UK Visa Screening Requirements - Detailed

Overview

This document summarises the key visa screening and application requirements for the United Kingdom (UK). It is intended for project use and is compiled from official UK government guidance.

The most relevant UK documents include the Visit visa supporting documents guidance and the Immigration System Statistics which explain what officers check when assessing visa applications.

Primary Identity & Travel Documents

Valid passport or travel document with at least one blank page. Passport should be valid for travel; some applications recommend 6 months' validity.

Recent passport-sized photographs according to UK specifications. Certified copies of previous passports if available.

Proof of Purpose & Supporting Evidence

Visitors: travel itinerary, accommodation bookings, letter of invitation from host, proof of return or onward travel.

Students: Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from the sponsor institution, proof of course details and fee payment.

Workers: Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS), employer details, salary and contract evidence.

Financial & Accommodation Screening

Bank statements covering a recent period (commonly 3–6 months), payslips, tax documents, or sponsorship letters proving funds for the stay.

Evidence of accommodation (hotel bookings or host declaration) and who will pay for expenses while in the UK.

Background, Criminality & Health Checks

Applicants may be asked for criminal records or disclosure of previous immigration refusals. Specific suitability grounds are checked under the Immigration Rules.

Medical or tuberculosis tests may be required for applicants from certain countries or for specific visa types.

Biometrics & Interview

Biometric enrolment (fingerprints and photo) at a Visa Application Centre (VAC) is required for many non-EEA applicants. Some applicants may be called for an interview or further administrative

checks.

Common Reasons for Refusal & Tips

Insufficient proof of funds, weak ties to home country, discrepancies in the application, or missing documents are common causes of refusal.

Prepare clear, dated, and translated documents where necessary; use certified translations for non-English evidence.

Practical Checklist (What to Include)

Passport copy, application form, payment receipt, recent photos, bank statements, employment/study proof, accommodation proof, travel itinerary, invitation letters, and any police certificates if requested.

Sources

UK Home Office guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visitor-visa-guide-to-supporting-documents/guide-to-supporting-documents-visiting-the-uk

UK Immigration statistics and data tables: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-data-tables