

You are here > [Home \(Visa Services\)](#) > [About us](#) > [News](#) > [Changes to visa requirements come into force today, 3 March 2009](#)

## LATEST NEWS: VISA SERVICES

### Changes to visa requirements come into force today, 3 March 2009

03 March 2009

The changes to the visa requirements for South African, Taiwanese and Jamaican nationals announced by the British government on 9 February 2009 come into force today and are outlined below:

#### South Africa

South African nationals will require a visa to enter or transit the UK no matter what the purpose or length of your stay. Any South African passport holder who already has a valid visa or permission to reside in the UK will not be affected.

To qualify for a temporary exemption you must have travelled to the UK and have evidence of your visit in your current passport (that is a UK entry stamp). Evidence of a UK entry stamp in your **current passport** means you will not need a visa if you:

- want to transit
- want to visit for less than six months
- do not want to work in the UK

For further information on the visa requirements please visit [www.vfs-uk-za.com/newrules.aspx](http://www.vfs-uk-za.com/newrules.aspx).

#### Jamaica

From today onwards, Jamaican nationals in transit through the UK will be required to obtain a transit visa **before** they travel to the UK.

Travellers will need to apply for one of two visas:

- a Visit-in-Transit Visa if seeking to enter the United Kingdom in transit with a connecting flight within 48 hours; or
- a Direct Airside Transit Visa (DATV) for anyone remaining airside to take a same-day, same-airport connecting flight to another destination.

Applications for Transit visas and Direct Airside Transit Visas are made in the same way as every other type of visa. Applications in Jamaica must be made at the WorldBridge Visa Application Centre located at 34 Trafalgar Road, Kingston and should be submitted a minimum of **five** days before travel.

#### Taiwan

With effect from today Taiwan passport-holders who wish to visit the UK for less than six months on business or as a tourist, family visitor or student visitor will no longer require a visa. Those wishing to stay in the UK more than six months, or to live, work, marry or study there on courses over six months, will continue to require a visa as before.

Taiwanese visiting the UK after 3 March 2009 must still satisfy UK authorities at the port of entry that they meet the admission requirements on arrival in the UK. As with all those who can visit the UK without a visa, they must carry with them in their hand luggage relevant supporting documents such as flight tickets, evidence of funding, letters from sponsors or businesses they are visiting, or the school they plan to study at.

[Back to newsroom](#)