


UK Visumprocedure/ UK Visa procedure

UK mobilities will be eligible for an **Erasmus International Credit Mobility (ICM) grant** (https://leho-howest.instructure.com/courses/4161/pages/overzicht-beursprogrammas-and-deadlines-voor-een-studiesemester-of-lange-stage-in-het-buitenland-nl?module_item_id=21530) (and some of the **other grant schemes for non-EEA mobility, such as Beurzen Provincie West-Vlaanderen or Generieke beurzen** (https://leho-howest.instructure.com/courses/4161/pages/overzicht-beursprogrammas-and-deadlines-voor-een-studiesemester-of-lange-stage-in-het-buitenland-nl?module_item_id=21530)).

Please note that since the European Health Insurance Card is no longer valid in the UK, it is recommended to take out a private insurance. Read about it **here**  (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-for-eu-and-efta-citizens-visiting-the-uk#travel-insurance>).


General note!

The UK has implemented a new procedure for everyone (including EU citizens) travelling to the UK without a specific visa (for example in case of tourism or study < 6 months).

You will have to apply for an **electronic travel authorisation (ETA)** online or via an app. This costs GBP 16.

More info here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>  (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>)


Check when you can get an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-when-you-can-get-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>  (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-when-you-can-get-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>)



Study

Study in the UK <6 months:

- EU students:
 - in general no visa needed, though EU students do need to check the '**Visa National List**'  (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-visa-national-list>) to see if they are exempted from entry clearance (and thus the application of a 'Visitor Visa')
 - An international passport will do if your nationality is not mentioned in the 'Visa National List'.

As from 1 October 2021 students are required to present an international passport upon border control. It is recommended to take your Learning Agreement along, just in case of control at the e-gate.

- An Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA)
- Non EEA students:
 - A '**Visitor Visa** [↗\(https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply\)](https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply)' is compulsory

Study in the UK >6 months:

- Both EU and non EEA students need a '**Student Visa** [↗\(https://www.gov.uk/student-visa\)](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa)'. The procedure is the same for all applying students for a student visa (so independent of their nationality).
- Students need to prove their **English proficiency** [↗\(https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english\)](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english) (Secure English Language Test SELT).

Traineeship up to 12 months

Traineeships to the UK - manual for visa and sponsorship (<https://leho-howest.instructure.com/courses/4161/files/folder/Bestemmingen/UK?preview=3730430>)

All students going to the UK on a traineeship, both non-EEA/EU, paid/unpaid, need to apply for a "**Government Authorized Exchange Visa** [↗\(https://www.gov.uk/government-authorized-exchange/apply\)](https://www.gov.uk/government-authorized-exchange/apply) (Temporary Work)" (= GAE visa), however you will first need to apply for a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) before you can actually start applying for this type of visa.

The procedure of applying for a Certificate of Sponsorship + the visa application will take minimum 10 weeks in total, so start in time!


BEWARE!


given the multiple problems faced by our students when trying to obtain a visa for traineeship in the UK, in spite of starting the procedures early enough and also after having been accepted by a company or organisation and the traineeship agreement being signed on all ends - Howest International Office advises against undertaking traineeship in the UK for the time being, **UNLESS** your company arranges the visa for you via an officially approved government agency. That is often the case for students from our DAE or ICT-focused study programmes; they tend to get paid well for the traineeship, and we assume that their host company arranges a GAE visa on their behalf. All other students are recommended to choose an alternative destination, like Ireland for instance. Flanders' Higher Education has asked the UK authorities to work on a solution. We will inform here of any changes in this situation.

What is a 'Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS)'

The CoS is a unique reference number which holds information about the work placement and the participant's personal details. The participant will need to use this number when applying for a visa. The CoS number is issued by the sponsoring institution (see section below).

How to apply for a Certificate of Sponsorship in the framework of a "Government Authorized Exchange Visa (Temporary Work)" (= GAE visa)

No matter which funding your traineeship has, you can only do a traineeship in an organisation licensed as a sponsor by the British Government. [Here](#) 

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/980172/2021-04-26_Tier_2_5_Register_of_Sponsors.pdf) (https://docreader.readspeaker.com/docreader/?cid=13620&lang=nl_be&url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F980172%2F2021-04-26_Tier_2_5_Register_of_Sponsors.pdf) you can find the list of licensed sponsors such as [Bunac](#)  (<https://bunac.org/intern-uk>). These organisations can offer you sponsorship/your CoS.


How to apply for a "Government Authorized Exchange Visa (Temporary Work)"


You can apply for a this visa [here](#).  (<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/visa-type>)

The visa application may take another 3 to 4 weeks!


What does the GAE visa application cost

It costs £319 but for certain nationalities, like Belgians, there is a £55 discount.

On top of that you may have to pay an 'Immigration Health Surcharge' (IHS) though Students with a TIER 5 visa are eligible for free medical treatment through the [National Health Service \(NHS\)](#)  (<https://www.britbound.com/the-inbounder/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-national-health-service-nhs>).

You can check it via the [Immigration Health Surcharge calculator](#)  (<https://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/Type>).


Extra information

More [info](#)  (<https://www.epos-vlaanderen.be/nl/brexit-update>) from EPOS about the entry obligations.

For the GAE visa students will need to provide contacts to the scheme and they will be responsible for meeting the ongoing reporting and record keep obligations during their internship.

This will include:

- **ON INTERN'S FIRST DAY AT WORK:** Confirming the intern's arrival to start work in the UK: Providing copies of the UK Employer's Right to Work Check and the intern's new UK contact details, within 24 hours of their first day at work.
- **DURING THE INTERNSHIP:** Providing copies of each of the Intern's payslips each month during the internship AND providing details of any changes to the interns' circumstances (contact details, remuneration, job role, work location, unauthorised absences etc.)
- **AT THE END OF THE INTERNSHIP:** Confirming the intern's last day of employment and onward travel booking confirming their departure from the UK prior to their visa expiry date.

After the traineeship, the GAE visa can be converted into a **Skilled Worker Visa**  (<https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>) if the trainee is offered a qualifying job with a salary that meets the UK's new (and significantly higher) salary threshold.