

Global Scholars Visa Guide 2024

This information is for U.S. citizens and other non-visa nationals students who do not require a visa to study the Global Scholars programme in the UK.

If you require a visa, please refer to our Visa Nationals Guide.

FAQs

Do I need a visa for Global Scholars?

If you are a U.S. citizen or have a passport issued by a **non-visa national country**, and want to come to study the Global Scholars programme in the UK, then you can enter the UK as [a Standard Visitor](#) (SVV) on arrival and you do not need to apply for a visa before you arrive. However, there are still some requirements which you need to meet.

If you do not require to apply for a visa before you travel, you will be automatically granted an SVV at the border.

If you are a national of the USA, an EU country, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, or Switzerland, you may use the e-Gates to enter the UK. You will automatically be granted an electronic Standard Visitor Visa which will be on your passport chip.

How can I check if I require a visa?

All students should check if they need to obtain a UK visa prior to travelling to the UK or if they can obtain the appropriate permission at the UK border. You can check [here](#) if you require a visa to enter the UK to study a course for up to six months. This tool also provides an overview of the applicable visa process and details about supporting documentation requirements.

Can I work, undertake an internship or extend my visa in the UK?

Students on an SVV cannot work (paid or unpaid, including internships) in the UK. They cannot claim government benefits or have recourse to public funds.

Can I switch to a new course if I have a Standard Visitor Visa?

SVV students cannot extend their stay within the UK. You must leave the UK upon completion of your course and apply for a new visa from your country of nationality for any further studies.

Standard Visitor Visa Information for 'Non-Visa Nationals'

When you visit the [UKVI website](#) to check if you need a visa, you will be asked to select your nationality as shown on your passport or travel document. After making your selection and providing the necessary information, you may see the following:

You do not need a visa to come to the UK

This means you do not need to apply for a Standard Visitor visa before you travel to the UK. When you enter the UK you will automatically be granted a visa at the border.

Using the e-Gates

If you are a national of the USA, an EU country, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, or Switzerland, you may use the [e-Gates](#) to enter the UK. You will automatically be granted an electronic Standard Visitor Visa which will be on your passport chip.

If you are not a national of the above countries, please refer to the Visa Nationals Guide.

You must retain a copy of your boarding pass or travel document to present at enrolment, as proof of your date of arrival in the UK.

Can I transit through Ireland?

Please note that if you are planning to obtain your SVV at the airport, you must not transit through the Republic of Ireland. Due to the common travel arrangement between the UK and Ireland, you will be unable to obtain the appropriate visa if you transit through Ireland. Should you choose to transit through the Republic of Ireland, you will need to obtain your visa in advance - please refer to the Visa Nationals Guide.

What if I hold a European Union (EU) / European Economic Area (EEA) / Swiss passport?

Post-Brexit and under the new immigration rules, all EU, EEA and Swiss citizens are considered non-visa nationals for a visit to the UK for up to six months. The same non-visa national immigration rules apply to the EU, EEA or Swiss citizens.

This means they do not need to apply for a visa from their home country if they are coming to the UK to study the Global Scholars programme.

Important Information for Entering the UK

If you plan to enter the UK as an SVV student, which allows you to study a course for up to six months, then you can obtain the appropriate permissions on arrival in the UK.

You must declare that study is the main purpose of your visit to the Immigration Officer at the UK border and satisfy the entry requirements in order to qualify for entry to the UK as an SVV Student under the Immigration Rules.

Important Note: Students should NOT make plans to make their first entry into the UK from anywhere in the Republic of Ireland (Dublin, Shannon, Galway, etc.). Given the common travel area with the UK, you will not be able to obtain the correct visa at the airport and you will need to leave the UK and enter again before you are able to attend classes.

Please make plans to enter the UK either from another EU country or directly from your home country. Should you choose to enter the UK directly from the Republic of Ireland, you will be required to obtain the Standard Visitor Visa **before you travel to the UK**, and as such, you should follow the information in the Visa-Required Nationals Guide.

If you leave the UK (e.g. you take a trip to Spain for the weekend), you will need to ensure that you carry all the documents required to request re-entry for the purpose of studying again at the UK border. Please be sure to retain a copy of all of the supporting documents to carry with you during travel.

Standard Visitor Visa Requirements

These documents should be carried with you on entry to the UK, in order to satisfy the immigration requirements at the point of entry (e.g. airport). **Please note that the below list is not exhaustive.** All students should confirm supporting documentation requirements directly with the British consular authority responsible for their country of residence.

Northeastern University London will provide you with the documentation listed with an asterisk (*). Northeastern University London will send these to you after you have submitted your valid passport copy to your App Status Check account. Please allow at least 5-7 business days for processing.

Document	Requirements
1. A valid passport	Your passport must least one blank page (front and back); your passport should be valid for the full duration of your stay in the UK.
2. Proof that you are seeking entry as a student visitor for a limited period not exceeding 6 months.	This will be provided to you by Northeastern University. We will provide you with proof of enrolment, as well as a letter verifying that your tuition and housing are pre-paid and guaranteed.
3. Proof of acceptance on a course of study and accommodation details	This will be provided to you by Northeastern University London.
4. Proof that you intend to leave the UK at the end of your visit and can meet the cost of the return journey	The border officer may require you to show a return ticket, so please be sure to carry proof of your round-trip itinerary.
5. Proof of adequate financial means to support yourself during your time in the UK	Please note, that the NU London letter may not fulfil the 'financial' requirement. It is recommended that you have copies of your bank statement or your parent's bank statement for at least the last two months prior to your date of arrival in the UK. The bank statement must show adequate funds are available to support you for the duration of your studies in the UK. If you are providing your parent's bank statement then you must have a letter from your parent confirming that they will take care of any expenses incurred during your time of studies in the UK and a copy of your parent's bank statement showing sufficient funds.
6. Contact details of a parent or legal guardian in your home country	

Only present the documents from the above documents (2 to 6) **IF** requested by the immigration officer at the port of entry in the UK. You must not intend to take employment or engage in business activities in the UK, and you should be prepared to attest to this on entry, in the event that you are asked by an immigration officer.

Genuine Visitor Requirements

All visitors to the UK must satisfy the genuine visitor requirements. This means that:

- You will leave the UK at the end of your visit;
- You must not intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits. You must also not intend to make the UK your main home. Please refer to the [visitor guidance](#);
- You must be genuinely seeking to enter the UK for a purpose and activity permitted as a visitor;
- You must not undertake any of the prohibited activities for a visitor. See [Prohibited activities](#);
- You must have enough money to support yourself whilst you are in the UK. This includes the cost of your return or onward journey and any permitted activities that you have planned. You will not be able to work or access public funds in order to support yourself. In assessing this requirement, the [visitor guidance](#) states that your income and savings will be looked at minus any financial commitments you have.
- You must ensure to have private medical insurance from your home country before you come to the UK

The remaining sum must be sufficient to meet the likely costs that you will incur in the UK and also your reasonable expenditure. Please see [Prohibited Activities](#) for further details. You can rely on another person to help you demonstrate that you have sufficient funds to cover your travel, maintenance and accommodation whilst in the UK. You must have a genuine professional or personal relationship with this person, however, they cannot be in breach of any immigration laws at the time the decision on your application is made or by the time you wish to enter the UK as a visitor. This person must also be able to support you for the duration of your visit;

- Any funds that you wish to rely upon must be held in a financial institution permitted under [FIN 2.1 in Appendix Finance](#)

Important Reminders for All Students

This document has been prepared based on the information and links provided by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). ***Please check with the British consular authority in your region for the most updated visa requirements and processes for the United Kingdom (UK). The information above is intended as informational guidance only and does not constitute legal advice.***

Northeastern University and Northeastern University London have no influence on the outcome of immigration applications and no ability to contact UKVI to inquire about an individual immigration application, or to expedite the process for an individual student. In addition, Global Scholars employees are unable to provide advice to students or families concerning immigration requirements and/or application processes.

Students are responsible for completing applications for immigration permissions or registrations correctly and in an effective manner, and for obtaining any required permissions prior to the program start date. If the student cannot obtain valid permission in time for the program start date, please refer to the Global Scholars Withdrawal Policy and contact the Global Scholars office to discuss the next steps.