

## What are eVisas and ETAs?

	eVisa	ETA
WHAT IS IT?	<p>It is a digital record of a person's immigration permission</p> <p>It replaces BRPs and vignettes (stickers) in passports</p>	<p>It gives permission to <u>travel to</u> the UK. It does not give permission <u>to enter</u> the UK.</p> <p>It must be obtained before travelling to the UK</p>
COURSE LENGTH & WHO IS IT FOR?	<p>Up to 6 months = visa nationals (standard visitor)</p> <p>More than 6 months = everyone (Student route and Short-term study)</p>	<p>Up to 6 months</p> <p>Those who <b>do not need a visa, entry clearance</b> or other specified immigration status</p> <p><a href="#">Check if you can get an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) - GOV.UK</a></p>

## eVisas

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) has a new digital immigration system that has changed how individuals show evidence of their UK immigration permission. Documents such as vignettes and biometric residence permits (BRPs) are being replaced by **eVisas**. An eVisa is an electronic record of the person's identity and immigration status and it shows the conditions of their permission in the UK. All people with immigration permission will need to create a UKVI account to be able to use their eVisa.

Once the UKVI account has been created, the person can view and then share their permission through '**view and prove**'. [View and prove your immigration status: get a share code - GOV.UK](#)

To enrol on any course at East Sussex College, you will need to show your travel document or passport (if you have one) and eVisa sharecode at application stage. We will check your right to be in the UK using the sharecode. We cannot enrol someone until these checks have been completed.

- **eVisa holders** must [link their current travel document](#) to their eVisa in their UKVI account and check details are correct. They must keep personal details up to date.

## Visitor Visa

A visitor is someone who wishes to visit the UK for up to six months.

If you are a **visa national**, then you must apply for the visa (entry clearance) before you travel to the UK.

If you are a **non-visa national**, you do not have to apply for entry clearance before travelling to the UK. You can apply to enter the UK as a visitor on arrival at the border.

From Spring 2026, UKVI will be decommissioning visitor visa vignettes and replacing them with eVisas.

## Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)

An Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA), is needed for **non-visa nationals** who want to travel to the UK as a visitor. An ETA gives a person permission to travel to the UK and is needed before travelling. The ETA only provides permission to travel to the UK, people with an ETA must also have permission to enter the UK on arrival.

An ETA costs £16.00 and allows multiple journeys to the UK for up to two years or until the person's passport expires – whichever is first. Once given, ETAs are digitally linked to a person's passport and allows a person to stay in the UK for **up to six months** at a time – including both short trips and longer trips.

**ETA eligible national** – An ETA is not a visa, it is a digital permission to travel to the UK. The quickest way to apply for an ETA is using the [UK ETA App](#).

**From 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026**, the ETA requirement will be strictly enforced and carriers will not board eligible visitors without one.

## Action required

All travellers to the UK – except British and Irish citizens – will need permission to travel to the UK in advance through either an ETA or an eVisa. What you apply for will depend on your course length and nationality.

**We strongly encourage everyone to take the appropriate actions to benefit from a smoother travel experience, avoiding potential delays and complications or being refused boarding.**

**eVisa holders – must check their UKVI account before travel, to ensure passports are up to date and linked to their eVisa – Enforcement = 28 January 2026**

**Non-visa Nationals – must apply for an ETA via the official UK ETA app for permission to travel to the UK – Enforcement = 25 February 2026**

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