

Academic Visitor /Business Visitor – Permissible Activities (extract from Home Office UKBA rules on visitors)

- Those attending meetings, including interviews that have been arranged before coming to the UK or conferences.
- Those arranging deals or negotiating or signing trade agreements or contracts, undertaking fact finding missions;
- Those conducting site visits
- Those delivering goods and passengers from abroad such as lorry drivers and coach drivers provided they are genuinely working an international route;
- Tour group couriers who are contracted to a firm outside the United Kingdom, who are seeking entry to accompany a tour group and who intend to leave with that tour group;
- Speaking at a conference where this is not run as a commercial concern (organisers not making a profit) and the conference is a “one off”.
- Representing computer software companies by coming to install, debug or enhance their products. Representatives of such companies may also be admitted as business visitors in order to be briefed as to the requirements of a United Kingdom customer but if they are to provide a service involving the use of their expertise to make a detailed assessment of a potential customer’s requirements this should be regarded as consultancy work for which entry under the Points Based System would be required; Representing foreign manufacturers by coming to service or repair their company’s products within their initial period of guarantee;
- Representing foreign machine manufacturers by coming to erect and install machinery too heavy to be delivered in one piece, as part of the contract of purchase and supply.
- Interpreting or translating for visiting business persons provided the interpreter/translator is employed by the overseas company and is coming solely to provide this service for the visiting company member.
- Monteurs (e.g. mechanics or serviceperson) – workers coming for up to six months to erect, dismantle, install, service, repair or advise on the development of foreign-made machinery.
- Board-level Directors attending board meetings in the United Kingdom provided they are not employed by a UK company, although they may be paid a fee for attending the meeting.

Please Note: Under Home Office rules anyone who enters the UK as a general visitor is not, among other things, allowed to do any of the above ‘Permissible Activities’.

Lecturers wishing to come to the United Kingdom solely to undertake a series of lectures for which they will receive a fee will normally require entry under Tier 2 of the PBS (Points Based System).