



Visa and ETA information: United Kingdom

General information – ETA starting April 2025

By April 2025, all visitors who do not need a visa will need an ETA to travel to the UK.

Visitors need to apply for an ETA if they are coming to the UK for up to 6 months for tourism, visiting family and friends, business or short-term study.

Eligible Europeans can apply from 5 March 2025 and will need an ETA to travel from 2 April 2025.

An ETA costs £10 and permits multiple journeys to the UK for stays of up to six months at a time over two years or until the holder's passport expires – whichever is sooner.

The easiest way to apply for an ETA is through the "UK ETA app". More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>

Study visit:

Visa requirements distinguish between study visits of up to 6 months and those of more than 6 months:

- **up to 6 months: no visa required**
However, during this time the purpose of stay is clearly limited to studies, students are not allowed to pursue a financially remunerated activity during their stay. From 01.10.2021, entry for EU citizens is only possible with a valid passport (electronic passport - ePassport). Starting April 2025 Electronic travel authorization (ETA) is required for all visitors who do not need a visa.
- **several semesters or a whole course of study: student visa required**
(since 1 January 2021)
The visa application can be filled out online at [Student visa - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) and costs 490 British pounds. A valid passport or other valid travel document is required.

The application can be made from six months before the start of the course.

Those who have a visa must also pay an "Immigration Health Surcharge" for access to the NHS, the public health service (<https://www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application>). This fee is £776 per year for students. Students who are studying full-time and hold a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) can apply for a refund of the 'Immigration Health Surcharge'. To be eligible for the refund, students must not be working during their studies.

NEW: Under certain conditions, students who have a visa are allowed to have a part-time job while studying.

More detailed information can be found at:

<https://www.britishcouncil.de/studium-uk/eu-austritt-informationen-fuer-studierende>



Internship Stays:

A Temporary Worker-Government Authorised Exchange visa (T5) - also known as Tier 5 (GAE) - is required for trainees to stay in the UK.

In order to apply for such a visa, participants must have a *Certificate of sponsorship*. The *Certificate of sponsorship* is a reference number that provides information about the participant. Since 2021, the trainee's [host institution itself needs to have a license to issue the Certificate of sponsorship](#)

The reference number is valid for three months from the date of issue. The **application for the reference number is to be made to the British Council by host institution and not by the sponsored person.**

The [visa application](#) can be completed online [after presenting the reference number](#) from the Certificate of sponsorship and costs 298 British pounds.

Sponsor to issue the Certificate of Sponsorship: There are only a few sponsors who can issue a certificate of sponsorship for an internship in the UK. The agency ESPA (<https://www.espauk.com>), for example, works together with a sponsor and takes care of issuing the CoS – as long as the internship is also arranged through ESPA. The fee is around €500.

A further sponsor supported by the British Council is Bunac: <https://bunac.org/internships-abroad/intern-in-britain/visas> – programm costs, sponsorship fee and Bunac support + visa fee sums up to a total of approx.. 1473,-€.

There is no minimum salary requirement in the Tier 5 (GAE) category. However, it is also regulated that students must prove their subsistence through the Erasmus+ funding and/or the traineeship salary and may not apply for public benefits.