

Immigration & Visa Regulations

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.

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VISITOR ROUTE (STAYS OF LESS THAN 6 MONTHS)

MAIN POINTS:

- **No visa required**
- Entry with passport valid for the duration of stay
- Proof of health insurance that is also valid for abroad (possibly also an additional health insurance for abroad)
- *Letter of Consent* of both parents confirming sufficient travel and care arrangements. A stay at a boarding school is considered sufficient care
- You can find a [template for a Letter of Consent on our website](#)
- Letter of confirmation from the school about the admission of your child and the duration of the stay or course
- No costs

Further details:

- The intention must be evident that the student will leave the UK again after six months, e.g., by a booked return flight dated at the end of the stay.
- It is possible to leave and re-enter the country during holidays and weekends. However, the periods outside the country cannot be added to extend the total period of six months. The original start of the stay always applies, six months from then.
- Students who have entered the country for one term without a visa and subsequently wish to extend their stay must apply for a visa at home during the holidays.

For further information:

[New immigration system: what you need to know - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-immigration-system-what-you-need-to-know)

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

MAIN POINTS:

- **Visa required**
- „**Child Student Visa**“ for students under 18 years at the time of application
- “**Student Visa**” for students 18 years old or older at the time of application
- Duration of stay from six months up to six years
- *Letter of Consent* of both parents
- CAS-letter issued by the school (*Confirmation of Acceptance from School*)
- Entry with passport valid for the duration of stay (this should preferably be the same passport that was used for the visa application)
- For up to 8 months: £490 visa fee + £776 IHS (health insurance) = £1,266
For 1 year: £490 visa fee + £1,164 IHS = £1,654
For 2 years: £490 visa fee + £1,940 IHS = £2,430
- Evidence of finance (for non EU/EEA students)
- Only for “Student Visa”: Proof of sufficient English language skills (B2)

Further details:

- The first step in the application process is always the issuing of the CAS letter by the school.
- The visa can be applied for at the earliest six months before the start of the stay (online application is possible). The decision is usually made within three weeks.
- It is not possible to replace the Immigration Health Surcharge with proof of existing health insurance abroad.
- It is possible to enter the UK with a valid visa up to one month before the start of school.
- Students on a Foundation Course must always take the Student Route, regardless of age.

For further information: <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

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