



## THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS:

### Who needs a Visa:

- All pupils from the EU who stay in the UK for more than 180 days (6 months) require a visa for their time at a British boarding school. If your child is under 18 years of age at the time of application, then they will need a “Child Student Visa”. If the applicant is already 18 years old at the time of application, they will require a “Student Visa”.
- All pupils attending a British boarding school for 2 Terms will need a visa, assuming the pupil is attending for the Autumn/Michaelmas Term and the Spring Term. In most cases, pupils attending a British school just for the Spring and Summer terms will not require a visa, as the period of stay is under 6 months.
- The visa cannot be applied for any earlier than 6 months before the start of the course. The processing time is usually about 3 weeks. Experience from last year has however shown that we would not recommend leaving the application until July but would recommend starting much earlier.
- The British boarding schools will initiate the application process. They will require specific documents and will contact you.

### Who doesn't require a Visa:

- All pupils attending a British school for either 1 or 1.5 Terms do not require a visa. Certain documents will however be required on arrival in the UK.

## VISITOR ROUTE (STAYS OF LESS THAN 6 MONTHS)

### MAIN POINTS:

- **No visa required**
- Entry requires a passport valid for at least the duration of the stay
- An Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) must be applied for in order to enter the country. The ETA can be applied for via the [“UK ETA App”](#). The authorisation is digitally linked to the passport
- Proof of health insurance that is also valid abroad (possibly also additional international health insurance)
- A letter of consent from both parents confirming that adequate travel, accommodation and care arrangements have been made. A sample text for this letter can be found in the appendix, or a [template is available to download](#)
- A simple letter of confirmation from the school regarding your child’s admission and the duration of the stay or course
- The required ETA costs £16

### Further details:

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- It must be clear that the student intends to leave the UK after 180 days.
- It is possible to leave and re-enter the country during the holidays and at weekends. However, time spent outside the country cannot be counted towards the 180-day limit.
- Students who entered the country for a term without a visa and wish to extend their stay must apply for a visa at home during the holidays.
- Further information at: [New immigration system: what you need to know - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta#apply-for-an-eta>

## CHILD STUDENT & STUDENT VISA (STAYS LONGER THAN 6 MONTHS)

### MAIN POINTS:

- **“Child Student Visa”** for pupils under 18 years of age at the time of application
- **“Student Visa”** for those aged 18 and over and for all “Foundation Courses”
- Stay of 180 days or more
- Required:
  - Biometric passport
  - [Letter of Consent from both parents](#)
  - CAS letter from the school (*Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies*)
  - Your child’s international birth certificate (or certified translation)
  - For “Student Visas” only: Proof of English language proficiency (B1)
- Costs:
  - **For up to 8 months:** £558 visa fee + £776 IHS (health insurance) = **£1,334**
  - **For 1 year:** £558 visa fee + £1,164 IHS = **£1,722**
  - **For 2 years:** £558 visa fee + £1,940 IHS = **£2,498**

### Further details:

- You can obtain the international birth certificate from the registry office where your child was registered.
- The first step is to obtain the CAS letter.
- You can apply for the visa no earlier than six months before the start of your stay. A decision will be made within three weeks.
- It is not possible to waive the *Immigration Health Surcharge* by providing proof of private health insurance or existing international health insurance.
- Participants on a *Foundation Course* must always choose the “Student Route”, regardless of age.

### Further information at:

- <https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa>
- <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

## Useful Links

### Templates and further information

- [Brexit, Entry & Visa - Barbara Glasmacher Internationale Schulberatung](#)

### Official Websites British Government

- [Guidance new immigration system](#)
- [The Child Student Visa](#)
- [The Student Visa](#)
- [Find a visa application centre](#)
- [Information on the Immigration Health Surcharge](#)
- [Cancelling a Visa](#)

### Visa Agency

Holmes & Partners: [www.holmes-partners.co.uk](http://www.holmes-partners.co.uk)  
Mrs Michelle Holmes  
[michelle@holmespartners.co.uk](mailto:michelle@holmespartners.co.uk) / Tel: ++44-113  
5246991

## Guardian rules for the Child Student Visa

### Thorough screenings of guardians

- Since 29 May 2025, stricter rules have been in place regarding who is accepted as a guardian and who is not. Boarding schools must now carry out more thorough checks than before to ensure that the guardian is a trustworthy person. Only then are boarding schools permitted to issue the CAS letter.

Close relatives such as grandparents, siblings, step-parents and uncles or aunts ('close family' – cousins are no longer included) may be appointed as guardians. Close friends of the family are also eligible. In both cases, certain documents must be provided – including proof of UK residency status, proof of address, a police certificate (Enhanced DBS) and a signed Letter of Undertaking. For friends of the family, the vetting process is usually more extensive.

### A good alternative – guardian agencies

- A good alternative is therefore to choose a guardian agency from the outset. We have entered into a framework agreement with Pippa's Guardians on behalf of our families; they can be appointed as guardians for a small fee. Please contact us directly if you wish to take advantage of this offer.

### The guardian in the visa application

- The visa application does not ask directly for a guardian. It simply asks about 'Living Arrangements' outside school hours in a separate section. Here, please state that your child always flies home during the holidays. See also the guidance on completing the 'Living Arrangements' section earlier in this guide.