

APPLYING FOR A VISA TO COME TO THE UK

Great Britain looks forward to welcoming you, our global Taekwondo family to our country.

Like all other nations in the world, the United Kingdom government has a specific immigration and visa policy with rules and regulations for overseas people wanting to visit.

This means that many of you will require a visa to attend this World Championship.

Our Local Organising Committee (LOC) have consulted closely with UK Visas & immigration to try to make the visa application process as simple as possible for visiting teams, athletes, supporters and event guests and the information detailed on the following pages is designed to help you through this process.

We ask team and national officials to fully read this guide and understand the visa application processes that may be unique to your country, considering the time required to make an application, book consulate appointments, and receive decisions.

It is the responsibility of each visa applicant or team administration official to ensure visa applications are made in good time and in the correct way.

Our LOC has no authority to guarantee or provide visas.

This is the sole responsibility and decision of the UK government, so therefore we cannot be held responsible in any way for the refusal or delay of any visa application decision, due to insufficient time being allowed or incorrect applications being made.

We hope you find the following advice very helpful and look forward to seeing you in Manchester!

1

Check if you need a visa to visit the UK?

People from certain countries do need a visa to enter the UK

To check if you need a visa go to

www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa

Helpful advice

The first question in this website section may ask:

“What are you coming to the UK to do?”

In this case - click the box showing **BUSINESS**

(This is the category that includes attending our **sporting events**)

If the website answer says that you do need a visa for your nationality:

You should apply for a **STANDARD VISIT (OR VISITOR) VISA** as described in Section 4

(This is the quickest, simplest and cheapest type of visa required to attend a sporting event like this World Championship)

2

When should you apply / How long will it take?

The UK does not operate a landing visa scheme – so nobody should attempt to travel without applying for and receiving a full visa to enter Great Britain.

The recommended time from beginning the online application process, attending an appointment and receiving your visa is up to 6 weeks.

This timing depends on whether there is a Visa Application Centre (VAC) for the UK in your country. For some people, the VAC may even be in another country if there is not a UK visa application centre nearby.

This may extend the overall time period needed from first applying online to attending the appointment.

Each person applying for a visa must book an appointment and attend a Visa application centre for biometric information gathering.

Not a consulate – they do not issue visas.

There are over 300 UK Visa application centres around the world in 200 countries

To check if you have a UK Visa Application Centre near your location, go to:

www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre

3

How much will it cost?

To find out how much a visa from your country will cost go to:

www.gov.uk/visa-fees

Select: Your country (from the drop-down box)

Select the visa category: **VISIT**

Select the visa type: **STANDARD VISITOR**

Select the visa sub-type: **SHOW ALL**

To attend our event, it will normally be the cost for a SHORT-TERM visa
(for up to 6 months) unless you have other plans to visit the UK for a longer period.

4

Understanding the application process

What you need to do

- A) **Apply and pay for a VISIT visa ONLINE**
- B) **PROVIDE** the supporting evidence **DOCUMENTS** needed
- C) **ATTEND** an **APPOINTMENT** for the collection of biometric data
- D) Receive **DECISION** and collect your passport and documents

a

A) How to apply for a VISIT STANDARD visa

The earliest you can apply for a visa is 3 months before you travel

Everyone must apply for a visa online at:

www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa

Scroll to the **APPLY** Section and click on the link where it states

Apply by clicking on the **Access UK service**

Select: **your language**

Select: **VISIT** visa

Select: **your location**.

(Type the first letter of the name of your country – it will then come up).

Helpful advice

If the next page then states that you may need a visa, but depends on who you are traveling with or visiting – scroll down and select the section with the title:

You're travelling alone, or travelling with or visiting friends

When prompted – apply for **STANDARD VISITOR** visa

Please take the time to read and understand the Overview, Eligibility and Documents you must provide sections, before clicking on the APPLY section

b

B) Providing the correct DOCUMENTS

Everyone applying for a visa must provide certain documents to prove their identity, confirm their travel plans and show evidence of how the cost of the trip is financed.

During the online application process, you will be given details of how to submit these documents. It can be different depending on which country you are applying from.

You should have them ready and if possible, have them scanned and saved on a computer, so that you can upload to a website if required. In most cases, you will just be asked to bring them with you when you attend the appointment at the Visa Application Centre.

The following will hopefully help you understand these requirements:

Documents you must provide

- A **valid passport** – with two blank pages facing each other
- A **letter of invitation** from the organisers of the event (our LOC)

You will receive this letter upon completing the Visa Request Form which can be found in the event outline.

Please email this completed form to events@gbtaekwondo.co.uk

Once we have received this, we will try our best to return a letter of invitation as soon as possible.

Documents you should provide to help your application

- **Financial documents** showing that you have sufficient funds available to pay for your return trip to the UK.

These could be:

A letter from your National Federation

If your National Federation or National Team is paying for your participation, flights and accommodation in this event, then you need to get a letter from them and submit it as part of your visa application.

The letter must:

- Be on your World Taekwondo recognised National Federation official letterhead

- Be signed by the President, Secretary General or Treasurer
- Give details of the event (What the event is /When / Where)
- Show your name and your role at the event (e.g.: athlete / coach / official)
- Give details of approximate travel dates (arriving and leaving the UK)
- Show the approximate cost of your trip and what exactly is being paid by the National Federation (e.g.: flight / accommodation / food etc)
- Give details of where you intend to stay

Personal Financial Information

You will also be asked to provide personal financial information in addition to the above that proves you have income and savings in your home country to support yourself.

Our advice is to supply as much information as possible as it will help visa centres process your application more quickly.

If your participation is not funded by your Federation, you must be able to **prove to the authorities that you have sufficient money to pay for your return trip to the UK.**

This can be by providing documents such as:

- **Bank Statements**
- **Details of employment** and proof of earnings such as:
 - a letter from employer confirming employment details
(start date of employment, salary, role, company contact details)
 or
- **Details of studies** where you have stated in your application that you are in full-time studies. This could include:
 - a letter from your education provider, on headed paper, confirming your enrolment and leave of absence
 or
- If you are **self- employed**:
 - **business registration documents** confirming the business owner's name and the date the business started trading.

- If you still have any **old passports**, which show previous travel, these can also be helpful in showing that you have a history of international travel to events and returning home.

If you are Under 18 years old

In addition to the above, if someone is under 18 years of age, we recommend that you submit the following:

- a **Birth Certificate** or legal document (such as adoption papers)
- a **signed letter from your parent(s)** confirming the details of anyone accompanying you.

(If this is the team coach or official, they should apply at the same time and must travel together)

- details of the accommodation arranged in the UK
- a **copy of your parent(s)** or legal guardian's biographical page of their **passport** (The page that has their photo, signature and passport number)

C

C) How to book an appointment

As part of the online application process, each applicant will be given a **GWF number** (e.g.: GWF12345678). You cannot book an appointment without this number.


Once you have this number, go to the visa application centre website that you stated during the online application process. You can find this again at:

www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre

This will connect you to a VSF or **TLSconnect** website for the centre you wish to attend.

(It must be the centre / location you identified in your online application)

- Create an account and password for the site
- Enter the GWF application number
- Enter other personal application details requested
- Select appointment dates
- Carefully follow the instructions regarding what documents to send
- Carefully follow the instructions regarding what to bring to the appointment.



The applicant must go in person to the appointment – you cannot send a representative for this part of the process!

D) Decision & Return of documents

You can track applications on the website that you registered on, using the same log in details and GWF application number. This site will give you the latest status of the application and show any decisions.

Once the appointment has taken place, the average time to receive a decision is 15 working days.

What happens when a visa is issued?

Once you have received notification that a visa has been granted and ready for collection, you can either collect from the visa centre in person or arrange for a representative, with the proper authorisation to collect on your behalf.

This is normally a specialist agency or courier service and you should arrange this in advance either with the visa centre or agency involved if you are acting on behalf of your team.

Helpful advice

Do not send another person to collect the passport and visa without arranging this in advance with the visa agency as they are unlikely to release the documents to someone that is not known to them.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What if I need my visa quicker?

You can, in most countries, apply for a PRIORITY or SUPER PRIORITY service.

If you have not arranged for enough time to make a standard service visa application, then you should use the Priority or Super Priority service.

There is an additional charge for these services.

It is also not a guarantee that a visa will be issued – these options will only speed up a decision process.

What if my appointment date is too long / too late?

In some countries, the length of time to wait for an appointment can be long due to high demand.

In these circumstances we recommend using the Priority and Super Priority services.

If this does not solve the issue, then please contact our LOC at events@gbtaekwondo.co.uk with full details of the applicant's name, the visa centre where it was applied, the GWF number and date of appointment.

Whilst our LOC cannot directly influence any immigration decisions, we may, in extreme circumstances, be able to flag the issue and request an earlier appointment date.

This is no guarantee that this would work and applicants should not rely on or expect this assistance when making unreasonably late applications.

Can I apply for a visa in one country and collect from another?

No

Is it possible for someone else to collect my passport and documents for me?

Yes – but only by a nominated representative.

You can also check if your visa application centre offers a courier service, this may be a more convenient way to receive your passport and visa.

There is usually an additional fee for this service.

What can I do if my visa application is refused

In most cases, you must re-apply with a new application – ensuring that whatever the reason for refusal in the first application is addressed fully with evidence.

The event LOC has no jurisdiction or influence with these kinds of government level decisions so is unable to assist.

However, in extreme circumstances, and at the discretion of the LOC, we can attempt to flag the issues with UK Visa & Immigration.

To do this please contact our LOC at events@gbtaekwondo.co.uk with full details of the applicant's name, the visa centre where it was applied, the GWF number, date of appointment and full explanation of the reasons that a visa application has been refused.

If you were given a decision letter or DPA release form at this stage, then you should supply a copy to us.

This is no guarantee that this would work and applicants should not rely on or expect this assistance when making unreasonably late applications.