



To date, we have had no difficulty with faculty members entering the UK without having applied for a visa in advance (and simply being issued with a visa on entry). However, if a faculty member would like assured entry to the UK, then the best approach is to apply in advance for the visa.

These are the two ways to enter the UK as a Standard Visitor:

EITHER:

A. Apply in advance and have the visa in your passport before you leave the US

OR:

B. Receive entry clearance visa (stamp in passport) at the border upon arrival to the UK

Option A

To apply for Standard Visitor visa:

1. Fill in online application form: <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply>;
2. Submit online application, pay fee (£89 per visa) and book biometrics appointment;
3. Attend biometrics appointment;
4. Send application, passport, and any additional required documents to British consulate;

NB: This process must be completed for each family member (including children). Applications can be submitted a maximum of three months before the intended date of arrival in the UK.

Option B

To obtain the entry clearance visa upon arrival:

1. Have a letter from Dr. Tanya Saunders at OIP and from Dr. Thorunn Lonsdale at ICLC
2. Show these letters at immigration upon arrival
3. Have visa stamped in passport

NB: Letters will be provided for the visiting faculty member. Dependents/family members travelling to the UK with the faculty member can be mentioned in the letters but their immigration permission is separate to that of the faculty member, and, as such, must be sought separately and independently of Ithaca College.

An added benefit of applying for the visa in advance is that immigration permission (i.e. being in the UK as a 'Standard Visitor') remains valid throughout the semester in London, rather than being renewed upon each re-entry to the country, as is the case if the passport is simply stamped upon arrival. This could be a deciding factor for anyone who intends to travel outside the UK frequently during the semester.