

N.U.in Northern Ireland Visa Guide 2025

Queen's University Belfast, Belfast



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BELFAST

This visa guide was developed in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast and Northeastern University.

Non-Visa Nationals

This information is for U.S. citizens and other non-visa national students who do not require a visa (only Electronic Travel Authorization) if their course of study is up to six months in duration.

If you require a visa, please refer to our Visa-Required Nationals Guide.

Do I need a visa for N.U.in at Queen's University Belfast?

If you are a U.S. citizen or hold a passport from a non-visa national country and plan to study in the UK for up to six months (such as The N.U.in Program at Queen's University Belfast), you can enter the UK as a **Standard Visitor** without needing a visa. However, you must meet certain requirements, including preparing supporting documents and obtaining Electronic Travel Authorization.

How can I check if I need a visa?

All students should check to see if they need to obtain a UK visa prior to traveling to the UK or if they can obtain the appropriate permission at the UK border. You can check on the **UK government website** if you require a visa to enter the UK as a study abroad student for up to six months. This tool also provides an overview of the applicable visa process and details about supporting documentation requirements.

Can I work or extend my visitor permissions in the UK?

Students entering the UK as Standard Visitors will not be allowed to work. They cannot claim benefits or have recourse to public funds and cannot extend their stay beyond six months from within the UK. You must leave the UK upon completion of your course and will likely need to apply for a visa from your country of nationality for any further studies.

Do I need Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA)?

If you are a non-visa national (e.g., a USA passport holder) planning to study in the UK for less than 6 months, you must apply for an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) before you travel. This is relevant for U.S. students who intend to request Visitor immigration permission upon arriving in the UK. If you are unsure whether this is relevant to you, you can check if you need an ETA on the **UK government website**.

Important Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) Information

- ETA is not permission to enter the UK. It allows you to travel to the UK, but you will still need to request Visitor immigration permission to enter when you arrive.
- Airlines will check your ETA before you board.
- ETA is valid for multiple trips over two years or until your passport expires (whichever comes first).
- ETA is linked to your passport. Make sure you apply using the passport you will use to travel to the UK.
- You do not need to apply for an ETA if you already have a Student or Visitor visa to travel to the UK.
- The fee to apply for an ETA is increasing to **£16** as of April 9, 2025.

You can apply for an ETA on the [UK government website](#).

Standard Visitor Visa Requirements

These documents should be carried with you on entry to the UK, in order to satisfy the immigration requirements at the point of entry and if requested by an Immigration Officer. *Please note that the below list is not exhaustive. All students should confirm supporting documentation requirements directly with the UK consular authority responsible for their country of residence.*

- 1 | A valid passport**
Your passport must have at least one blank page (front and back) and be valid for the full duration of your stay in the UK.
- 2 | Proof that you are seeking entry as a standard visitor for study purposes for a limited period not exceeding six months**
- 3 | Proof of acceptance to a course of study and accommodation details**
Queen's University Belfast will provide you with an admissions letter. Proof of enrollment, as well as a letter verifying that your tuition and housing are pre-paid and guaranteed, can be provided by Northeastern.
- 4 | Proof that you intend to leave the UK at the end of your visit and can meet the cost of the return journey**
The Immigration Officer may require you to show a return ticket, so please be sure to carry proof of your round-trip itinerary.

5 | **Proof of adequate financial means to support yourself for your stay**

Please note, the Queen's University Belfast letter may not fulfill the financial requirement. It is recommended that you have available copies of your bank statements or your parent's bank statement of at least last two months from your date of arrival in the UK. The bank statement must show adequate funds are available to support you for the semester in the UK. If you are providing your parent's bank statement, you must include a **letter from your parent** confirming that they will take care of any expenses incurred during your time of studies in the UK.

6 | **Written consent to travel from a parent or legal guardian in your home country (if you are under 18 at the time of your arrival in the UK)**

Only present the documents from the above list (2 to 6) if requested by the Immigration Officer at the port of entry in the UK. You must not intend to take employment or engage in business activities in the UK, and you should be prepared to attest to this on entry, in the event that you are asked by an Immigration Officer.

Genuine Visitor Requirements

All visitors to the UK must satisfy the genuine visitor requirements. This means that:

- You will leave the UK at the end of your visit;
- You must not intend to live in the UK for extended periods through frequent or successive visits. You must also not intend to make the UK your main home. The **visitor guidance** lists factors such as the number of visits that you have made over the last twelve months, including the length of stay on each occasion in assessing whether or not your visits to the UK are frequent and successive;
- You must be genuinely seeking to enter the UK for a purpose and activity permitted as a visitor;
- You must not undertake any of the **prohibited activities** for a visitor.
- You must have enough money to support yourself whilst you are in the UK. This includes the cost of your return or onward journey and any permitted activities that you have planned. You will not be able to work or access public funds in order to support yourself. In assessing this requirement, the **visitor guidance** states that your income and savings will be looked at minus any financial commitments that you have. The remaining sum must be sufficient to meet the likely costs that you will incur in the UK and also your reasonable expenditure.

Please see **prohibited activities** for further details. You can rely on another person to help you demonstrate that you have sufficient funds to cover your travel, maintenance and accommodation whilst in the UK. You must have a genuine professional or personal relationship with this person however, and they cannot be in breach of any immigration laws at the time the decision on your application is made or by the time you wish to enter the UK as a visitor. This person must also be able to support you for the duration of your visit;

- Any funds that you wish to rely upon must be held in a financial institution permitted under **FIN 2.1 in Appendix Finance**

Important Reminders

This document has been prepared based on the information and links provided by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). ***Please check with the British consular authority in your region for the most updated visa requirements and processes for the UK. The information above is intended as informational guidance only and does not constitute legal advice.***

Northeastern University and Queen's University of Belfast have no influence on the outcome of immigration applications, including the decisions and policies of UKVI, no ability to inquire about an individual immigration application, or to expedite the process for an individual student. In addition, N.U.in employees are unable to provide legal advice to students or families concerning country-specific immigration requirements and/or application processes.

Students are responsible for completing all required applications for immigration permissions or registrations correctly and in a timely manner, and for obtaining any required permissions prior to the program start date. If the student cannot obtain valid permission in time for the program start date, please refer to the N.U.in Withdrawal Policy and contact the N.U.in office to discuss the next steps.