

# UNITED KINGDOM – VISA ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (FULL TEXT)

## Purpose

This guidance covers short-term and standard visitor visas and explains the eligibility and suitability criteria UK Visas and Immigration uses when deciding applications. It also includes permitted activities, validity and evidentiary expectations.

## Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant must intend to visit the UK for a **temporary** period and leave at the end of the visit.
- Applicant must be able to **do only permitted activities** for that visa class (e.g., tourism, visiting, short business activities) and must *not* do work or study beyond what is permitted.
- Applicant must **pay for their return or onward journey** or demonstrate funds to do so.
- Applicant must be able to **support and accommodate themselves** for the duration of their stay without accessing public funds.
- Applicant must satisfy **identity, suitability, and credibility** checks – including whether they have previously breached UK immigration rules or been removed.
- Applicants who require a visa must apply online and attend a biometric appointment at a visa application centre.

## Documents Typically Required

- Valid passport (with sufficient validity) and previous passports if available.
- Completed online application and confirmation.
- Biometric enrolment (photo + fingerprints) at the visa centre.
- Proof of travel plans and funds: bank statements, payslips, sponsorship letters, accommodation details.

- Evidence of ties to home country: employment letter, family, property or study enrolment.
- Additional documents for specific visitor subcategories (eg academic visitor evidence, medical treatment letters, etc.).

### **Notes and Special Cases**

- There are several distinct visitor subcategories (Standard Visitor, Transit Visitor, Marriage/Civil Partnership Visitor, Academic Visitor) each with specific permitted activities and time limits.
- A visa does not guarantee entry – final admission is subject to border control.
- Some nationalities are visa-exempt; check nationality tables for requirements.

**Key official guidance (source)**  
UK Visit guidance (Home Office).