



UK Visas & Immigration

The UK Visa Service in India

Did you know?

- **90% of Indian customers** who apply for a visa get oneⁱ.
- In 2013 UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) issued almost **317,000 visas to Indian visitors**, 6% more than in 2012ⁱⁱ.
- **Provisional figures from Visit Britain show 10% more Indian customers** visiting the UK in 2013 than in 2012ⁱⁱⁱ.
- **Average processing times** for a (non-settlement) visa in India was just over eight days in 2013 and we processed 96% of applications within our 15 working day target.



Delivering what our customers want

A quick and convenient application process....

- We have **12 visa application centres** across India in Pune, New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Cochin, Hyderabad, Jalandhar, Kolkata and South and North Mumbai compared to three or four on offer from most of our competitors.
- Applicants can apply, pay and book a visa application centre appointment **online**.
- We employ additional short-term staff during the busy summer months to ensure that we meet increasing demand and continue to process visas within our service standards

Clear guidance and information...

- Guides on the visa application process are available in Hindi for business visitors and tourists
- We provide **translated help-text in Hindi** on our online application forms
- We provide a **telephone, email and webchat visa information enquiry service** in English, Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Urdu , Sinhalese and Gujarati.

Added value services...

- We offer a **2-4 day priority visa service** at all our application centres to visitors who have previously travelled to the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada (5CC) or Schengen countries.
- Our **super priority visa service** aims to process applications within 24 hours is available in New Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai. It is available to general and business visitors who have travelled to a 5CC or a Schengen country within the last five years. It is also available to visa applicants sponsored by companies who are members of our Business Express Scheme
- We offer a **Passport Pass Back service** for applicants who wish to retain their passport to travel or to apply for a visa to another country whilst their UK visa is being processed.
- There is a **business express** service for invited companies.
- We offer **premium service lounge** facilities at our visa application centres in Ahmedabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore and New Delhi.

Working with partners ...

- UKVI supports the **British Council** in all their student events and exhibitions around India
- We are also taking part in the **GREAT** Initiative road shows that are being conducted in the Tier 2 cities in India.



Some common misperceptions about Indian visas

The UK's visit visas are expensive.

The cost of a UK visa is competitive. A UK visit visa costs £80 and is multiple entry and valid for six months. In India, a Schengen visit visa for France or Germany costs about £60 for the standard single entry three month visa and a US visit visa cost around £100.^{iv}

It takes too long to get a UK visa.

Our standard service is to provide a visa application centre appointment within five working days and to make a decision within 15 days. However, average processing time for a (non-settlement) visa in India was just over eight days in 2013. Our priority service processing time is two to four working days and our super-priority service 24 hours.

A UK visa application is too long and complicated.

The UK application forms are straightforward and are completed online. Many of the questions require simple yes/ no answers.

Having to provide biometric information (finger scans and photographs) when they apply is unnecessary and puts the UK at a disadvantage.

Biometric information is a key part of the UK's visa process and helps protect applicants and the UK public. The Schengen area is also due to introduce biometrics as part of its visa application process.

Frequent visitors have to apply each time they come to the UK, including resubmitting their biometrics.

We offer multiple entry long term visit visas, valid for up to 10 years, for frequent travellers to the UK, eliminating the need for them to keep re-applying for a visit visa

You need an agent to ensure a successful outcome.

You don't need an agent to make a successful UK visa application. You can find helpful information on both our website and in the guidance pages that accompany your visa application.

It is difficult to get a visa to study in the UK

There is no limit on those coming to study here. While the number of first year Indian students has fallen, this should be considered in the context of the dramatic increases we previously experienced. The number of Indian students admitted to the UK doubled between 2008 and 2009 (from 30,800 to 61,200 — total study admissions).

There are no longer any work opportunities for Indian graduates who come to study in the UK since the closure of the Tier 1 post study route.

This is not true. There are a number of visa routes that graduates can use to start/progress their career in the UK. We have the Tier 2 (General), Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) and Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) routes. There are also a number of other opportunities for PhD students who complete their studies here. The UK welcomes global talent and more work-related visas and extensions of stay to work in the UK are issued to Indian customer than any other nationality.

Last updated: April 2014.

Source for all data is the Home Office published statistics, October to December 2013 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tables-for-immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2013> unless stated otherwise

^{i i} Total visas issued against applications 01/01/13 – 31/12/13

ⁱⁱ Visitor visas issued 01/01/13 – 31/12/13 against 01/01/12 – 31/12/12

ⁱⁱⁱ Percentage increases in nominal terms for 01/01/13-31/12/13. VisitBritain inbound visitor statistics, December 2013 <http://www.visitbritain.org/insightsandstatistics/inboundvisitorstatistics/latestdata/>

^{iv} Correct using information and exchange rates at the time of writing in February 2014. In India a Schengen visa for Germany and France costs €60 plus a local Rs 935 service fee and Rs 60 cash handling charge per application. A US visa costs \$160.