

As of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010, certain changes were made to the immigration procedures for students coming to study in the UK.

You may choose whether you want to apply for an Adult General Visa OR a Student Visitor Visa and BLC has to know this before we can send you a Letter of Acceptance or Visa letter so that you can apply for the appropriate visa.

We are going to explain the difference between the two:

1) Adult General Visa (Adult Student Visa)

- a. This student will have the right to :
  - i. Switch to another visa category and work in the UK,
  - ii. Work part time while in the UK (please check for total hours allowed)
  - iii. Extend your visa while in the UK,
- b. To apply for this type of visa the student must :
  - i. Be aged 16 or over – if younger, the student can apply for a Child Student visa, ask us about this,
  - ii. Have a CAS number from an accredited institution which is on the Register of Sponsors – The Bristol Language Centre provides you with a CAS Statement that has your CAS number on it,
  - iii. Be enrolled on a course with a minimum of 15 hours organised study per week,
  - iv. Have at least an Intermediate (European Framework B1) level – we need to receive proof of your level by way of a certificate or school report before we can send you your visa letter. You can send us an electronic copy but you will have to provide the original to the Visa Office. There are a number of possibilities as far as the proof of your level of English is concerned, for example:

a secondary school attendance record or leaving certificate showing that you had had English classes for 3/4/5 years

a secondary school examination certificate (GCSE equivalent) showing some form of English language achievement

attendance certificate from evening classes in English

college or university certificate showing attendance at/achievement in an English course

an internationally-recognised certificate in English

a reference from an appropriately-qualified person to state that you have previously studied English, citing the course and dates and giving the referee's contact details, and preferably certifying that the person has interviewed you and finds your level of English to be adequate to take the intended course.

Note that:

these documents must be originals

if they are not in English they must be translated by an appropriately-qualified translator

you can send us copies but must submit the original(s) with the visa application.

- v. Be able to prove to the Visa Office that you have the funds to pay for your course and your living costs: these are considered to be £600 per month. We need you to confirm this to us before we can provide the Visa letter but the Visa Office will expect to see proof by way of a bank statement or a signed and dated letter from a financial institution.

vi.

## 2) Student Visitor Visa.

- a. This visa will give none of the rights associated with the Adult General Visa (no right to work, or extend your course while you are in the UK)
- b. This visa has a maximum duration of 6 months and is intended for those who simply wish to follow a short course and then return home,
- c. There is no need to give a proof of your level, only the reason why you wish to follow these studies.

We hope you can understand these new rules. Please get back to us if you have any questions.

Don't forget, we need a reply to this email before we can provide a CAS Statement with your unique CAS number or a Student Visitor Visa letter

And, don't forget, if you need an Adult General Visa we need:

- Proof of your present level of English,
- Confirmation that you have sufficient funds available,

before we can provide the CAS Statement.