Student Visitor Information Sheet

Who can study as a student visitor?

If you are a non-EEA national and will be studying at St Mary’s for less than six months you can come to the UK as a Student Visitor.

The St Mary’s courses where this applies:

- If you are a study abroad student and are attending for one semester
- If you are on a distance-learning Postgraduate Course that only requires attendance a few days a year
- If you are on a pre-sessional English course for no longer than 6 months and will not be going straight on to a full degree programme (as it is not possible to extend or change Student Visitor Visas whilst in the UK).

How do I apply?

If you are a [visa national](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/visiting/student/apply) you will need to apply for a Student Visitor Visa. You can apply online at [http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/visiting/student/apply](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/visiting/student/apply) Entry clearance as a Student Visitor can be applied for from within any country outside of the UK (it does not have to be the country where you normally live).

If you are a non-visa national, you can either apply via the link above or apply at the airport when you arrive in the UK. St Mary’s will issue a Student Visitor letter prior to your departure, please bring this letter with you in your hand luggage and present it to the Immigration Officer on arrival. If you are planning to go on any trips during the semester you will need to take this letter with you for re-entry into the UK.

How much does a Student Visitor Visa cost?

The visa application fee is £80. There is no charge if you apply at the airport.
What documents do I need to submit with my student visa application?

You will need:

- An offer letter from St Mary’s that confirms you hold an unconditional offer with us.
- Proof that you have enough money to support yourself whilst in the UK e.g. bank statements
- A document that confirms you will leave the UK once you have finished studying, such as a return ticket.
- Additional information can be found here: [http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/visiting/student/documents/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/visiting/student/documents/)

Will I need to show proof of my English Ability?

No. Unlike the Tier 4 visa, your English language ability will not be assessed.

Can I work?

No. Work is not permitted if you are in the UK on a Student Visitor Visa. This includes work placements, service learning or unpaid work.

Can I travel in and out of the UK?

If you have a Student Visitor Visa (sticker in your passport) you will be given multiple entry clearance which allows you to enter and leave the UK using the same visa during that 6 month period. If you apply at the airport you will instead get an immigration stamp in your passport which will be valid for one entry. If you leave the UK you will need to present the documents listed above again to get a new stamp when you re-enter.

Can I extend my stay in the UK?

No. There is a time limit of six months. You will not be able to switch to a Tier 4 visa or any other immigration category whilst you are in the UK.

If you have any queries, please contact studentvisas@smuc.ac.uk

For additional information please see the UKBA’s Student visitor page and the UK Council for International Student Affairs website.