

Visas – important information

Countries fall into 3 categories:

- **EEA** - includes European Union countries + Switzerland, Norway etc
- **Visa Nationals** - includes countries such as Colombia, Ecuador, Russia, Ukraine, China, Thailand, Turkey and the Middle Eastern countries.*
- **Non-Visa Nationals** - includes countries such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Israel, etc

EEA students There are no visa requirements. Students have the right to work.

Visa Nationals If you come from one of these countries, you must always apply for a visa before you come to the UK.

Non Visa Nationals - You can get a Student Visitor Visa on arrival or before you come to the UK. If you want a General Student Visa, you must apply before coming.

There are two types of visa:

- **A General Student Visa**. Cost £ 145.00. If you are either a Visa National or a Non Visa National you must apply for this visa if you wish to study for more than 6 months or if you want the right to work (maximum 20 hours per week). You must get this visa before coming to the UK.
- **A Student Visitor Visa**. Can be issued free of charge to Non Visa Nationals on arrival in the UK. If you apply for this visa before leaving your country the cost is £67.00. Visa Nationals must apply before they leave. This visa is limited to 6 months and does not give you the right to work.

You can extend a General Student Visa but you cannot extend a Student Visitor Visa.

Students wishing to apply for a General Student Visa must be sponsored by a school on the official list of Sponsors. ELC Bristol is on this list (category A) and has been licensed by the UK Border Agency to enrol international students under the Tier 4 Points Based System.

To enable us to sponsor you, we must ask you to complete some additional questions (see attached). We will also need to verify your level of English. At ELC Bristol, we do not accept beginners; students must be at least elementary level (A2) – students below this level are not allowed to apply for a Full Student Visa.

For detailed information about visa requirements, please see:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

* For a list of Visa Nationals, please see:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/immigrationlaw/immigrationrules/appendix1/>