



Foundation for International Education

Applying for pre-entry clearance as a student

- **What is pre-entry clearance?** The pre-entry clearance (PEC) is what most people would call a visa. As a US citizen, you are called a non-visa national so in ordinary circumstances you do not need prior permission to enter the UK. However, you will need to have a visa if any of the following statements apply to you:
 - If you will be undertaking an unpaid internship (or service learning placement) as part of the programme
 - If you will be studying in the UK for 6 months or more
 - If you will be undertaking part-time paid work in your free time
- **How much does it cost?** It costs £99 which translates to around \$208.
- **How long will it take?** There isn't a set time for how long the visa will take, so you should apply as soon as possible. We advise that you apply as soon as you hand in your FIE administration form.
- **How do I apply?** You should make your application online but you may need to visit a British Consulate in order to provide biometric data (digital photo and fingerprints).

To apply online, please go to the following website:

<http://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/>

On completing this process you would need to provide supporting documents and you will be directed where to send these based on your home address.

The documents required are as follows (list taken from www.ukvisas.gov.uk):

- Your passport or travel document.
- A recent passport-sized (45mm x 35mm), colour photograph of yourself.
This should be:
 - taken against a light-coloured background
 - clear and of good quality, and not framed or backed
 - printed on normal photographic paper, and
 - full face and without sunglasses, hat or other head covering unless you wear this for cultural or religious reasons
- The visa fee. This cannot be refunded and you must normally pay it in the local currency of the country where you are applying.
- any relevant diplomas or educational certificates that you have
- a letter from the university, college or school confirming that you have been accepted on a course of study in the UK, and a statement of charges for the course*
- evidence of government sponsorship (if appropriate)
- bank statements, payslips or other evidence to show that you can pay for your stay and your course of studies in the UK, and
- if you are being privately sponsored (for example, by a college in the UK) a letter from your sponsor giving details of how they will support you during your studies, and evidence that they can do so.

*For point number 5, you will need to get a letter from your university study abroad office. This will state that all fees are paid before you depart for the UK as well as giving details of the programme.

Useful Websites

These are official websites and all the information above comes from them. Any other websites with conflicting information should be disregarded.

www.ukvisas.gov.uk

http://www.britainusa.com/visas/index_visa.asp?i=41000