

DfE: Turing – International Engagement

East Asia student visa information for UK nationals

March 2021

Background

This document provides an overview of visa details for UK nationals undertaking study, work or volunteering opportunities in the East Asia region. Information was collected in consultation with British Council country education teams and online research. It should be noted that many border restrictions are currently in place due to COVID-19, and some governments are not currently issuing visas.

Links to official government websites have been provided for each destination and should be referred to for the most accurate and up to date information.

Contents

Australia	2
China	2
Cambodia	3
Hong Kong	
Indonesia	
Japan	
Malaysia	5
, Myanmar	
Philippines	8
Singapore	
South Korea	
Taiwan	
Thailand	13
Vietnam	14
Laos	5

Australia

Destination	Australia
Visa type	Student Visa - Subclass 500
Official Government website	https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500
Cost	AUD 620 (approx. GBP350)
Processing time	Approximately 3-4 months for HE and VE sector. Schools sector - 90% of applications processed in 8 months
Visa requirements/conditions	Student must be enrolled in a course of study in Australia hold Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), or fall in one of the exemption categories must be 6 years or older prove you have a welfare arrangement, if you are under 18. Students can work up to 40 hours in a fortnight. Must remain enrolled in a registered course for duration of visa. Family members of primary student visa holder, you must not work in Australia until they have started their course. Family members of students studying a masters or a doctorate degree can work unrestricted hours once the primary student visa holder has started their course.
Working options for UK nationals?	Subclass 417 (12-month duration) between 18-30 years old. Costs - AUD 485. Allows study for up to 4 months, 3 months of specified work to become eligible for second working holiday visa https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-417/first-working-holiday-417

China

Destination	China
	X1 visa - Long-term study
Visa type	X2 visa- Short-term study
	F visa - Cultural exchange
Official Government website	https://bio.visaforchina.org/LON2_EN/
Cost	GBP 217
Processing time	Regular service, 4 working days
	X1 visa - More than 180 days
Visa	X2 visa - Less than 180 days
requirements/conditions	F visa - Academic exchanges, Cultural exchanges, religious exchanges, NGO activities, Volunteering (90 days or less); Foreign expert with preapproved letters of invitation; Geographic surveying and mapping activities

	International students are not permitted to work on the X type visa. But
Working options for UK	part-time work and internships off campus may be authorized. Students
nationals?	must contact their university or employer after they arrive in China to see
	what can be arranged.

Cambodia

Destination	Cambodia
Visa type	ES visa extension.
Official Government website	https://www.evisa.gov.kh/
Cost	US\$30 plus a US\$6
Processing time	Approximately three working days
Visa requirements/conditions	The ES visa extension is a student visa. Applicants for the ES visa extension need to provide a letter from a registered Cambodian school, as well as evidence of sufficient funds to support themselves. The ES student visa extension can be issued for 1, 3, 6, or 12 months. Ordinary visas (E). When you initially receive an ordinary (E) visa for Cambodia, it has the same duration as a tourist visa. However, you can then extend it when you are in Cambodia according to your purpose of travel:
Working options for UK nationals?	N/A

Hong Kong

Destination	Hong Kong
Visa type	Hong Kong Working Holiday visa Study visa (to Hong Kong)
Official Government	https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/working_holiday_scheme.html
website	https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/study.html
Cost	GBP23
Processing time	Approximately six weeks
Visa requirements/conditions	There is an annual quota of 1000 Working holiday visas for the United Kingdom. British citizens - not allowed to work for more than 12 months. Student visa requirements here: https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/study.html#firstTab
Working options for UK nationals?	UK nationals can apply for working holiday visa to work in Hong Kong.

Indonesia

Destination	Indonesia
Visa type	Student Visa (C316 for long term visa and B211A for short term visa) and KITAs (stay permit)
Official Government website	"https://www.imigrasi.go.id/apply_ri/study/short/ https://www.imigrasi.go.id/apply_ri/study/long/ https://visa-online.imigrasi.go.id/index.xhtml https://izintinggal-online.imigrasi.go.id/Home/home.xhtml"
Cost	IDR 350,000 (approx. 18 GBP)
Processing time	Approximately four months
Visa requirements/conditions	Student must contact International Office (IO) of the Indonesian before flying out to Indonesia. The IO then applies for the visa on behalf of student (Telex Visa). Once this process is completed, the IO will then send Telex Visa to the student who will then need to go to the Indonesian Embassy to collect the Student Visa. If the student is participating in a programme for more than 2 months, he/she needs to have KITAS. Same as the Student Visa, the IO will apply for KITAS on behalf of student (after the student arrive in Indonesia). Required documentations can be found on website
Working options for UK nationals?	This type of visa is not suitable for work, if you intend to work in Indonesia please refer to the 'WORK' visa section.

Japan

Destination	Japan
Visa type	Three types of visas: working; non-working; family related visa.
Official Government website	https://www.mofa.go.jp/j info/visit/visa/long/index.html
Cost	From 0 yen – 3000 yen
Processing time	5 working days.
Visa requirements/conditions	Requirements are subject to which visa you are applying for https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/procedure/issuance.html
Working options for UK nationals?	Working holidays visa available for up to 1,000 UK nationals aged 18 – 30 per fiscal year, valid for up to one year. Young people can show special skills that meet the conditions of a visa they are applying for.

Laos

Destination	Laos
Visa type	Student Visa
Official Government website	https://laoevisa.gov.la/info
Cost	US\$50
Processing time	Approximately 3 days
Visa requirements/conditions	Issued to foreign nationals who have been accepted into a Lao educational institution.
Working options for UK nationals?	NA

Malaysia

Destination	Malaysia
Visa type	Student Pass
Official Government website	https://educationmalaysia.gov.my/visa-new-application/
Cost	Approx MYR 2,149.60 (incl. processing, medical insurance)
Processing time	Approximately 4-5 weeks for Visa and i-Kad issuance
Visa requirements/conditi ons	18-35 years old, health screening, English proficiency test, Institution offer letter, basic documentation
Working options for UK nationals?	Internship and Part-time - Only allowed to work part-time for a maximum of 20 hours per week during semester breaks or holidays more than 7 days as long as their student passes remain valid (this include internships). Applications to work part-time must be made through the educational institution at which the international students are enrolled. Employment Pass - As a fresh graduate, they need to apply for an 'Employment Pass' which is valid for a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 5 years. Upon application of the 'Employment Pass' the student's passport has at least 18 months validity from the date of the offer. Application to be made via https://esd.imi.gov.my/portal/expatriates/myxpats/
Destination	Malaysia
Visa type	Employment Pass
Official Government website	https://esd.imi.gov.my/portal/expatriates/myxpats/key-services/employment-pass/#:~:text=The%20Employment%20Pass%20(EP)%20is,(up%20to%2060%20months).

Cost	MYR 1,060
Processing time	5 working days.
Visa requirements/conditi ons	The Employment Pass (EP) is a work permit that enables an expatriate to take up employment with an organisation in Malaysia. The pass is subject to the contract of employment (up to 60 months). The Expatriate Committee (EC) or relevant authorities must give approval for the foreign talent to fill a position before the issuance of an expatriate Employment Pass can be made by the Immigration Department of Malaysia.
	Requirements/Conditions -Your employer has to request approval to hire you through the Expatriate Committee (EC) or another authorized approval agency. This process is known as applying for an Expatriate Post. Once the Expatriate Post application is approved, your employer has to submit the Employment Pass Malaysia application at the Immigration Department of Malaysia.
Working options for UK nationals?	Expatriates may only work for the company named in the Employment Pass. If they change company, they need to resubmit their application
Destination	Malaysia
Visa type	International Students Mobility Program under Social Visit Pass
Official Government website	https://www.imi.gov.my/portal2017/index.php/en/pass.html?id=293; AND https://esd.imi.gov.my/portal/pdf/SVP-Guidebook.pdf
Cost	Free of charge
Processing time	7 - 14 working days
	This facility covers international students mobility program for a period determined by the participant's *eligibility by country for social visit pass; or a maximum period of up to 3 months. Programs that requires more than the participant's social visit pass duration must apply for a Professional Visit Pass.
	Requirements/Conditions
	*- Host company needs to be successfully registered with the Emigration Service Department (ESD) Online.
	- Application must be submitted by host company through the ESD Online.
Visa requirements/	- Program participant must be overseas when application is submitted.
conditions	- Passport validity must be sufficient for international travel (minimum six (6 months) - Program participant can only undertake the program approved under the host company.
	- Program participant are not allowed to bring along dependents.
	- The program participant is required to leave the country upon completion of the program or expiry of the pass. Extension of the program is not allowed.
	- Program participant from country requiring visa is required to obtain a visa before travel. Program participant will be issued Single Entry Visa (for country
	requiring visa).

	- The social visit pass endorsement is at the discretion of the Immigration officers.
Working options for UK nationals?	Types of programs / activity which are required to apply for this facility include student exchange, industrial / practical training, internship, mentorship and other similar programmes allowed.
Destination	Malaysia
Visa type	Professional Visit Pass (PVP)
Official Government website	https://esd.imi.gov.my/portal/expatriates/myxpats/key-services/professional- visit-pass/
Cost	MYR 1,060
Processing time	7-14 working days
	A Professional Visit Pass (PVP) is granted to foreign talents with acceptable professional qualifications or skills. They can enter the country and provide services or undergo practical training with a Malaysian company on behalf of an overseas company on a temporary basis, for up to 12 months. Requirements/Conditions:
Visa requirements/conditi ons	 Applications should be submitted by a sponsor in Malaysia prior to the entry of the applicant into the country. The validity of the pass is subjected to the requirement and conditions of Immigration rules and policies for a period not exceeding 12 months. Application for a Visit Pass (Professional) to undergo training at a factory or hotel only applicable for a period not exceeding six months. Confirmation letter from the overseas educational institution with the following details: Name of the student as per passport; Passport number; Course/ Major enrolled; Course/ Major start and end date; Confirmation from the institution on the student's current standing (year of study, enrolment status); Name and position of the signatories of the letter. (b) Internship offer letter from host company (British Council-MY) with the following details: Name of the applicant as per passport; Passport number; Name of the program Program start and end date; Signature, name and position of the host company representative; Acceptance signature, and date of the applicant (c) Detailed schedule of the internship program

	Categories:Other experts/volunteers
	-Volunteer
Working options for UK nationals?	-International students under industrial training/ mobility program in universities/ Colleges/ private/ public schools/ Embassies/ Hotel/ Company
	-Experts who have specialized skills that are considered suitable by the Director General of Immigration, Malaysia

Myanmar

Destination	Myanmar
Visa type	Education Visa
Official Government website	https://www.londonmyanmarembassy.com/index.php?id=123
Cost	3 month visa: GBP 45 for single entry; GBP 175 multiple entry. 6 months multiple entry GBP 350. 1 year multiple entry GBP 525
Processing time	Min 5 working days
Visa requirements/conditions	A letter of recommendation from the respective school or university
Working options for UK nationals?	Information is currently unavailable. Does not look like there is a specific student work scheme.

Philippines

Destination	Philippines
Visa type	Student Visa
Official	"http://www.immigration.gov.ph/faqs/visa-inquiry/student-visa
Government website	http://londonpe.dfa.gov.ph/faqs35"
website	
Cost	USD 250
Processing time	Two days to a few weeks or months, depending on nationality.
Visa requirements/con	"A Student Visa is necessary if a foreign national, 18 years old and above, intends to take up a course higher than high school in the Philippines. Furthermore, he/she has to have sufficient means of support for education in the Philippines. (Source: http://www.immigration.gov.ph/faqs/visa-inquiry/student-visa)
ditions	Most universities in the Philippines help in processing the student visa through their Office of Student Affairs. Further, only universities with programmes accredited by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and by the Bureau of Immigration (BI) can accept and enroll international students. (Sources: https://ched.gov.ph/wp-

	content/uploads/2018/09/JointMemorandumNo01series2017InterAgencyCommitte eonForeignStudentsmin.pdf; https://studyabroadaide.com/study-in-philippines-international-students/)"
Working options for UK nationals?	The Philippines do not allow foreign students under a student visa to work while studying. Foreign nationals planning to work in the Philippines are required to secure a work visa, which can be obtained from the Philippine Bureau of Immigration (BI), as well as an Alien Employment Permit (AEP) issued by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). Information is currently unavailable. Does not look like there is a specific student work scheme.

Singapore

Destination	Singapore
Visa type	Student's Pass
Official Government website	https://www.ica.gov.sg/visitor/studentpass/ihl
Cost	S\$30
Processing time	5-10 working days
Visa requirements/conditions	Applicable for any foreigner who has been accepted and offered a place as a full-time matriculated or registered student at one of the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) in Singapore
Working options for UK nationals?	Students registered as full-time students with approved IHLs are allowed to work during vacation/term breaks, and during school terms (upto 16 hours per week) https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/work-pass-exemption-for-foreign-students
Destination	Singapore
Visa type	Working Holiday Pass
Official Government website	https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/work-holiday-programme
Cost	S\$175
Processing time	3 weeks
Visa requirements/conditions	Applicable for undergraduate students or graduates of a university in Australia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom or United States; ages 18-25 yrs
Working options for UK nationals?	The Work Holiday Pass allows the student/graduate to stay and work in Singapore for up to 6 months. Maximum number of passes is 2,000 at any time.
Destination	Singapore
Visa type	Training Work Permit

Official Government website	https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/training-work-permit/key-facts
Cost	S\$ 35 per application; S\$35 upon approval
Processing time	3 weeks
Visa requirements/conditions	For foreign students on practical training in Singapore for up to 6 months. An employer needs to apply for the permit. Employers may be subject to quota and levy for each Work Permit holder and must provide them with Medical Insurance.
Working options for UK nationals?	The permit is non-renewable.

South Korea

Destination	South Korea
Visa type	D-2 (student visa for degree higher than a professional school, research course, or exchange student course D-4 (student visa to study Korean language at a university language school)
Official Government website	https://www.studyinkorea.go.kr/en/overseas_info/allnew_visaApplication.do
Cost	90 days or less Single-entry visa USD 40 91 days or longer Single-entry visa USD 60 Double-entry visa usable up to 2 times USD 70 Multiple-entry visa USD 90
Processing time	If you are an exchange student, you need to submit Exchange Student Agreement between the Universities and letter of recommendation written by current school in UK.
Visa requirements/conditions	For foreign students on practical training in Singapore for up to 6 months. An employer needs to apply for the permit. Employers may be subject to quota and levy for each Work Permit holder and must provide them with Medical Insurance.
Working options for UK nationals?	Working holiday VISA (H-1 VISA) available for UK citizens aged 18 to 30, valid for up to one year. (25 hours/week permitted. Multiple re-entry is possible during the 12 months period, offered for up to 1,000 applicants per year)
	D-10-1 VISA is provided for those who want to seek employment in Korea mainly after studying in Korea, but also provided for those who has been offered an internship for specific Korean firm. More strict points-based system and harder to acquire. This VISA is valid for 6 months but can be reapplied up to 3 times. (Total 2 years of stay allowed)"

Taiwan

Destination	Taiwan
Visa type	Youth Mobility Visa
Official Government website	https://www.boca.gov.tw/cp-153-389-8d3b8-2.html
Cost	US\$66
Processing time	Minimum 14 Working days
Visa requirements/conditions	Visitor Visas for Foreign Exchange Students for Stays of less than Six Months
Working options for UK nationals?	Yes, Youth Mobility visa – bilateral agreement between the UK and Taiwan, available to young Brits aged 18 – 30, valid for one year.
Destination	Taiwan
Visa type	Visitor Visas for Foreign Exchange Students
Official Government website	"https://www.taiwanembassy.org/uk_en/post/3831.html;
Cost	Visitor visa: single entry 38 GBP; multiple entry 76 GBP
Processing time	Minimum 14 Working days
Visa requirements/conditions	Visitor Visas for Foreign Exchange Students for Stays of less than Six Months
Working options for UK nationals?	Refer to article 30 – If a student is enrolled in a course for 1 semester or more to take language course(s) for one year or more, and the school acknowledges the following situations, the student may engage in jobs relevant to the course(s) he/she has taken and the language he/she has learned:
	1.It is proven by concrete evidence that the financial situation of the said foreign student is unable to continuously sustain his/her studies and cost of living.
	2. The teaching or researching unit of the school where the said foreign student is enrolled is in need of his/her assistance and participation in teaching or researching work.
	3. The student has to engage in off-campus practical training related to the course(s) he/she is taking.
	Foreign students who meet one of the following qualifications are not restricted by the provisions as referred to in the preceding paragraph:
	1.Foreign students with exceptional specialty in a foreign language, with the ad hoc approval by the Ministry of Education, after his/her enrolment in the school, to work on a part-time basis as a teacher in that language in a subsidiary language centre affiliated with a University/College or with a

	foreign culture and education organization stationed in the Republic of China.
	2.Foreign students enrolled in a graduate institute and have been approved by the school where the said foreign students are enrolled in to conduct relevant research work."
Destination	Taiwan
Visa type	Visitor Visa for Internship Purpose
Official Government website	"https://www.taiwanembassy.org/uk en/post/3831.html;
Cost	Visitor visa: single entry 38 GBP; multiple entry 76 GBP
Processing time	Minimum 14 Working days
Visa requirements/conditions	Only for Internship
Working options for UK nationals?	N/A
Destination	Taiwan
Visa type	Residents Visas for Studying Mandarin Chinese
Official Government website	"https://www.taiwanembassy.org/uk_en/post/3831.html;
Cost	Resident visa: Single entry only: 50 GBP
Processing time	Minimum 14 Working days
Visa	Regulations on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of
requirements/conditions	Foreign Workers Article 31
Working options for UK nationals?	N/A
Destination	Taiwan
Visa type	Residents Visas for Foreign Students(Full-time PhD, Master's, Bachelor's program, or senior high school Students)
Official Government website	"https://www.taiwanembassy.org/uk_en/post/3831.html;
Cost	Resident visa: Single entry only: 50 GBP
Processing time	Minimum 14 Working days
Visa requirements/conditions	Regulations on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of Foreign Workers Article 31
Working options for UK nationals?	N/A

Destination	Taiwan
Visa type	Residents Visas for Foreign Students(Exchange students)
Official Government website	"https://www.taiwanembassy.org/uk_en/post/3831.html;
Cost	Resident visa: Single entry only: 50 GBP
Processing time	Minimum 14 Working days
Visa requirements/conditions	Regulations on the Permission and Administration of the Employment of Foreign Workers Article 31
Working options for UK nationals?	N/A
Destination	Taiwan
Visa type	Residents Visas for Internship Purpose
Official Government website	"https://www.taiwanembassy.org/uk_en/post/3831.html;
Cost	Resident visa: Single entry only: 50 GBP
Processing time	Minimum 14 Working days
Visa requirements/conditions	Only for internship
Working options for UK nationals?	N/A

Thailand

Destination	Thailand
Visa type	Non-Immigrant ED Visa (Thai Education visa)
Official Government website	"https://london.thaiembassy.org/en/publicservice/84508-non-immigrant-visas
Cost	125 GBP
Processing time	In person - 5 business days. By mail – min 15 business days
	Non-Immigrant Type ED (To study in a higher education level (university or college) - single entry only
Visa requirements/conditions	Academic certificate from previous education level
	Letter confirming enrolment details from university/college signed by authorised person together with a copy of ID card or passport of the signer, University/college's registration certificate

	Financial evidence e.g. bank statements, proof of earnings, proof of sponsorship from a third party, Confirmation of legal residence in the UK or Ireland
	Requirement - To apply for a Non-Immigrant ED Visa you will need to have been accepted on a full-time educational course, training program, or internship in Thailand. The school and course must be recognized by the Thai Government and the course must require students to attend classes for at least 100 hours for every 90-days; this roughly amounts to 8-10 hours per week.
	Visa Validity - When you enter on your Non-Immigrant ED Visa for the first time you will be granted 90-days to stay in Thailand. This will be extended to 1-year when you make your first 90-day report, and you must first complete your course registration and pay your tuition fees in full, presenting immigration with a school/institute issued letter confirming you have done so. You will then have to continue to make 90-day reports thereafter."
Working options for UK nationals?	Those who wish to stay longer or may wish to change their type of visa must file an application for permission. The extension of stay as well as the change of certain type of visa is solely at the discretion of the Immigration officer.

Vietnam

Destination	Vietnam
Visa type	Visitor visa
Official Government website	https://vietnamembassy.org.uk/consular-services/visa/
Cost	USD 105 under 6 months/ USD 145 over 6 months
Processing time	5-7 working days. Extra fee for express service
Visa requirements/conditions	There is a general requirement for visa application. Students under exchange programmes will be supported by Host institutions. There is a circular by the Ministry of Education and Training specifically on student exchange, in which, the host institutions will be responsible for applying visa and report on progress of incoming students. https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/Giao-duc/Thong-tu-30-2018-TT-BGDDT-Quy-che-quan-ly-nguoi-nuoc-ngoai-hoc-tap-tai-Viet-Nam-403745.aspx
Working options for UK nationals?	If the exchange involves with non-paid internship with industry over 3 months, additional working permit is required. They need to apply with a separate ministry (Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs in this case) With paid apprenticeship, it will become more complicated.