



Please find attached your Standard Visitor Visa support letter

INSERT DHL TRACKING HERE IF NEEDED

Please read the below the important information regarding your visa and travelling to the UK:

Part1: Check if you require a visa to travel to the UK

Part2: Understanding Visa Refusals

Part 3: Understanding More About Your Finances

Part 4: You Will Need Medical Insurance

Part 5: Make Sure You Have Arranged Suitable Accommodation

Part 6: Travelling to the University

Part 7: Complete Your Online Enrolment

Part 8: Registering Your Arrival at The University

Part 9: Additional Resources and Information

Part 10: Contacting the International Student Support team

Part 1: Check if you require a visa to travel to the UK for study

You can do this by checking [Appendix 2. Visa National List](#), or you can also use the “Check if you need a UK visa” application on the [Home Office website](#) to confirm.

If you are a non-visa national, you can travel to the UK without applying for a visa beforehand.

If you are a Visa National, you will need to apply for and obtain a visa before you travel to the UK.

If after checking the resources above you are still unsure, please email internationalsupport@staffs.ac.uk for assistance.

Non-Visa Nationals	Visa Nationals
You do not need to apply for your visa before travelling, you can do this at the border in the UK.	You will be required to apply for and pay for a visa before travelling.

As a non-visa national travelling to study with us, **it does not mean you do not need a visa at all**. It means that you can get your visa at the UK border rather than having to make a visa application before travelling.

You do not have to see a border force officer on arrival if you are permitted to use automatic ePassport gates (You can use automatic ePassport gates at some airports if your passport has a 'chip' on it and you're 12 or over, from an EEA country, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland; South Korea or United States.

If you can't use the ePassport gates, you must see a border control officer at the immigration desk and state that you are here for short term study, and show the below information:

- A current passport or other valid travel identification
- Evidence that you can support yourself during your trip, for example bank statements or payslips for the last 6 months.
- Details of where you intend to stay and your travel plans
- Contact details for at least one parent or guardian in your home country (if you're under 18 years old).
- You intend to return home before your visa expires; your application may be refused if you continuously apply for visitor visas in the UK and it is evident that you spend more time in the UK than in your home country, or if you need to be in the UK to study for periods of longer than 6 months.
- A Standard Visitor Visa Support Letter.

ATAS: A valid [ATAS Certificate](#) if your course, generally postgraduate courses, requires one. Your offer letter should state if the course you are coming to has an ATAS requirement. If you are unsure, you should contact internationalsupport@staffs.ac.uk. It takes a minimum of 28 days to obtain an ATAS certificate from the moment the application is submitted. Please ensure you follow the

When applying for your visa you must ensure you meet the [eligibility](#) requirements and have the correct [documents](#) to provide when you apply as set out by the UK Home Office. These include:

- A current passport or other valid travel identification
- Evidence that you can support yourself during your trip, for example bank statements or payslips for the last 6 months.
- Any and all tuition fees must have been paid
- Details of where you intend to stay and your travel plans - you should not pay for accommodation or travel until you get your visa.
- Contact details for at least one parent or guardian in your home country (if you're under 18 years old).
- A Standard Visitor Visa support Letter.

Intention to return home: You need to make it clear in your application that you intend to return home before your visa expires. Your application may be refused if you continuously apply for visitor visas in the UK and it is evident that you spend more time in the UK than in your home country, or if you need to be in the UK to study for periods of longer than 6 months.

ATAS: Check if for your course you need a valid [ATAS Certificate](#), as you will need this for your visa application. Your offer letter should state if the course you are coming to has an ATAS requirement. If you are unsure, you should contact internationalsupport@staffs.ac.uk. It takes a minimum of 28 days to obtain an ATAS certificate from the moment the application is submitted. Please ensure you follow the required steps to obtain an ATAS well in advance of your journey.

Your visa **application should be made [online](#)**. You will also need to have your **biometric information** (fingerprints and photograph) taken at a [visa application centre](#).

required steps to obtain an ATAS well in advance of your journey. If your course requires ATAS, and you are unable to provide a valid ATAS certificate to the Immigration Officer, they will refuse entry, or only allow you to enter as a visitor.

If following all checks the immigration officer is satisfied, they should then stamp your passport with a Standard Visitor visa stamp, which will serve as your Right to Study check at the University at enrolment.

Part 2: Understanding why some people get a visa refusal

Here are some common reasons why people get their Standard Visitor Visa refused:

There is not enough money to realistically live on - the Immigration Officer will apply common sense when assessing how much money is “enough”. For example, if you are staying in a luxury hotel in London for 6 months, they would expect to see more money than if you are staying on a friend’s sofa for 1 week.

There is not a clear source of the funds available - if your bank statements show you have no salary and very little money and then suddenly have a deposit in your account for thousands of pounds, with no explanation of where this came from, it would be reasonable to expect questions to be raised about the source of the money.

There are no obvious ties to your home country – the border control officer will want some assurance that you intend to leave the UK before your visa expires. If it seems like you don’t have any strong ties to another country, it could be interpreted as a risk that you might try to stay in the UK. Good evidence of your ties to the home country can be employment, housing, family etc. If you can provide evidence that these issues are not relevant to you, and if you complete the form correctly, you are putting yourself in the best possible position for a successful outcome.

Part 3: Understanding More About Your Finances

General finance requirement example:

Tuition Fee

- **Money/Deposit Paid**

+ **UKVI Maintenance**

- **Scholarships**

+ 10% Currency Exchange Fluctuations

= MONETARY VALUE REQUIRED



International Student Support

If you are getting a scholarship, you need to provide your scholarship letter to show the amount of money you are being given, but in addition you must also provide original bank statements to confirm that you have any additional funding required. The UKVI will expect you to show that you have enough money to support yourself while you are in the UK. You need to show that you can pay for your tuition fees, accommodation and living expenses.

Part 4: You Will Need Medical Insurance

You must ensure that you have adequate medical insurance to cover your time in the UK, so that in the unfortunate circumstance you get sick or injured you will be medically and financially covered.

As an overseas visitor you may be charged a high rate for any hospital treatment you receive, so you should make sure you have private health insurance from the beginning of your stay.

To check if you require medical insurance, please carefully read [UKCISA's "Health and Healthcare"](#) information which details everything you need to know.

Part 5: Make Sure You Have Arranged Suitable Accommodation

Please make sure that you have adequate accommodation arrangements for the duration of your stay.

- Information about [Staffordshire University Accommodation](#)
- Information about University approved [Private Accommodation](#)
- Information about local [Hotels, Apartments and Bed & Breakfasts](#)

Wherever you are staying, please make sure you contact your accommodation provider to let them know your arrival date and approximate planned arrival time.

Part 6: Travelling to the University

The airports closest to Staffordshire University are:

Manchester Airport (Approximately 35 miles)

Birmingham Airport (Approximately 55 miles)

East Midlands Airport (Approximately 50 miles)

Distance away from main London airports:

Gatwick Airport (Approximately 195 miles)

Stanstead Airport (Approximately 166 miles)

Heathrow Airport (Approximately 156 miles)



Please make sure that you arrange suitable travel from whichever airport you arrive at. You can use [National Rail](#) or [Trainline](#) to plan travel by train, or [National Express](#) to plan travel by Coach. You can travel by taxi from the airport, however this is a costly way to travel unless there is a small group of you who can split the costs.

Part 7: Complete Your Online Enrolment

If you are a new student to the University, **please make sure you complete your online enrolment before you travel.**

To do this you need to log into the [evision portal](#) and select "online enrolment".

If you do not do your online enrolment, you will not be able to enrol at the University when you arrive. This will cause problems accessing online resources, using the library, being able to print or photocopy information, and accessing buildings on our campus.

Please contact internationalsupport@staffs.ac.uk if you have any issues relating to your online enrolment and we will attempt to resolve any problems before you arrive.

Part 8: Registering Your Arrival at The University

Unless you are otherwise advised before you arrive, you should register your arrival at the University before you go to any classes. To do this you should take your passport to the [Student Hub](#) on our Stoke Leek Road campus.

Please email internationalsupport@staffs.ac.uk when you have your travel / arrival details so that we can be prepared for your arrival in the UK and give any relevant information you need.

Part 9: Additional Resources and Information

[Gov.UK – Choose a UK visit or Short Stay Visa](#)

[Appendix V: Visitor – statement of changes to the immigration rules HC 813](#)

[UKCISA – Study as a visitor from 1/Dec/2020](#)

Part 10: Contacting the International Student Support team

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact us at:

internationalsupport@staffs.ac.uk

+44(0)1782 294711 (Beth)

+44 (0)1782 294639 (Tracy)