This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.

**Business visitors**

**Academic visitors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>About this guidance</th>
<th>This page tells you about the requirements for academic visitors who are applying in the business visitor category. Academic visitors can stay in the UK for up to 12 months. To qualify as an academic visitor, the applicant must meet all the requirements of the business visitor category and must:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|                     | • be an academic who is either:  
|                     |   o on sabbatical leave from an overseas academic institution to carry out research (for example for a book)  
|                     |   o taking part in formal exchange arrangements with UK counterparts (including doctors)  
|                     |   o coming to share knowledge or experience, or to hold informal discussions with their UK counterparts, or  
|                     |   o taking part in a single conference or seminar that is not a commercial or non-profit venture  
|                     | • be an eminent senior doctor or dentist taking part in research, teaching or clinical practice. |
| Granting or refusing | An academic visitor must be able to produce evidence that they have been working as an academic in an institution of higher education overseas, or in the field of their academic expertise immediately prior to seeking entry clearance. |
|                     | For more information on the entry or extension requirements for business visitors, see related links: entry or extension requirements. |
|                     | Applicants are unlikely to qualify as academic visitors if they are:  
|                     | • recent graduates, including those with UK degrees (their level of relevant expertise as an academic is likely to be insufficient) |

In this section

- Visiting professors and teachers accompanying students
- Film crews and representatives of overseas news media
- Secondees
- Religious workers
- Advisers, consultants, trainers and trouble shooters
- One-off training in techniques and work practices used in the UK

**Related links**

- Entry or extension requirements
- Links to staff intranet removed
This guidance is based on the Immigration Rules.

- people on sabbatical leave from private research companies
- post-graduate researchers who are undertaking studies leading to an accredited UK academic qualification
- named researchers undertaking grant funded research. They must apply under Tier 2 of the points-based system. See related link: What is Tier 2?
- lecturers undertaking a series of fee-paid lectures. They must seek entry under Tier 2 of the points-based system.
- sponsored researchers. They must enter the UK under Tier 5 (government authorised exchange) of the points-based system. See related link: Tier 5 – summary.