

justteachers Guide to Visas – Canada

Visas can be a minefield but do not worry; the International team at **justteachers** are on hand to guide you through it, what can often look like a daunting process is often very straightforward.

Throughout the last two years the UK government completely overhauled entry routes in to the UK, introducing a point's based system of immigration. Depending on the visa that you are applying for, the processing time can be as little as 5 working days (Tier 5-Youth Mobility Visa) up to 8 weeks (Tier One or Right of Abode). Please note that **justteachers** are not an immigration advisory organisation, the below is information sourced from the British Immigration Agencies web site in the UK and the British High Commission site in Canada.

How to apply for a UK visa

All visa applications must be made and paid for online. You can also find all of the information you need to decide whether you need a visa for the UK, which visa is best for you and what documents you will need via the free website of British High Commissions commercial partner; WorldBridge.

Where can I get more information about UK visas?

All of the information that you need to make your application is available free of charge from WorldBridge's website. We recommend that you visit the WorldBridge site before you make your online application. You will find links to all of the UK Border Agency's information about visas for the UK as well as the link to the official online application platform. If you need to confirm any of the information that you find on the website, WorldBridge also provide a free email enquiry service.

If you would like to speak to a visa operator to confirm any information, WorldBridge also provide a premium rate telephone enquiry service:

1 900 528 5280 - (Premium rate \$3.20 CAD/minute plus tax)

1 514 667 3698 - (Flat rate \$12.00 USD/regardless of length of call)

The WorldBridge service is available Monday to Friday from 0900 to 1700 (East Coast through West Coast).

All of the information provided by WorldBridge has been supplied and approved by the UK Border Agency.

Please ensure you always check and double check your application prior to submission to ensure you have submitted the necessary information and you are clear on the documentation required. The High Commission are only able to post-date visas by a maximum of **three months** from the time of application. You can enter the UK anytime on or after your visa issue date, but not before. Please ensure you leave plenty of time for processing as changes to air tickets can be very expensive and frustrating.

For a step by step guide in how to apply please click [here](#).

The tiers and categories that teachers from overseas enter in to the UK to work with **justteachers** are:

- Tier 5 - Youth Mobility Visa (YMS) – open to Canadian citizens aged between 18-30
- Tier 1 - open to Canadian citizens that do not qualify for a YMV
- Alternative routes – British/EEA/EU Passport ,Ancestry, Right of Abode, Spouse Visa

Recruiting Teachers into UK Schools

Processing time

The UK Border Agency processes most visa applications within **15** business days from the date your visa application form and supporting documents are received at the UK Border Agency office in Ottawa. The UK Border Agency aims to process settlement visa applications within 10 weeks from the date your visa application form and supporting documents are received at the UK Border Agency office in Ottawa. Visa applications are assessed individually and processing times may vary.

Please note that some applications are not considered straight forward therefore these figures are for guidance only and it is not guaranteed that your application will be dealt with within that time.

Please check current performance on the Worldbridge website by clicking [here](#)

Points Based Visa Routes to teach in the UK

[Tier 5 - Youth Mobility Scheme \(YMS\) – Tier 5](#)

As its name suggests a scheme aimed at young teachers coming to the UK for a short period of time. To be eligible for Tier 5 you will need to score 40 points for attributes and 10 points for maintenance. As a Canadian citizen (30 points) aged 18 to 30 years (10 points) you will meet the points required for attributes, with \$3700 (approx.) or £1,600 of available funds in your bank account (10 points) at the time of application you will meet the points required for maintenance. If in doubt use the [Self Assessment Points Calculator](#) to confirm eligibility.

Once you have been granted the YMS visa you are permitted to enter the UK for a maximum of two years. As an Canadian teacher holding this visa you are entitled to work as a teacher in England on either a supply basis or a permanent basis. Please click [here](#) for the latest fees.

Please note that you are not permitted to extend your stay after two years or make an “in country” application to switch to another visa, this would have to be made in Canada.

Unfortunately you will not be eligible for the scheme if:

- You do not meet the points criteria described above
- You have previously held a working holiday maker visa or YMS visa
- You have dependent children under the age of 18

[Tier One General Visa](#)

The Tier One Visa is designed to allow highly skilled Canadian teachers to migrate to the United Kingdom to look for teaching work. This visa will be valid for 2 years initially and is extendable in the UK. It is different from the standard UK sponsorship scheme because applicants do not need a specific teaching job offer in the UK. You will need a minimum of 100 points to qualify, unfortunately due to a limited number of Tier 1 visas available and an increase of points required from 95 to 100 it has become increasingly difficult for teachers to qualify for Tier 1. Click [here](#) to assess your eligibility on the point's calculator.

Alternative visa routes to work in the UK

[UK Ancestry Visa](#)

Under the UK Immigration Policy for Ancestry Visas, Commonwealth citizens who can verify their grandparent was born in the UK (including Southern Ireland prior to 31 March 1922) may apply for a visa that will allow them to stay in Britain for a period of five years. As a teacher under this type of visa you will be able to obtain day-to-day, long-term or permanent employment.

Recruiting Teachers into UK Schools

[Right of Abode](#)

The Right of Abode means that you are entirely free from United Kingdom immigration control. You do not need the permission of an immigration officer to enter the United Kingdom and you may live and teach without restriction. These are usually for people who have a parent born in the UK. The most common route to qualification is that you were born before 1/1/1983 and descended from a mother born in the United Kingdom, or legitimately descended from a father born in the United Kingdom. Applicants born after 1/1/1983 may be eligible for a British passport.

How do I know if I am a British citizen with the right of abode? Click [here](#) to check.

[Spouse Entry](#)

If you are married to a British National, an ancestry visa holder, an EU passport holder, a person who has right of abode, a sponsored work permit or a Tier One visa you will be entitled to live and work in the UK. Application costs will vary depending on the work visa.

Some Common Mistakes

1. Selecting the wrong visa category, please ensure you select the correct type of application before enrolling your biometric data, as refunds cannot be given after this time. For those wishing to apply on the basis of UK Ancestry please chose the 'Exempt/Others' category and then select 'UK Ancestry'.
2. Please ensure you read and double check everything, one of the most common mistakes when applying for visa's to teach in the UK is the submission of incorrect documentation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please click [here](#) for FAQs.

Beware of bogus web sites!

The UK Border Agency is the official UK Government authority providing information and guidance for visa applicants and for making decisions on visa applications for the UK. They operate through the official websites listed below. Please inform the UK Border Agency if you come across any bogus websites that have copied official branding, claim to be in partnership with us, ask for payments and claim to be able to obtain a visa for you.

UK Border Agency: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

UK Border Agency Visa Services: www.ukvisas.gov.uk

UK Border Agency Online Application Service (Visa4UK): www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk

Local websites operated by our Commercial Partners, CSC Worldbridge and VFS Global, and British Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates around the world.

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