

Permitted Business Activity for Visitors to the UK

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What is at stake?

- Short-term service provision
- International business
- Transnational activity
- Skills transfer
- Marketing
- Sales

What is at stake?

- Visitors & the Points-Based System
- Devolved Immigration Control
- Home Office Agenda
- Rigidity v Flexibility

Issues arising

- Leisure and Business Combined
- Duration of Visit
- Paid in the UK
- Multiple Visits
- *De facto* residency

All Visitors

- Tourism
- Leisure
- Volunteering (*not* voluntary work)
- Religion
- Study
- Medical Treatment

All Visitors: Business

- (a) Attend meetings, conferences, seminars, interviews
- (b) Give a one-off or short series of talks and speeches provided these are not organised as commercial events and will not make a profit for the organiser
- (c) Negotiate and sign deals and contracts
- (d) Attend trade fairs, for promotional work only, provided the visitor is not directly selling

All Visitors: Business

(e) Carry out site visits and inspections

(f) Gather information for their employment overseas

(g) Be briefed on the requirements of a UK based customer, provided any work for the customer is done outside of the UK

All Visitors: Business - Overseas roles requiring specific activities in the UK

Individuals employed outside the UK may visit the UK to take part in the following activities in relation to their employment overseas:

(a) A translator and/or interpreter may support a business person in the UK, provided they will attend the same event(s) as the business person and are employed by that business person outside of the UK

(b) Personal assistants and bodyguards may support an overseas business person in carrying out permitted activities, provided they will attend the same event(s) as the business person and are employed by them outside the UK. They must not be providing personal care or domestic work for the business person

All Visitors: Business - Overseas roles requiring specific activities in the UK

Individuals employed outside the UK may visit the UK to take part in the following activities in relation to their employment overseas:

(c) A driver on a genuine international route delivering goods or passengers from abroad to the UK

(d) A tour group courier, contracted to a company with its headquarters outside the UK, who is entering and departing the UK with a tour group organised by their company

(e) A journalist, correspondent, producer or cameraman gathering information for an overseas publication, programme or film

All Visitors: Business - Overseas roles requiring specific activities in the UK

Individuals employed outside the UK may visit the UK to take part in the following activities in relation to their employment overseas:

(f) Archaeologists taking part in a one-off archaeological excavation

(g) A professor from an overseas academic institution accompanying students to the UK as part of a study abroad programme, may provide a small amount of teaching to the students at the host organisation. However this must not amount to filling a permanent teaching role for that institution.

Permitted Paid Engagements: Pilot Examiners

An overseas designated pilot examiner may assess UK based pilots to ensure they meet the national aviation regulatory requirements of other countries, if they have been invited by an approved training organisation based in the UK that is regulated by the UK Civil Aviation Authority for that purpose.

All Visitors: Intra-corporate activities

An employee of an overseas based company may:

- (a) Advise and consult
- (b) Trouble-shoot
- (c) Provide training
- (d) Share skills and knowledge; on a specific internal project with UK employees of the same corporate group, provided no work is carried out directly with clients

All Visitors: Intra-corporate activities

An internal auditor may carry out regulatory or financial audits at a UK branch of the same group of companies as the visitor's employer overseas

All Visitors: Work-related training

Overseas graduates from medical, dental or nursing schools may

(a) Undertake clinical attachments or dental observer posts provided these are unpaid, and involve no treatment of patients. The visitor must provide written confirmation of their offer to take up this post and confirm they have not previously undertaken this activity in the UK

(b) Take the following test/examination in the UK:

- (i) the Professional and Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) test, where the visitor can provide written confirmation of this from the General Medical Council; or
- (ii) the Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) for overseas, where the visitor can provide written evidence of this from the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

All Visitors: Work-related training

- Employees of an overseas company or organisation may receive training from a UK based company or organisation in work practices and techniques which are required for the visitor's employment overseas and not available in their home country.
- An employee of an overseas based training company may deliver a short series of training to employees of a UK based company, where the trainer is employed by an overseas business contracted to deliver global training to the international corporate group to which the UK based company belongs.

All Visitors: Prospective Entrepreneur

A visitor who can show support from:

- (a) One or more registered venture capitalist firms regulated by the financial conduct authority; or
- (b) One or more UK entrepreneurial seed funding competitions which is listed as endorsed on www.gov.uk/government/publications/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk/entrepreneurs-setting-up-in-the-uk;

or

- (c) One or more UK Government Departments;

may come to the UK for discussions to secure funding from one of the above sources which they intend to use to join, set up or take over a business in the UK.

All Visitors: Manufacturing and Supply of Goods to the UK

An employee of a foreign manufacturer or supplier may install, dismantle, repair, service or advise on equipment, computer software or hardware where it has a contract of purchase or supply or lease with a UK company or organisation.

All Visitors: Clients of UK export companies

A client of a UK export company may be seconded to the UK company in order to oversee the requirements for goods and services that are being provided under contract by the UK company or its subsidiary company, provided the two companies are not part of the same group. Employees may exceptionally make multiple visits to cover the duration of the contract.

All Visitors: Science and Research

Scientists and researchers may:

- (a) Gather information and facts for a specific project which directly relates to their employment overseas

- (b) Share knowledge or advise on an international project that is being led from the UK, provided the visitor is not carrying out research in the UK

All Visitors: Academics

Academics may:

- (a) Take part in formal exchange arrangements with UK counterparts (including doctors)
- (b) Carry out research for their own purposes if they are on sabbatical leave from their home institution
- (c) If they are an eminent senior doctor or dentist, take part in research, teaching or clinical practice provided this does not amount to filling a permanent teaching post

Permitted Paid Engagements: Academics

An academic who is highly qualified within his or her field of expertise may examine students and/or participate in or chair selection panels, if they have been invited by a UK Higher Education Institution or a UK based research or arts organisation as part of that institution or organisation's quality assurance processes.

Permitted Paid Engagements: Experts

An expert may give lectures in their subject area, if they have been invited by a UK Higher Education Institution; or a UK based research or arts organisation provided this does not amount to filling a teaching position for the host organisation.

All Visitors: Legal

- An expert witness may visit the UK to give evidence in a UK court. Other witnesses may visit the UK to attend a court hearing in the UK if summoned in person by a UK court.
- An overseas lawyer may advise a UK based client on specific international litigation and/or an international transaction.

Permitted Paid Engagements: Legal

A qualified lawyer may provide advocacy for a court or tribunal hearing, arbitration or other form of dispute resolution for legal proceedings within the UK, if they have been invited by a client.

All Visitors: Creative

An artist, entertainer, or musician may:

- (a) Give performances as an individual or as part of a group
- (b) Take part in competitions or auditions
- (c) Make personal appearances and take part in promotional activities
- (d) Take part in one or more cultural events or festivals on the list of permit free festivals in Appendix 5 (*where payment is permitted*).

All Visitors: Creative

Personal or technical staff or members of the production team of an artist, entertainer or musician may support the activities provided they are attending the same event as the artist, entertainer or musician, and are employed to work for them outside of the UK.

All Visitors: Creative

Film crew (actor, producer, director or technician) employed by an overseas company may visit the UK to take part in a location shoot for a film or programme that is produced and financed overseas.

All Visitors: Sport

A sports person may:

- (a) Take part in a sports tournament or sports event as an individual or part of a team
- (b) Make personal appearances and take part in promotional activities
- (c) Take part in trials provided they are not in front of a paying audience
- (d) Take part in short periods of training provided they are not being paid by a UK sporting body
- (e) Join an amateur team or club to gain experience in a particular sport if they are an amateur in that sport.

All Visitors: Sport

Personal or technical staff of the sports person, or sports officials, may support the, if they are attending the same event as the sports person. Personal or technical staff of the sports person must be employed to work for the sports person outside the UK.

Permitted Paid Engagements: Creative and Sport

A professional artist, entertainer, musician or sports person may carry out an activity directly relating to their profession, if they have been invited by a creative (arts or entertainment) or sports organisation, agent or broadcaster based in the UK.

An artist, entertainer or musician visiting the UK to perform at one or more of the listed permit free festivals may receive payment to do so.