

## Visiting Student Programmes Guidance Notes

The **Visiting Student Programme** is for students who:

- Are currently studying for an MPhil or PhD at a Higher Education Institution (HEI) outside of the United Kingdom (the course you are studying must be recognised as equivalent to a UK MPhil or PhD, as determined by [Ecctis](#). UAL will verify this after you have applied);
- Would like to visit UAL for either **3** or **6** months *as an 'extra' part of their research degree study* (the visiting programme is not accredited and will not constitute part of your current course).
- Will be undertaking a piece of research at UAL related to their MPhil or PhD.

Please see the table on the next page for more information about the features and minimum requirements for each of the different programmes.

### Entry points and deadlines

You can begin your visit to UAL at one of three entry points throughout the year. Please note that there are different application deadlines depending on when you would like to begin your visit:

- **1<sup>st</sup> October** (deadline for applications 1<sup>st</sup> July)
- **1<sup>st</sup> January** (deadline for applications 1<sup>st</sup> October)
- **1<sup>st</sup> April** (deadline for applications 1<sup>st</sup> January)

### International students

International students who wish to join the Visiting Student Programme will normally need a [Standard Visitor Visa](#).

### Overview

	Visiting Student Programme
Length of visit	<b>3</b> or <b>6</b> months
Mentor	Named academic contact. The academic contact will support the piece of research you will be undertaking whilst in the UK but will not provide supervisory support for your MPhil or PhD.
Access to UAL buildings, libraries and events	Yes
Access to RNUAL	Yes

Training Programme	
Access to PGR Study Resources	Yes
UAL Student Card	Yes
UAL Email Address	Yes
Other benefits available to UAL research degree students	No
Accreditation	None
Fees	Charged per 3 months, regardless of your fee status; current tuition fees can be found on our <a href="#">website</a> .
Approval of your home Higher Education Institution (HEI)	A letter of support from your home HEI
Visa requirements (for International students)	Standard Visitor Visa
Language requirements (if English is not your first language)	IELTS minimum overall score of 7.0 with a 7.0 in writing and with no other component score lower than 6.0 or equivalent.

## Specific guidance for completing your visiting student application form

### Biographical information

#### 1. English language proficiency

If English is not your first language you will normally need to demonstrate that you are suitably proficient in English before you can begin your visit to UAL. You can do this by providing evidence of the following:

- **Visiting Student Programme**

Unless agreed otherwise with your UAL supervisor, a recent IELTS minimum overall test result score of 7.0 with a 7.0 in writing and with no other component score lower than 6.0 (or an equivalent UAL approved English Language Test (ELT) score); or recent completion of an MA level course of study (Distinction only) in a majority English-speaking country.

By 'recent' we mean that your English Language Test score or MA level qualification needs to have been awarded no more than two years prior to the date that you would first begin your visit to UAL. We cannot normally accept evidence that is older than this. You may submit an application to visit UAL before you have obtained your IELTS or equivalent test score, or before you have received your MA certificate, but if your application to visit is accepted then you would need to provide evidence of having satisfied this condition before you can begin your visit. Each applicant is assessed on an individual basis and we will inform you whether we would require a new IELTS result before you can begin your visit. Please see our [English language requirements webpage](#) for details of all tests we accept.

### Your current research degree studies

#### 1. Your home Higher Education Institution (HEI)

Please provide full details of an administrative contact at your home HEI who is able to provide information about your student status. This individual also needs to submit a **letter of institutional support** to [researchdegrees@arts.ac.uk](mailto:researchdegrees@arts.ac.uk) before we can consider your application, which must include the following information:

- Your research degree start date at your home HEI.
- Your expected research degree end date at your home HEI.
- Any periods of absence from your research degree study at your home HEI.
- Confirmation that your home HEI approves your request to visit UAL.

#### 2. Your current main research supervisor

In addition to the letter of institutional support required as above, your current Director of Studies or other main research supervisor must also submit a **letter of academic support** to [researchdegrees@arts.ac.uk](mailto:researchdegrees@arts.ac.uk) before we can consider your application. This should take the form of an academic reference in which your main research supervisor:

- Comments on your academic progress to date.
- Outlines why they believe that your visit to UAL will benefit your research degree study, including details of the research you will be undertaking whilst at UAL and how this relates to your MPhil or PhD. Please note that they must confirm that the research or research tuition is part of or relevant to the course of study that they are enrolled on overseas.

- States whether they will be providing supervision during the visit and the expected frequency of contact.
- States whether there would need to be any contact between your UAL academic contact and your home HEI supervisor(s).
- Confirms that the home institution remains responsible for the student's research degree progress.

## Your visit to UAL

### 1. College & Mentoring

**a)** Please specify the UAL College that you wish to visit. **It is only possible to apply to one college.** We would advise you to review the research specialisms of each college when deciding which college to apply to. They can be found online as follows:

- [CCW](#) (Camberwell, Chelsea and Wimbledon).
- [CSM](#) (Central Saint Martins).
- [LCC](#) (London College of Communication).
- [LCF](#) (London College of Fashion).
- [CCI](#) (Creative Computing Institute).

**Please be aware, that it is at the discretion of individual Colleges within UAL as to whether they wish to accept or decline visiting student applications.**

**b)** Please specify the academic member of staff at UAL who you would like to mentor you during your visit in the application form. You are welcome to contact and discuss your research project with any of our academics who you would like to work with; see our [research staff profiles](#) for more information.

**c)** Please indicate in your personal statement whether you have already made contact with your nominated academic member of staff.

**d)** [Research Centres](#) and Networks operate across the University, providing a focus for excellent research in identified areas of strength. They support groups of researchers in a range of activities that extend beyond the remit of individual projects, creating an environment where debate can flourish, providing a sound foundation for future work. Please specify in your personal statement if you have been in contact with any research centres or networks.

### 2. Length of study

- Visiting Student Programme: **3** or **6** months

### 3. Entry point

You can begin your visit to UAL at one of three entry points throughout the year, but please note that there are different application deadlines depending on when you would like to begin your visit:

- **1<sup>st</sup> October** (deadline **1<sup>st</sup> July**)
- **Early January** (deadline **1<sup>st</sup> October**)
- **1<sup>st</sup> April** (deadline **1<sup>st</sup> January**)

#### **4. Application statement**

Please provide a statement explaining why you would like to come to UAL as a visiting student. This should be no longer than 500 words. Please include details of the research you will be undertaking whilst at UAL and how this relates to your MPhil or PhD. Please also explain how you expect to engage with and contribute to the research community at UAL during your visit.

#### **5a. Your research project**

Please also provide an outline of your PhD or MPhil in no more than 500 words. Please include the title of your MPhil or PhD.

#### **Ethical dimensions of your research**

If there are any ethical considerations that need to be taken into account as part of your research project you should address them briefly in your application. UAL expects all research projects to respect participants' rights (commercial, intellectual and civil), dignity (including privacy and confidentiality), and safety and wellbeing. Please read [UAL's Research Standards and Ethics](#) guidance for further information.

#### **5b. Visual examples**

You can use this space in the application form to include visual examples of your practice, or of works of art that are directly relevant to your research project. If you include images here, please provide a legible caption which includes the artist, the title of the work, the year of creation, the physical size of the object, and the medium in which it has been created. If you would like to include any audio or moving image pieces, please include URL(s) in the boxes provided in this section. Please be as specific as possible about the resource that you are providing a link to by, for example, mentioning the title of the specific piece on a particular webpage, consulting established citing standards such as Harvard or numerical. Please also note that any such audio or moving image pieces that you provide a link to must be no longer than five minutes in length.