Short Term Student Visa Webinar

March 2018
Objectives

• To give delegates a full understanding of the STSV
• To develop a full understanding of the potential issues which might prevent a student obtaining a visa
• To consider alternative curriculum models
Content

• Who is the STSV for?
• What can students do with the STSV
• What can’t students do?
• The do’s and don'ts of STSV’s
• Developing a curriculum model
Who is the STSV for?

- Student doing a short course in the UK
- This means six months or less (26 weeks)

**OR**

- 11 months for students following an [English Language Course](#)
- Students completing electives when they are studying towards a medical, dentistry or veterinary degree at an overseas higher education institution through the STSV route
Who is the STSV for?

• Designed for students outside of the European Economic Area
• Students studying a course through distance learning **BUT complete part of their course in the UK**  
  SEE SLIDE NUMBER 10
• Research is possible if its part of a overseas degree programme
What has changed?

- Students can now remain for up to 30 days after the end of their course – previously there was no time limit.
- The Child STSV age limit has been reduced from 18 – 16.
- Guidance is now clearer on frequent and successive use of the STSV.
• Students must be 16 or older
• Students must prove:
  a) They have been offered a place on a course in the UK at an accepted place of study
  b) They have sufficient funds to support themselves without working or help from public funds OR that relatives or friends can support and house the student
  c) They can pay for their return journey
If below the age of 18 but above the age of 16 then:

a) Students must show that suitable arrangements have been made for their travel to, reception and care in the UK

b) Have a parent or guardian in their home country who confirms their consent to the above arrangements
Where students can study

- At any Tier 4 education provider
- At any organisation accredited by BAC or a similar body
What courses can be Studied?

• Any course which last for up to six months or 11 months if it is an English Language course
• Any student taking a UK based course through distance learning **BUT** the majority of their study time must be outside the UK, the course must be longer than 6 months and can only the UK for a maximum of 56 days in any 6 month period.
What students can’t do

• Switch into any other form of immigration category whilst in the UK
• If a student wishes to continue studying at your institution or elsewhere they must leave the country and reapply
• Cannot do any kind of paid work or voluntary work
• Do any work placement
• Carry out any work experience

BUT
Volunteering

Students can volunteer to do work

A volunteer is someone who:
- do not have a contract of employment
- does not take the place of an employee
- does not receive payment in kind but reimbursement for reasonable travel and subsistence expenses is allowed
- usually helps a charity or voluntary or public sector organisation

Not to be confused with:

Voluntary workers:
- often have a contract with their employer (this means the employer must provide the work and the voluntary worker must attend at particular times and carry out specific tasks)
- voluntary workers are also usually remunerated in kind.

Source: Short-term students Version 2.0 This guidance is based on paragraphs A57A to A57H of the Immigration Rules
Proof of study documents

• **Letter of acceptance** from the educational institution
• This must be letter headed paper
• The letter must include:
  a) The name of the course
  b) The duration of the course
  c) The start and end date of the course
  d) Cost – if accommodation is included this must be noted
The documents students must provide when applying for their visa

- A current passport
- One passport sized colour photograph
- Evidence that they can support themselves during their stay e.g. bank statements for the last three months
- Details of where they intend to stay and their travel plans
- Any documents that aren’t in English must be translated and certified
- If they are coming for research or part of their overseas degree programme then they will need to bring proof of study
When to apply for the visa

- Visa’s can be applied for three months in advance
- Student should check in their own country for the length of time it will take to issue a visa
- Students can state the start date for the visa
- The six month visa starts from the date that its valid **NOT** from the date of entry into the UK
Leave to Entry v Entry Clearance

**Leave to Enter** means students can apply for their visa at the border

Only available to students from listed countries **BUT** there is no guaranteed right to entry

**Entry Clearance** means students must obtain a visa prior to entry – this will be a multi entrance visa i.e. students have freedom to come and go within the STSV time period
Short Term Study Visa
(Child – below the age of 16)

• As for adult STSV PLUS
• Students can travel without an adult BUT parent or guardian must give written consent with full contact details
• They must have proof of where they will be living in the UK which must include:
  a) The name and address of the person they will be living with
  b) The address where they will be living
  c) Details of the relationship of the person looking after the student
  d) Written confirmation that they consent to looking after the student
  e) If students are staying in homestays or boarding (but not if at a legal guardians establishment) for more than 28 days they will fall under Foster Care arrangements or Boarding School legislation
Common reasons for Visa Refusals

- Applicants apply for the wrong visa
- The Offer Letter does not meet UKVI information requirements
- Applicants have misunderstood the documentary requirements
- Financial documents are out of date
- UKVI suspect that the STSV is being used for full time study i.e. a course that is longer than 6 months in duration

https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa
What does Frequent or Successive study mean?

Frequent or Successive study would suggest that the STSV route is being used for full time study

- When someone seeks an second STSV within 2 months of last visiting the UK
- If the student has more that 5 STSV’s within a five year period

https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa
**Do**

- Make sure your offer letter is designed to cover UKVI information requirements
- Do make sure that you note that your institution is BAC accredited
- Do provide guidance notes for students
- Avoid any potential confusion
Don’t

- Allow students, no matter how senior they might be, to apply for anything other than a Short Term Study Visa
- Avoid dealing with accommodation issues
- Avoid local authority issues for under 16’s
- Issue repeated offer letters for a student in the same year – they will be refused entry at some point!
Curriculum Modeling

• Straight forward for short courses
• Distance learning with a UK study element
• Multiple EU country study
• Overseas study with a partner institution – pre exam study session in the UK prior to taking examinations in the UK
• Condensed courses