



# HEALTHCARE FOR STUDENTS IN THE UK STUDYING FOR LESS THAN 6 MONTHS

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ITCHEN SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Sourced from [How to access NHS services in England if you are visiting from abroad - NHS](https://www.nhs.uk)  
([www.nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk))

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Please check carefully using the links provided.

If your course of study is less than 6 months, & you have a valid EU-issued EHIC (European Health Insurance Card), you can access medically necessary treatment during your stay.

If you are a citizen of any other country and you are visiting England from a non-EEA country, you will be charged for NHS secondary care at 150% of the standard NHS rate, unless an exemption from the charge category applies to either you or the treatment. **You should make sure you are covered for healthcare through personal medical or travel insurance for the duration of your visit.**

Short-term visitors from the EU who are not covered by the new UK-EU agreement on reciprocal healthcare (including former UK residents) may be charged for NHS treatment.

There are no changes to the healthcare entitlements of short-term visitors who are covered by bilateral healthcare agreements between the UK and countries outside the EU, including Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

## How to get healthcare

If you're not sure how to get the help you need, use this checklist to guide you.

- **Call NHS 111** if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation. You can also call NHS 111 if you're not sure which NHS service you need.
- **Call 999** if someone is seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk.
- **Go to a walk-in centre, minor injuries unit or urgent treatment centre**, if you have a minor illness or injury (cuts, sprains or rashes) and it cannot wait until your GP surgery is open.
- **Ask a local pharmacist for advice** – a pharmacist can give you advice about many common minor illnesses, such as diarrhoea, minor infections, headaches, sore throats, or travel health.
- **Make an appointment with your GP** if you're feeling unwell and it's not an emergency.

For information about conditions and treatments, read the Health A-Z guides.

You will need to pay for some things such as eye tests, dental treatment and prescriptions, just like people who live in England.

Find out more about paying NHS charges

### The nearest walk-in centres are:

#### Royal South Hants Hospital Treatment Centre

Nhs (2)  
Graham Road, Southampton



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DIRECTIONS

#### Shirley Dental walk-In Centre

Dentist  
10-12 Cannon Street, Southampton · 023 8078 4104  
Open · Closes 5 pm



WEBSITE



DIRECTIONS

## General practitioners (GPs)

GPs are the first point of contact for nearly all NHS patients.

They can direct you to other [NHS services](#) and are experts in family medicine, preventative care, health education, and treating people with multiple and long-term conditions.

If you're planning to live and work in England, you need to [register with a GP practice](#).

You'll need to fill out a [GMS1 form](#) using exactly the same details you used when you filled out your visa.

It's up to the GP practice to decide whether to accept new patients or not, but they can only refuse for non-discriminatory reasons.

But being registered with a GP practice does not in itself mean you'll be entitled to free NHS hospital treatment.

Being registered with a GP practice may mean you're invited for [NHS screening services](#), but you may still have to pay for these services when they're not provided by the GP practice.

If you're in England for a short visit but need to see a GP, you can register as a temporary patient with a local doctor.

You need to be in the area for more than 24 hours but less than 3 months.

Again, it's up to the GP practice to decide whether or not they'll accept new patients.

Treatment will be free of charge, but make sure you present your [European Health Insurance Card \(EHIC\)](#) if you have one (see more information on this page for EU citizens).

[Find a GP practice in your area](#)

## Hospital services

Hospital treatment is free to people who are "ordinarily resident" in the UK.

To be considered ordinarily resident and entitled to free hospital treatment, you must be living in the UK on a lawful and properly settled basis for the time being. You may be asked to prove this.

You cannot be considered ordinarily resident in the UK unless you have indefinite leave to remain or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

If you're a visitor from the EU, even if you're a former UK resident, you can use your EHIC, PRC or S2 when visiting the UK. If you cannot provide these documents, you may be charged for your care.

If you're a visitor from Norway, you can get medically necessary healthcare using your Norwegian passport.

If you're a visitor from Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Switzerland whose visit to the UK began on or before 31 December 2020, you may continue to use your EHIC or PRC in the UK for the duration of your visit. You also may complete planned treatment using your S2, as long as authorisation for this was requested from the relevant health authority before 31 December 2020.

If you're visiting from Iceland, Liechtenstein or Switzerland you may be charged for NHS healthcare. You should check with the relevant health authority where you live before travelling to the UK.

The address and telephone numbers of the main NHS hospitals in Southampton are below. There may be clinics at other sites. Southampton General Hospital is the only one with an Accident & Emergency department:

**1 Royal South Hants Hospital**

Nhs (1)

Graham Road, Southampton · 023 8120 8498



WEBSITE



DIRECTIONS

**2 [Southampton General Hospital](#)**

Nhs (74)

Tremona Road, Southampton · 023 8120 8498



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DIRECTIONS

For private healthcare in Southampton see:

**Spire Southampton Hospital**

★★★★★ Facebook (206) · Hospital

Chalybeate Hospital, Southampton · 023 8077 5544



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We're Experts In Care & Have Our  
Patients At The Heart Of All We Do

If you're visiting England for more than 6 months, you'll need to pay the immigration health surcharge, unless you're exempt from paying it. The full amount will be paid upfront for the duration of your visa.

You can find full details about healthcare surcharges, including exemptions, on GOV.UK

If you've paid the surcharge or are exempt from paying it, and your visa allows you to be here for more than 6 months, you'll be entitled to free NHS hospital treatment in England on a similar basis to an ordinarily resident person, with the exception of NHS-funded assisted conception services. Your entitlement will apply from the date your visa is granted until it expires. You'll have to pay some charges, such as prescription or dental charges.

If you're visiting England for less than 6 months, you should ensure you're covered for healthcare through personal medical insurance during your visit, even if you're a former UK resident. If you're not ordinarily resident in the UK and you need to pay for NHS hospital treatment, you'll be charged at 150% of the national NHS rate.

## Services that are free to everyone

Some services or treatments carried out in an NHS hospital are exempt from charges, so they're free to all.

These include:

- A&E services – not including emergency treatment if admitted to hospital
- family planning services – this does not include abortions or infertility treatment

- **ALL TESTING, TREATMENT AND VACCINATION IS ALSO FREE FOR COVID-19. IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO IGNORE SYMPTOMS.**

- a [GP referral](#) is required for all non-emergency hospital treatment
- for a detailed definition about what ordinarily resident means, see the [GOV.UK guidance](#)

Read more about [hospital services in England](#) or [find a hospital in your area](#).

## More in [Visiting or moving to England](#)

| How to access NHS services in England if you are visiting from abroad

[Visitors from EU countries, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Switzerland](#)

[Visitors from outside the European Economic Area \(EEA\)](#)

[Visitors who do not need to pay for NHS treatment](#)

If you need help at any time please speak to the International Team for non-emergency advice.