

This guide is intended to help students prepare for the UK visa process, and is applicable to **Dickinson in England, Dickinson at Oxford, Durham University, and Advanced Studies in England**. Please note that visa requirements and procedures can change with little or no notice. The Center for Global Study & Engagement (CGSE) strongly recommends reviewing this guide before applying to study abroad to ensure that visa timelines and requirements do not conflict with other academic, travel, or personal commitments.

Visa requirements may differ based on your citizenship status. If you are an international student or hold dual citizenship, please consult CGSE early to understand how this may affect your visa process.

## How to use this guide

This is a planning tool to help you understand the general visa process. Once accepted into a program, you will receive a detailed visa guide including key dates, deadlines, required documents, and action items specific to your program via email and through the program's D2L Brightspace pre-departure course.

## Who needs to apply for a visa prior to departure\*

- US Passport holders spending an academic year in the UK
- US Passport holders who already have plans to intern or research while in the UK for a semester
- Most non-US passport holders, [check your nationality here](#)

*\*Everyone else will need to apply for UK [Electronic Travel Authorization](#) at least 3 days prior to travel to the UK.*

## Visa Requirements

- You are responsible for providing the documents to obtain your visa.
- If you require a visa but arrive without one, you will be sent home.
- The visa process is critical. Please take it seriously and begin early.

## Visa process at a glance

- **CONSULT** and **READ** information on the visa guide and D2L Brightspace course
- **GATHER** all of the supporting documentation for your visa application
- **APPLY** through the group application process and meet all deadlines

## Materials you should be prepared to provide:

- Original, signed passport**
  - You will need to surrender your original passport as part of your application. Do not plan any international travel while your visa is processing.
  - Your passport must be valid at least 6 months AFTER the end of your study abroad program.
- Proof of Sufficient Funds (non-US students only)**
- Required application materials (Accepted students will receive specific information)**
- Visa fees**
  - You are responsible for all associated fees related to obtaining your visa (including travel, if required). Refer to the program cost sheet for estimated visa fees.

- ❑ **Flight Itinerary**
  - You must purchase your tickets before you submit your visa application and include your receipt.
- ❑ **Biometric Receipt**
  - You will need to travel to an UK-approved Biometric Screening Center as part of your application. The closest one to Carlisle is York, PA.

## **TIMING CONSIDERATIONS**

### **For fall and academic year students**

- Applications must be submitted at least one month before the start of the program
- For the fall and academic year, the visa applications are typically submitted starting in mid-June
- Visa processing can take several weeks to months, especially during summer.
- You will not be able to travel internationally while your passport is being processed.
- Plan ahead and contact CGSE with any concerns.
- International students returning home for summer may need to apply from their home country. Visa procedures and timelines may vary significantly. CGSE can assist, but it is your responsibility to confirm the process.
- Please note that if you decide to extend your time in England after you have arrived you will need to return to the United States to acquire a visa before you start your second semester.

### **For Spring semester students**

- Visa processing occurs during winter break and may take several weeks to months
- Visa applications are typically submitted to the consulate in mid-November.
- You will not be able to travel internationally during this time.
- You may be able to apply from your fall location, but this is not guaranteed.
- You may need to return to the U.S. between semesters to apply. Confirm your fall program's end date to ensure the timeline works.
- International students should confirm where they will be during visa processing. If returning to your home country, check how this affects your visa application. You may need to apply from your home country, where procedures may differ.