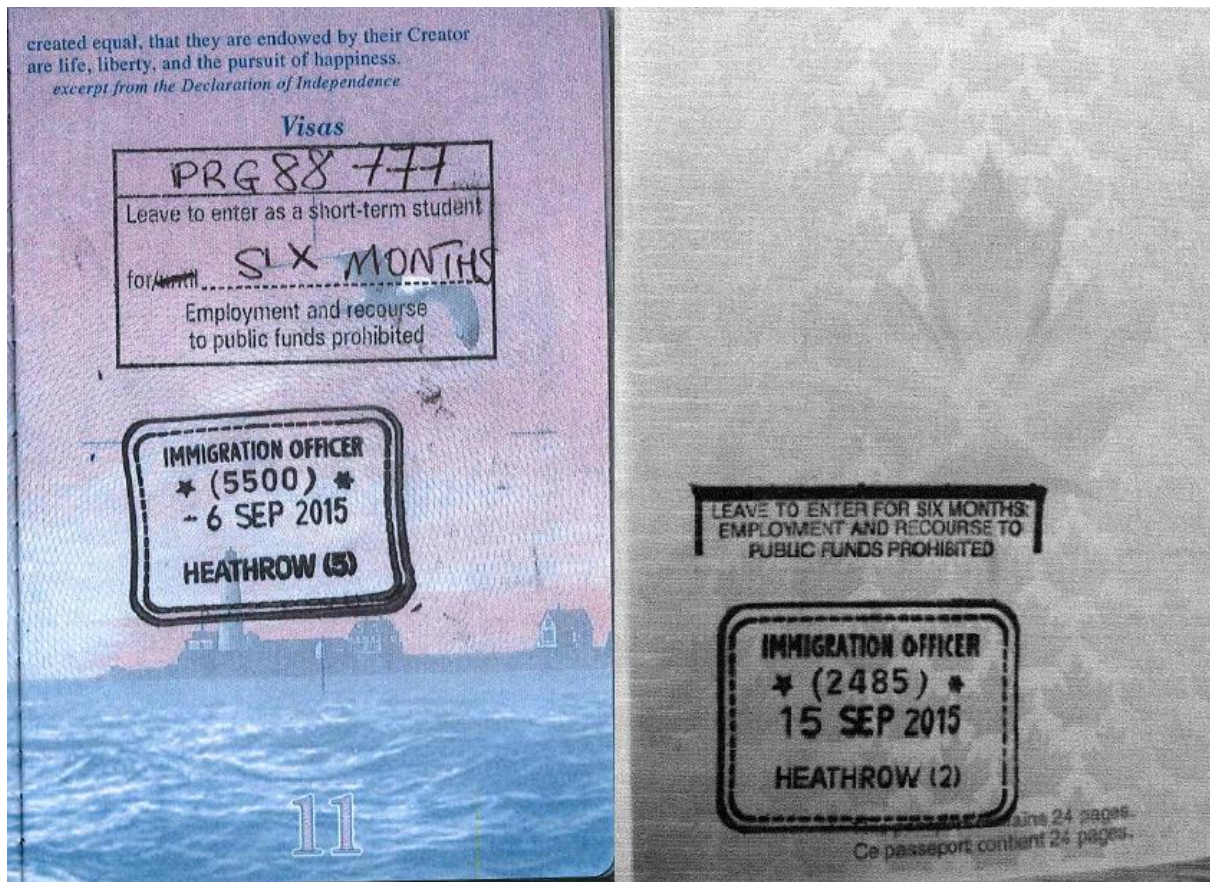


## Short-term study visas – a guide for non-visa nationals

- If you are a non-visa national and are planning to apply for leave to enter (a visa) upon arrival at the UK border it is very important that you ensure you are given the correct permission i.e. a Short-term Study Visa stamp, that will allow you to study. This guidance also applies to those with an electronic visa waiver (EVW) who apply for permission to enter at the border.
- You should make sure that you have with you in your hand luggage the short-term study supporting letter or offer letter sent to you by Cardiff University confirming the details of your course of study, its duration and its cost. If you are returning to take a re-sit examination or attend a viva you should have written evidence. Show this to the border staff and make it clear to them that the purpose of your visit is to study.
- If your course of study requires an ATAS certificate the border officer will decline your entry if you do not hold a valid certificate. Your support letter/offer letter will indicate if you need an ATAS certificate.
- If you intend to enter the UK from the Republic of Ireland you must obtain a short-term study visa before leaving home since you will not encounter Border Officers when you enter via this route and entry will only be permitted for a maximum of three months, after which time you will have to leave the UK.
- The picture overleaf on the left is an example of what a short-term study visa stamp looks like. The picture on the right is of a standard visit visa, which does not entitle you to study. If the stamp in your passport does not clearly show that you sought entry as a short-term student then you must ask the border officer to amend it. It is important that you make it clear that you intend to study here and that you are not entering as a tourist or general visitor. If your visa stamp is not entered correctly at the Border, in most cases it cannot be amended in country, and you will need to leave the UK and re-enter in order to obtain the correct stamp. You will not obtain the correct stamp if you enter via an e-Gate.



**RIGHT STAMP**

**WRONG STAMP**

**Disclaimer**

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, Cardiff University can accept no responsibility for errors or omissions. Cardiff University is not responsible for the content or reliability of the linked websites and does not necessarily endorse the views expressed within.

The government makes changes to the immigration rules and procedures on a regular basis, so it is important that you check the current guidance and rules when applying for a visa. For further information visit [UKCISA](#) and the [Home Office](#) websites.



Immigration advice and services regulated by the Immigration Services Commissioner

International Student Support  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Students' Union Building  
CF10 3QN

Tel: (029) 2087 6009  
Email: [iss@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:iss@cardiff.ac.uk)  
Search for 'International Student Support' on the intranet

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