

UK Visitor Visa for a Short Sports Course

International athletes travelling to the UK for a short football course may need a Standard Visitor visa. The immigration permission required depends on the athlete's nationality, planned activities and circumstances. Applicants under 18 must also have appropriate parental consent and suitable arrangements for travel, accommodation and care in the UK.

Visitor Route and Under-18 Applicants

A Standard Visitor may undertake certain permitted sporting activities, including short periods of training, subject to the Visitor rules. Students and families should check that the particular football course and planned activities are permitted before travelling. A Standard Visitor can normally stay for up to six months, and a visa application can usually be made up to three months before travel.

Applicants under 18 require appropriate parental or guardian consent and suitable travel, accommodation and care arrangements. Where a child travels alone, the application should include the relevant consent, contact and care information. Where the child travels with an adult who is not their parent or guardian, that adult should be identified in the application.

For some younger visitors staying for more than 28 days with someone who is not a close relative, additional private foster care or local authority requirements may apply. Families should check the arrangements that apply to the individual child.

Application and Supporting Evidence

Where a Standard Visitor visa is required, the application is normally completed online and the applicant may need to attend a Visa Application Centre to provide biometrics. Supporting evidence depends on the applicant's circumstances and may include a valid passport, evidence of sufficient funds, details of the planned visit and accommodation, confirmation from the football academy and, for applicants under 18, the relevant parental consent and care arrangements.

Applicants should provide accurate information about their travel plans. They should not assume that purchasing flights in advance is a visa requirement. Travel insurance is sensible for an international sports visit but is not normally a mandatory Standard Visitor visa document.

Current Visa Costs

Current fees include the following. Priority services are not available in every location and processing times are not guaranteed:

Service	Current fee
Standard Visitor visa, up to six months	£135
Priority service, where available	Additional £500
Super Priority service, where available	Additional £1,000

ETA and Other Travel Permission

Not every visitor requires a Standard Visitor visa. Depending on nationality and circumstances, a traveller may instead require an Electronic Travel Authorisation, or may be able to travel without either. Students and families should establish the permission required before making an application or travel commitments.

WorldStudentAdvisors

WorldStudentAdvisors can help students and their families understand the immigration requirements for a short UK sports programme, organise the relevant supporting information and check that the proposed course and travel arrangements are consistent with the intended Visitor route.

The Key Message

International athletes travelling to the UK for a short football course should first establish whether their planned activities are permitted under the Visitor rules and whether they require a Standard Visitor visa, an ETA or another form of travel permission.

For applicants under 18, particular attention should be given to parental consent, travel and accommodation arrangements and appropriate care in the UK. Families should provide accurate supporting information and check the current immigration requirements before making travel commitments.

Disclaimer: This information is provided in good faith and was believed to be accurate at the time of publication. Fees, dates, entry requirements, visa regulations and other information may change. Students should check current requirements before making any financial or study commitments.