

A blurred background image showing two people at a desk. One person is a woman in a white shirt, and the other is a man in a light blue shirt and glasses. They are both looking at laptops. There are coffee cups and papers on the desk. The overall color palette is blue and grey.

# Immigration Specialists for Every Journey

Guidance Document: Tourist Visa

# Tourist Visa



*"I have to be very honest I have been travelling all around the world and working with many different departments. I haven't seen this precise services!!! They care about every detail, they reply really fast, they're up to date with you about all the steps. They're fast in the process in general, we are very happy to have chooses to work with them."*

*SA, Skilled Worker visa applicant*

## Visit Visa

A [UK Visiting Visa](#) allows individuals to come to the UK for short-term stays, including tourism, family visits, and certain business activities. It is designed for visitors who intend to stay temporarily and return home after their visit.

### What Is a UK Visit Visa?

The UK Standard Visitor Visa allows you to visit the UK for a short period—typically up to 6 months—for a wide range of permitted activities. These include tourism and leisure, visiting friends or family, attending business meetings, participating in events, receiving private medical treatment, or undertaking short courses.

If you plan to join family members such as a partner living in the UK, you can do so under [UK Partner visa](#). However, visitors cannot switch into long-term UK routes (such as a [Student Visa](#) or settlement routes like ILR) from within the UK, so it is important to apply under the correct category before travelling.

### Who Can Apply for a UK Visit Visa?

You may be eligible for a UK Visiting Visa if you meet the following key requirements:

- You have a genuine purpose for your visit—such as tourism, family visits, or limited business activities.
- You intend to leave the UK at the end of your stay and can demonstrate strong ties to your home country.
- You have sufficient funds to cover the cost of your trip without working or accessing public funds.
- You can show accommodation arrangements and travel plans that support the purpose of your visit.

You must not attempt to stay long-term or switch into another UK immigration route, including routes like the UK Partner. Please note time spent in the UK as a visitor does not count towards ILR.

Visitors must show that they genuinely intend to visit temporarily, will not work illegally, and can support themselves throughout their stay.

# Tourist Visa

## Documents You'll Need

When applying for a UK Visiting Visa, you must provide evidence that clearly demonstrates the purpose of your trip, your ability to support yourself financially, and your intention to return home after your visit. The following documents are commonly required:

- Proof of funds, such as recent bank statements or evidence of regular income, showing you can cover your travel and living costs without working in the UK.
- Employment evidence, such as recent payslips or a letter from your employer confirming your job role, salary, and approved annual leave.
- Accommodation details, including hotel reservations or, if staying with someone in the UK, a letter of invitation from your host.
- Travel itinerary, such as return flight bookings or proof of onward travel demonstrating your plan to leave the UK at the end of your visit.
- Evidence of strong ties to your home country, for example documents showing family commitments, employment, property ownership, or studies.
- If you are visiting a family member or partner, you may need additional supporting evidence, such as marriage or birth certificates or other documents listed under the UK Partner category.

Providing clear and complete documentation helps the Home Office understand the purpose of your visit and reduces the risk of delays or refusal.

*"Have had a wonderful experience dealing with Migrate UK twice over. I got prompt and clear answers to all my queries and constant support from all levels in the organisation"*

SB, UK Ancestry Visa Applicant

# Tourist Visa



*"I highly recommend Migrate UK! From start to finish, the entire visa application process was incredibly smooth and stress-free, all thanks to their expert guidance. Dealing with visa applications can be confusing and overwhelming, but the team at Migrate UK made it feel completely manageable. They were thorough, professional, and exceptionally responsive to all my questions, often getting back to me within the hour."*

*MK, Skilled Worker visa applicant*

## How to Apply for a UK Visiting Visa

Applying for a UK visit visa may appear straightforward, but the Home Office refuses a significant number of applications each year—often due to insufficient evidence, unclear travel intentions, or misunderstanding of visitor rules.

### Step 1 – Confirm Eligibility

Around 18% of visit visa applications are refused, often because applicants do not fully understand eligibility requirements or fail to provide adequate supporting documents. Re-applications after refusal are reviewed even more closely, increasing the risk of repeated refusal—especially if earlier concerns have not been addressed.

### Step 2 – Prepare Your Documents

Preparing the right documents is essential to demonstrating your intention to visit temporarily and return home afterward. Migrate UK provides tailored document checklists and conducts thorough reviews of all evidence to ensure it meets Home Office standards.

### Step 3 – Submit Your Application

Migrate UK manages the online application process on your behalf, ensuring every detail is completed correctly and consistently. We help you choose the right visa type, upload documents in the correct format, and advise on your supporting statements so that your intentions are clearly communicated to the Home Office.

### Step 4 – Biometrics & Decision

Once your application is submitted, you will need to attend a biometric appointment for your fingerprints and photograph to be taken.

# Tourist Visa



## What You Cannot Do as a Visitor

A Visitor Visa is strictly for short-term, non-settlement activities. You cannot:

- Undertake paid or unpaid work
- Participate in work placements or internships
- Enrol in long-term study (for longer programmes, see the Student Visa route)
- Live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or back-to-back visits
- Access public funds
- Marry or register a civil partnership, or give notice, unless you have the correct marriage visit visa category

## Long-Term or Frequent Visits

If you hold a long-term Standard Visitor Visa and make repeated or extended trips to the UK, UKVI may question whether you are effectively living in the UK without the correct immigration route. In such cases, you may receive a warning, be refused entry, or have your visa cancelled.

## Most Common Reasons for Refusal

UKVI may refuse a Visit Visa if they have concerns about whether you are a genuine visitor. Some common factors that increase the risk of refusal include:

- Applying from a country considered higher risk
- It is your first UK visa application
- Limited or no prior international travel history
- Bank statements showing large or unexplained deposits
- Having close family members already living in the UK
- Previous visa refusals
- Unclear employment or financial circumstances.

*“Amazing Team, seamless experience.”*

*SP, GBM Visa Applicant*

# About us

*"We are a fast-growing SME in the utilities and property tech sector, and we've been delighted to work with Migrate UK to support members of our team transitioning from graduate visas into longer-term roles. From the very beginning, they have been professional, transparent, and an absolute pleasure to work with. Communication has been clear and supportive throughout, which made what could have been a complex process feel seamless."*

Skilled Worker Sponsor

We are very proud of our heritage and our successes. Here are some of our headlines:

22

Years of providing immigration advice, making us one of the longest serving specialist immigration law firms in the UK

9000+

Applications processed

50+

Years of combined immigration experience in our team

5

Star rating on [Google](#) and [Trustist](#)

Read more about us online via our [website](#), [LinkedIn](#), and via [HR Ninjas](#)