The Short-term Study visa is a visa which allows students to come to the UK for a period of up to six months in order to undertake a short course of study, or complete certain academic requirements of their course after their Tier 4 (General) Student visa has expired.

The Short-term Study visa is the recommended route for the following Imperial College students:

- Visiting / Occasional students on courses of 6 months or less
- Undergraduate / Masters students who need to resit exams only (no other attendance requirement)
- PhD students who need to attend their viva
- Business School Summer School courses

**Medical Elective** and **Pre-Sessional** English Language students are required to have a **Tier 4 (General) Student visa** in order to study at Imperial.

Please note that if you enter the UK on a Short-term Study visa, you are not entitled to:

- Work (paid, unpaid, voluntary or as part of a work placement or internship)
- Extend your visa in the UK, or switch to a different visa category from within the UK
- Bring dependants

For more information about the Short-term Study visa, please consult the Home Office website: [https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa](https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa)

**How do I apply for a Short-term Study visa?**

The process of obtaining a Short-term Study visa varies depending on your nationality. Some students (referred to as non-visa nationals) are able to come to the UK on a Short-term Study visa without prior Entry Clearance and others (visa-nationals) are required to apply for Entry Clearance as a Short-term Student before travelling to the UK.


If your country of nationality is on the list, you are a **visa-national**.
If your country of nationality is not on the list you are a **non-visa national**.

**Visa-nationals**

Citizens of some countries must apply for Entry Clearance (a visa) to come to the UK for any purpose and for any length of time. These citizens are known as visa-nationals.

Students who fall into the visa-national category must make an application for Entry Clearance as a Short-term Student. They can apply for entry clearance in any country outside the UK, which means that they do not need to apply in a country where they usually live.
However, students should check first that they meet the requirements of entry to the country where they are thinking of making their UK Short-term Study visa application. This application must be approved and a visa issued as a sticker in their passport before they can travel to the UK.

To apply for a Short-term Study visa, visa nationals need to apply online via the Visa4UK website: https://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/. For guidance on completing the application form, please view our guidance notes which are available here: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/international-students/visas-and-immigration/applying-for-a-student-visa-overseas/application-forms-outside-the-uk

As well as the application, you will need some supporting documents. These include:

- An original letter from Imperial College stating your personal details (name and CID number) and confirming the date(s) of your course / resit exams / viva. New students will get this letter automatically when they accept an unconditional offer of a place on a course.

  Re-sit and viva students will need to request this letter by emailing student.records@imperial.ac.uk. The Student Records Team will need confirmation in writing from your department of your resit / viva dates before they can prepare the letter.

- Bank Statements covering a period of at least 6 months which prove that you have sufficient funds to support yourself during your time in the UK (we suggest at least £1265 per month that you intend to be in the country, in addition to any outstanding course fees).

We highly recommend that in addition to submitting these supporting documents with your visa application, you also carry them with you when you travel to the UK, so that you can present them if asked to do so by an Immigration Officer at the UK Border.

**Non-visa nationals**

Citizens of certain countries (non-visa nationals) are able to come to the UK as a Short-term Student without first applying for Entry Clearance (a visa issued as a sticker in your passport). Instead, these citizens can be stamped in on arrival as a Short-term Student at the UK Border.

Students who fall into the non-visa national category must make it clear to the Immigration Officer at the UK border that they are entering the UK for the purpose of study rather than a general visit. They will not need to fill in an application form, but will be required to show the following documentation at the border:

- An original letter from Imperial College stating your personal details (name and CID number) and confirming the date(s) of your course / resit exams / viva.

  See above on how to obtain this letter.

- Bank Statements covering a period of at least 6 months which prove that you have sufficient funds to support yourself during your time in the UK (we recommend at least £1265 per month that you intend to be in the country, in addition to any outstanding course fees).

*Updated February 2017*