

Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE) Visitor information for research degree examiners

Those entering the UK to work, even in a temporary capacity such as that of a research degree examiner, are responsible for ensuring that they comply with UK immigration law. No one entering the country for work, paid or unpaid, should enter as tourist.

You can check visa requirements on the Gov.uk website via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

Some may enter the UK as a Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE) Visitor, in place of applying for a Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE) visa in advance. This means that on arrival in the UK you declare to immigration officials at the border the intention to enter the country under PPE regulations and provide supporting documentation that you are entitled to do so.

The option of entering the UK as a PPE Visitor is available for nationals of certain countries who visit the UK as invited experts on an academic visit lasting less than one month. Permitted activities include examining students for a UK Higher Education institution.

Nationals of other countries (see the 'Visitor rules' link below) and those visiting the UK for a longer period may be required to apply for a visa. Stateless people or those travelling on any document other than a national passport (except where the document was issued by the UK) must apply for a visa.

The UKBA recommend applying for a visa even if you don't require one, especially those who have a criminal record or have been refused entry to the UK previously. Note, this would incur a fee and visa application fees are not reimbursed by the university.

Information regarding Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE) regulations and the visa application process can be found on the Gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/permitted-paid-engagement-visa/overview>

Those entering the UK as a PPE Visitor must be able to show they would meet the requirements to be issued a PPE visa even if they do not require one.

Visitor supporting documents guide [pdf] - see section 1 (mandatory), section 2 (suggested) and the PPE-specific paragraphs of section 3:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visitor-visa-guide-to-supporting-documents>

Visitor rules:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor-rules>

(Also <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-part-2-transitional-provisions>.)

In particular note the information under:

- APPENDIX V Immigration Rules for visitors;
- PART V4: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITORS (STANDARD);
- PART V5: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A PPE VISITOR;
- APPENDIX 2. VISA NATIONAL LIST - lists those who require a visa;
- Exceptions to the list of visa nationals;
- VISITORS APPENDIX 3. PERMITTED ACTIVITIES FOR ALL VISITORS (EXCEPT TRANSIT VISITORS);
- VISITORS APPENDIX 4. PERMITTED PAID ENGAGEMENTS – 1(a) applies.

Visit guidance - includes information on how UK Visa and Immigration make decisions on visitor cases (see quick guide and PPE-specific information)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visit-guidance>