



Entry & Visa Information – Pivotal Research Fellowship

This document is not a legal document and might contain mistakes, for accurate and up-to-date information please check the links listed in each section.

Last Update: May 22, 2024

General Note

- This document aims to provide you with information about coming to the UK for the fellowship. It reflects our best understanding, but this is not a legal document and might contain mistakes.
- While Pivotal Fellowship aims to help and financially support participants with Entry & Visa Considerations to come to the UK, acquiring the necessary documents (and potentially a visa) is the **sole responsibility of the fellows**.
- This document does not intend to give advice to people who:
 - Plan to pursue work outside of participating in the research fellowship during the period they come to the UK. If you are planning on accepting a work position before or after the fellowship, with the same entry into the UK, this document doesn't provide you with much information.
 - Plan on staying longer than 6 months in the UK.
 - Have any criminal records.
 - Have previously been refused entry to the UK.

→ If any of these situations apply to you, please reach out to Tobias Häberli .

Summary on How to Come to the UK

- [How to check whether you need a UK visa](#)

- [How to check whether you have all the required documents for the border – especially a valid passport](#)

How to Check Whether You Need a UK Visa for Fellowship

A step-by-step guide to get information on whether you need a visa to come to the UK for the fellowship.

1. Go to [Check if you need a UK visa](#) → “Start now”
2. What’s your nationality as shown on your passport or travel document?
 - a. Choose correct nationality → “Continue”
3. What are you coming to the UK to do?
 - a. Work, academic visit or business → “Continue”
4. How long are you planning to work in the UK for?
 - a. 6 months or less → “Continue”

Here, you’ll get one of 2 results:

1. “You may be able to come to the UK without a visa if you’re doing certain types of work or academic activities”
 - In this case: You **don’t need a visa** to come to the UK for the fellowship. You can enter as a Standard Visitor under the [‘visit as an academic’](#) provision.
 - Important Note: There are still [documents that are required or may be required at the UK border](#).
2. “You’ll need a visa to work, do business or academic research in the UK”
 - In this case: You **need a visa** to come to the UK for the fellowship. You can enter as a Standard Visitor under the [‘visit as an academic’](#) provision but will need a visa for this.
 - Contact [Tobias Häberli](#) if this is the case for you.

How to Check Whether You Have All the Required Documents

Travel Document

“You must provide a valid passport or other travel document with all applications and when travelling to the UK. Your passport must have at least 1 page blank if you use it to apply for a visa.”

Note: An identity card is not sufficient, **you need a passport to travel to the UK.**

At the Border – Documents that **may** be required

The UK government specifies what you might be asked to show and proof at the UK border:

“To visit the UK, you need to show that you’re a genuine visitor.

You can do this by providing evidence that:

- you’re coming to do a permitted activity – see [Appendix Visitor: Permitted Activities](#)
- you’ll leave the UK at the end of your visit
- you’re able to support yourself and any dependants for the duration of your trip
- you’re able to pay for your return or onward journey and any other costs relating to your visit

Wherever possible, digital images should be taken of original documents, not copies.

If you submit a document that is not in English or Welsh, it must be accompanied by a full translation that can be independently verified by the Home Office. Each translation must contain:

- confirmation from the translator that it is an accurate translation of the original document
- the date of translation
- the translator's full name and signature
- the translator's contact details"

The UK government has a guide: [Visiting the UK: guide to supporting documents](#)

If you are **from a country, where you expect a high degree of scrutiny**, we recommend you **read this guide carefully**.

We'll give you a high-level overview of documents you might need, point-by-point:

1. You're eligible for the activities you want to do

You can prove this by showing your **letter of invitation** from Pivotal Research to attend the Research Fellowship. We recommend you have this digitally ready at all times, or carry a printed copy of it on you.

2. You've arranged accommodation for your stay

You can prove this by showing:

- Hotel bookings or confirmation emails of your stay.
- If staying with a friend or family, a letter of invitation and proof of their address and status in the UK
- Rental agreements or contracts if renting a place during your stay.

3. You'll leave at the end of your visit

You can prove this by showing:

- Return tickets or onward travel arrangements can serve as proof.
- Evidence of ongoing studies or a business that requires your return.
- Family ties and responsibilities that require your return.
- A letter from your employer granting leave of absence and stating your job position, salary, and the duration of your employment.

Note: We expect in most cases that return tickets or proof of onward travel will be sufficient.

4. You're able to support yourself and your dependents during your trip (or have funding from someone else to support you)

You can prove this by showing:

- Bank statements or payslips from the last six months showing sufficient funds.
- Your letter of invitation from Pivotal Research to attend the Research Fellowship, which contains information about the stipend you will receive to cover your living expenses during the fellowship.
- A letter of sponsorship if someone else is funding your trip, along with evidence of their financial ability, like their bank statements.

Documents to Avoid

Some types of documents are less useful as evidence in visit applications.

Documents to **avoid** include:

- bank statements or letters issued more than 1 year before the date of application
- credit card statements
- driving licence
- educational certificates that are not listed as required for your visa
- evidence of car ownership
- personal photographs
- notarial certificates
- business cards
- hotel bookings
- flight bookings (unless transiting)
- photocopies of bank cards
- certificates relating to leisure activities, for example sports trophies
- travel insurance
- sponsor's utility bills

- sponsor's council tax bills