



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?



Continued....

- 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

Short Term Study Visa (16+)



- 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

Short Term Study Visa (16+)



Continued.....

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 be in 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

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

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