on either a Student Visitor or an Extended Student Visitor visa.

Q: Can a Student bring dependants to the UK whilst studying under an Extended Student Visitor visa?

A: No. The Extended Student Visitor visa does not allow for dependants who must apply for a visa in their own right.

Q: Which visa application form do I use to apply for an Extended Student Visitor visa?

A: Students should use the application form VAF 1D which is available on the Visa Services website.

Q: Does the Extended Student Visitor visa attract a right of appeal?

A: No. The appeal rights are the same as the Student Visitor route and do not attract a full right of appeal.

Q: How much does the Extended Student Visitor visa cost?

A: The cost for an Extended Student Visitor visa is the same as the cost for a 6 month Student Visitor visa which is currently £70.

Q: Will a non-visa national need to apply for the Extended Student Visitor visa?

A: Yes.

Q: A non-visa national, studying English Language in the UK as a Student Visitor with 6 months leave to remain: Can they apply for an extension (or the extended visitor visa) in the UK before their 6 month leave expires?

A: No, they can only apply for the Extended Student Visitor visa outside of the UK.

Q: A visa national currently in the UK on a 6 month Student Visitor visa studying English Language. Can they apply for an extension (or the Extended Student Visitor visa) in the UK before their 6 month leave expires?

A: No, it is not possible to extend a Student Visitor visa. Applications for the Extended Student Visitor visa can only be made from outside of the UK.

Q: How do I make an online application?

After accessing Visa4UK via the Visa Services website (<http://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/ApplyNow.aspx>) and entering your email and password details you will be taken to the 'Your Visa Requirements' screen.

You will then need to:

- select your 'Current Location' and 'Country of Nationality'
- select "**Visit**" for the 'Purpose of Application'
- select "**(General) Student visitor, to study English Language**"

For further information about applying for an Extended Student Visitor visa see the following visa application guide:

<http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/howtoapply/infos/inf2visitors#445910682>



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