Visa Guidance for Study Abroad students (non-EU nationals only)

If you do not have an EU passport, you will need a visa that allows you to study in the UK.

Non-EU nationals studying in the UK for less than 6 months: Short-term Study Visa
If you will be studying at Bristol for just 1 semester you will need a short-term study visa

- A short-term study visa is given for a maximum of 6 months
- You will need to demonstrate proof of your English language level by providing one of these certificates
- You cannot extend this visa
- All work (paid or unpaid) is prohibited if you have a short-term study visa
- If you are not sure if you want to stay for a year or just 1 semester, you should apply for a Tier 4 (general) student visa because the short-term study visa cannot be extended

Students from some countries do not need to apply in advance for this visa. We will send you a visa letter before you travel to the UK and you will need to present this letter when you arrive to the UK. At that point you'll be issued with your short-term study visa (a stamp in your passport).

However, if you are from a country listed in Appendix 2 of this page, you will need to apply for your visa in advance. If you need to apply in advance for a short-term study visa, please read this information carefully before proceeding.

Non EU-nationals studying in the UK for more 6 months: Tier 4 (general) Student Visa
If you will be studying at Bristol for a full academic year, you will need to apply for a Tier 4 (general) student visa.

- All students who want a Tier 4 visa must apply in advance
- The application is done online, but you will also need to go to a visa application centre
- You'll need to demonstrate your English level by providing one of these certificates
- You'll also need to show that you can support yourself financially during your time in the UK
- It's also necessary to provide other documents – see this list for full details
- You are able to work (maximum 20 hours per week in term time)

In order to apply for a Tier 4 visa you will need a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies). We will issue you with a CAS number after you have accepted your place at Bristol. You won't be able to apply for a Tier 4 visa without a CAS.

Further Guidance
The University of Bristol's Student Visa Services website contains lots of helpful information around visas.

Questions
If you have any questions about visas, please get in touch: global-opportunities@bristol.ac.uk