

UK Visas and Immigration - Information

Applying for a UK visa

When you apply for and then are granted a UK visa in your home country, you will receive only a temporary, single-entry paper visa or “vignette” that will be stuck in your passport. The vignette will allow you to travel to the UK, but does not allow any further travel from or to the UK. After arriving in the UK, you will need to get a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP).

What is a BRP card?

A BRP (Biometric Residence Permit) card is your visa and is proof of your right to be in the UK as a student. It is a plastic, credit-card style card with your photo and your immigration details on it. BRPs are only issued to those studying in the UK for more than 6 months. Whenever you travel outside the UK you will need to carry this with you with your passport. If you lose it when you are overseas you will need to apply for another card before you can return to the UK so it is vital to keep it safe when you are travelling.

How will I receive my BRP card?

The College will send instructions on how to apply for your visa/BRP so that the BRP is sent to the College and can be given to you after your arrival at the start of the Michaelmas term. It is important to keep any letters or e-mails you receive from the UK authorities when applying for a visa as these are sometimes needed for clarification.

What should I do when I receive my BRP card?

Check your BRP Card.

Check that all your details are correct and inform Mr Parsons if anything is incorrect.

The College is required to keep a photocopy of your passport and BRP. Copies will be taken at the start of term once you have received your BRP.

What if I change my address?

Most students will board at Dulwich College and so the College will remain your UK address for the validity of the visa/BRP. If you change your accommodation, you will need to inform the Home Office (HO), you can do this online at: www.gov.uk/change-circumstances-visa-brp

What if I change any other personal details?

You will need to inform the Home Office; please see their website for information on how to do this: www.gov.uk/change-circumstances-visa-brp

What if my BRP card is lost/stolen?

Remember to inform your housemaster if your card is lost/stolen.

If you are in the UK, you will need to;

1) report it to the HO immediately by emailing: BRPLost@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

2) if the card has been stolen, report the theft to the police and obtain a police report/crime reference number: www.reportmyloss.com (if the card is just lost, there is no need to report this to the police)

3) within 3 months of reporting this, you must apply for a replacement BRP card. Follow the instructions on the Home Office website to obtain a replacement card: www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits/replace

If you are outside the UK, you will need to:

1) report it to the HO immediately by emailing: BRPLost@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

2) if the card has been stolen, report it to the local police and obtain a police report/crime reference number

3) follow the instructions on the Home Office website to obtain a 'Replacement BRP visa' overseas prior to returning to the UK: www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits/replace

4) When you are back in the UK, you will need to apply for a replacement BRP card within one month: www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits/replace

Police Registration

If the UK Entry Clearance vignette in your passport (or on your BRP) contains the statement "The holder is also required to register at once with the police" or "Register with police within seven days" you should register within seven days of your arrival. Dulwich College will help you with this and organise a visit to the Overseas Visitors Registration Offices near London Bridge. If you need to quarantine for 14 days on arrival in the UK because of Covid-19, please note that it will not be necessary for you to register with the police during that period of self-isolation. Dulwich College will help you register once you arrive at the College after your period of quarantine.

To complete this registration process you will require a passport sized photograph and you will need your BRP and your passport. There is a cost of £34 which can be paid by card. Please ensure you bring a passport photograph with you when you arrive at the College.

You are responsible for ensuring you update your registration when you change address; for most students, this will be when you go to university.

Travelling to the UK

The advice from the *UK Visas and Immigration* is that all students should carry with them, on their return to the UK after the school holidays, letters of consent from their parents showing that the student is permitted to travel independently back to their boarding school. The College provides a sample of a letter of consent in the new boarders' pack sent to students/parents before the student's arrival.

If you are travelling outside the UK on a holiday, then you must ensure that you have organised any necessary visa applications. However, if this is a College related trip we will offer assistance.

For any questions about visas and immigration, please contact Mr Christopher Parsons:

parsonsc@dulwich.org.uk

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