

Travel outside the UK for UK/EU/EEA students

Passports

If you are a UK citizen, you will need a valid passport to travel anywhere other than the Isle of Man, Channel Islands or Republic of Ireland. You may be required to have at least 3 months validity left on your passport to travel to certain countries even if they are in the EU/EEA. If you do not have a valid passport and you are planning to travel, it is vital that you apply for one well in advance of your travel as it can take several weeks to process.

You can apply for a passport several ways including by post, at the post office and in person at passport offices. The cost will vary according to which method you use and whether you are renewing an existing passport or applying for your first or a replacement passport. Passport application forms are available from the Advice and Support Centre and the Post Office. If you have never had a passport before, a professional person such as GP, solicitor, teacher etc. will have to sign your form for you to confirm your identity.

EU/EEA students must also have valid passports to travel and should contact their embassy to find out how to renew theirs. Passports from other EU/EEA nations can usually be renewed at the country's embassy either in person or by post.

Visas

To travel to most countries outside of the EU, you will need to obtain a visa. This is usually a sticker or stamp in your passport, giving you permission to visit a country for a limited length of time. Check with the embassy of the country you are visiting, travel agent or tour operator, whether you must obtain a visa.

Different countries operate different rules for issuing visas, so while some may require you attend an

appointment at their embassy in London, others might allow you to apply by post or issue you a visa on the aeroplane on the way to your destination.

You may be asked to demonstrate that you fit certain criteria in order to obtain a visa, e.g. that you have funds to support yourself, you do not have any criminal convictions and you fulfil certain health requirements. You can check the requirements of the country to which you are applying by contacting their embassy. You may be able to find out what you want to know from the embassy's website and many have recorded messages with visa information in them.

If you are making an application by post or making an appointment at an embassy then check with the embassy how far in advance of your travel you should do this. Some visa applications may take time to process, especially if there are complications or the country has particularly strict immigration rules.

To find contact details for an embassy go to www.fco.gov.uk. Click on the drop down menu at the top of the page and go to Foreign Embassies in the UK.

Travel/Health Insurance

If you fall sick whilst you are abroad, it could be very expensive to get treatment. On top of this, if you have to extend your stay because you or a family member is in hospital, you could have to pay for new flights or extra nights in hotels etc. It is vital that you get private health insurance to cover these sorts of eventualities.

You can shop around on the internet or in the yellow pages to get an insurance quote that gives you the cover you need at a cost you can afford.

If you are travelling within the EEA (The EU countries plus Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway) and Switzerland, you

should obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). This will entitle you to discounted or free medical treatment in the EEA. The EHIC only entitles you to state provided treatment so it is advisable to take out private health insurance as well, in case you are charged for some of the treatment you need.

There are a few exceptions and nationals of certain EU/EEA countries may not be able to get free hospital treatment in Switzerland, whilst Swiss nationals are not covered in certain EU/EEA countries.

UK nationals and some non-UK nationals who normally reside in the UK can get urgent medical treatment free or at a reduced cost in certain countries with whom the UK has reciprocal agreements. Generally only basic emergency treatment is covered so it is advisable to take out private insurance in case you have to pay for some of the treatment you receive.

If you are an EU/EEA student, you should check with your embassy, whether your government has a reciprocal agreement with the country to which you are travelling.

For further information about health insurance and the EHIC, see the NHS leaflet "Health Advice for Travellers" available from the Advice and Support Centre or your Students' Union reception. This booklet contains a list of the countries with whom the UK has reciprocal agreements and describes the treatments that are covered by these agreements.

Travel Insurance may compensate you for some other eventualities such as lost travellers cheques or missing baggage.

Travel outside the UK for International Students (Non-EU/EEA)

Visas

Your student visa only allows you to remain in the UK. You will have to get a separate one for each country other than the UK that you wish to travel to. N.B. if you are travelling to more than one of certain European countries, you may be able to get a single visa that allows you to travel to all your destinations. See Schengen visas below.

Check that you have a multi-entry visa for the UK. (i.e. one that allows you to leave and re-enter the UK as many times as you wish). If you have a student visa for more than six months, it should be multi-entry.

If you do not have a multi-entry visa **DO NOT** leave the UK as you will not be permitted back in the country again without obtaining a new visa.

Each country has its own requirements from a person requesting a visa to travel there. You may be asked for the following:

- 3 + months left on UK visa after you return to the UK.
- Passport valid for 6 months +
- Letter from University confirming that you are a full-time student.
- Evidence of funds to support yourself whilst travelling on the visa.
- 2 passport sized photographs
- If you are travelling to visit someone/work for someone, a reference from them.
- An application fee
- Some embassies ask to see your travel tickets before they grant your visa but where this is not

compulsory, we advise you do **not** buy tickets until you have your visa.

These are examples and this is not a comprehensive list of everything all embassies will demand from you. You must contact the embassy of the country to which you are travelling and ask them their exact requirements before you make your application for a visa.

To find contact details for an embassy go to www.fco.gov.uk. Click on the drop down menu at the top of the page and go to Foreign embassies in the UK.

Some embassies may allow you to apply by post or in person though many ask you to make an appointment and attend the embassy for an interview. Whether or not you have to apply in person may depend upon your nationality.

You may have to prove that you fulfil the entry requirements for the UK when you come back from your trip abroad. Therefore, we advise you take all your documentary evidence such as proof of funding, proof of enrolment etc. with you when you travel.

Schengen Visas

A schengen visa allows you to travel between certain countries within the European Economic Area (EEA) for up to three months using only one visa. Some countries will issue you a multi-entry visa, which means you can leave the Schengen area and return within the three months, but some prefer to issue a single entry visa to cover you for a specific trip.

The countries included in the Schengen agreement are as follows:

Austria
Belgium

Germany
Greece

Netherlands
Norway

Denmark
Finland
France

Ireland
Italy
Luxembourg

Portugal
Spain
Sweden

(N.B. British Passport holders and nationals of countries included in the Schengen agreement do not need a visa to travel between these countries. You must have at least 3 months validity left on your passport).

To qualify for a Schengen visa, you will generally be required to have at least 3 months remaining on your current UK visa, after you return to the UK.

You can apply at the embassy of the country you intend spending the longest time in, or the one you will visit first if your stay in each is of a similar length or you are not sure of your itinerary.

Bear in mind that the cost of a visa application may vary from embassy to embassy.

There are organisations that will assist with your application but they will make an extra charge on top of the embassy's application fee.

Schenegen Embassy contacts

Austria – 020 7235 3731
24hr recorded information line: 0906 5508961
www.bmaa.gv.at/london

Belgium – 020 7470 3700
24hr recorded information line: 0906 5508 963
www.diplobel.org/uk

France – 020 7073 1000
www.ambafrance-uk.org

Germany – 020 7824 1300
24hr recorded information line: 0906 5508 922
www.german-embassy.org.uk

Greece – 020 7221 6467
www.greekembassy.org.uk

Iceland – 020 7259 3999
www.iceland.org/uk

Italy – 020 7312 2200
24hr recorded info line: 0906 5508984
www.amblondra.esteri.it

Luxembourg – 020 7434 2800
www.luxembourg.co.uk

The Netherlands – 020 7590 3200
24hr recorded information line: 0906 5508 916
www.netherlands-embassy.org.uk

Denmark – 020 7333 0200
24hr recorded information line: 0906 5508 975
www.amblondon.um.dk/en

Finland – 020 7838 6200
24hr recorded information line: 0906 5508 940
www.finemb.org.uk

Norway – 020 7591 5500
www.norway.org.uk

Portugal – 0207 291 3770
24hr recorded information line: 0906 5508 948

Spain – 020 7589 8989
24hr recorded information line: 0906 5508 970
www.conspalon.org

Sweden – 020 7917 6400
www.swedenabroad.com

Travel/Health Insurance

Your home country may have a reciprocal agreement with certain other countries, which means that you can receive some emergency treatment free or at a discounted rate if you fall sick or have an accident while you are there. Bear in mind this covers only basic emergency treatment and you are advised to take out private health insurance even when travelling to countries with reciprocal agreements, as you may be charged for some of your treatment. Search the Internet or yellow pages for insurance companies to get cover and price comparisons.

Travel Insurance may compensate you for some other eventualities such as lost travellers cheques or missing baggage.

Information for all students travelling outside the UK

Staying Healthy

If you are travelling to a malarial region you must seek advice from your GP or a specialist travel clinic well in advance of your travel. It may be necessary for you to start taking medication before you travel.

Check whether there are any vaccinations you should take before travelling. You can do this by asking your GP or by visiting www.immunisation.nhs.uk

Find out as much as you can about the country you are travelling to so that you can arrive prepared and can avoid potential hazards (such as un-distilled water or certain foods). You can get information and advice about different countries from www.fco.gov.uk

Useful contacts

Passport Offices 0870 521 0410
www.passport.gov.uk

National Rail Enquiry Service 08457 484950

Rail Europe 0870 584 8848
www.raileurope.co.uk

Eurostar Enquiries 0870 518 6186
www.eurostar.com

Eurotunnel Car Passenger Service
Enquiries/Reservations 0870 535 3535
Service Enquiries 0800 096 9992

www.eurotunnel.com

National Express (coach travel) 0870 580 8080
www.gobycoach.com

Scottish City Link Coaches 0870 550 5050

AA Road Watch and Weather Watch 0900 340 1100
www.theaa.com

List of foreign embassies in the UK
www.fco.gov.uk

General information on travel to foreign countries
www.fco.gov.uk
ov.uk

University International Office tel: 01902 322735
Or email international@wlv.ac.uk

