



UK Visas

The United Kingdom has strict regulations about who needs a visa to enter the UK. If you are a citizen of a country that requires a UK visa (a visa national) you will NOT be allowed to enter the UK without one.

The LOC is working closely with UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) to ensure that Visa Decision Making Centres are fully informed about the World Para Athletics Championships and the visa applications they can expect to receive. All applications will be subject to the UK's Immigration Rules which are available at www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-index.

Visa nationals and non-visa nationals can enter the UK as visitors for the purpose of taking part in sporting events, including as participants, officials, team support staff, accredited media and VIPs, as permitted by the visitor rules. You can find the UK Immigration visitor rules at www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor-rules.

Who needs a visa?

Please refer to Appendix 1 for a list of countries whose citizens are visa nationals and require visas to enter the UK. You can also check if you require a visa at www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa.

Please note that if you hold a visit visa valid until after your date of departure from the UK you do not need to submit a new application.

What type of visa do I need?

If you are a visa national and are coming to the UK to participate in the World Para Athletics Championships you should apply for the '**IAAF and IPC World Athletics Championships**' visa type. This visa is free of charge to accredited team members and NPC representatives with an official invitation letter from the LOC. The visa is valid for six months from date of issue and can be applied for a maximum of three months in advance of travel. You can find out more about visit visas at www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/overview.

How do I apply for a visa?

You should apply for your free of charge visa at www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/home/welcome and select the visa type '**IAAF and IPC World Athletics Championships**' on the relevant screen. You should NOT apply through the new visa service 'Access UK' as you will not be able to access the correct visa type.

Please note that the 'IAAF and IPC World Athletics Championships' visa type is only for team members and NPC representatives with an approved accreditation profile and

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official invitation letter from the LOC for the World Para Athletics Championships and should NOT be applied for by anyone else. All other applicants should apply for a Standard Visitor visa through the new visa service 'Access UK' (www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa).

You will need to attend an appointment at a Visa Application Centre (VAC) in person to have biometric information (fingerprints and photograph) taken and to provide supporting documents in hard copy.

There are currently VACs in over 200 locations worldwide but there is not a VAC in every country and you may have to travel to a neighbouring country. You can find your nearest VAC at www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre.

If you are making an appointment at a VAC outside of your country of residence you will be asked to provide a reason for this within your application.

A guide with further information about the visa application process will be sent to you by the LOC with your official invitation letter.

How much does the visa cost?

The cost of the 'IAAF and IPC World Athletics Championships' visa will be covered for all accredited team members and NPC representatives participating in the World Para Athletics Championships London 2017. The service level covered will be the standard service.

There is an additional fee to attend an appointment at some Visa Application Centres (User Pay VACs) and this additional cost will be covered where this is the only available VAC in your country or nearest country. Please select a free to use VAC where possible.

In some countries you may be able to have your visa processed more quickly for a higher fee under UKVI's priority visa scheme. This is **at the applicant's own cost**. The current costs are:

- Priority - £183 (processed in 3-5 working days)
- Super Priority - £919 (processed in 24 hours)

When should I apply for a visa?

You can apply for the 'IAAF and IPC World Athletics Championships' visa a maximum of three months prior to your date of travel – from 10 April 2017 for the World Para Athletics Championships. We encourage you to apply as early as possible.

UKVI's standard service for visit visas is 15 working days to decision from providing biometrics at the VAC. Note that your passport is retained during this time. You can check current visa processing times in your country at www.gov.uk/visa-processing-times.

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This 15 working day turnaround time cannot be guaranteed and is dependent on meeting the requirements of the UK's Immigration Rules. Failure to complete the application form correctly or to provide all the required supporting documents may result in your application being delayed or refused.

The last recommended date to provide biometrics at the VAC in order to receive your visa by Friday 7 July is **Friday 16 June**.

Please be aware that your nearest VAC may be busy and you may not be able to make an appointment straight away. We therefore recommend that you submit your online application by **Friday 26 May**.

If you make an appointment at a VAC which you no longer require we kindly ask you to cancel this in advance to avoid incurring a charge.

Which documents do I need to support my application?

Passport – You need to provide your passport details in the online application and take it with you to your appointment at the VAC. We recommend that your passport is valid for six months beyond your stay in the UK. You will need a page in your passport that is blank on both sides for your visa.

Visa support letter – Proof of participation in the World Para Athletics Championships London 2017 will be supplied to you in the form of an official invitation letter from the LOC. You should take a copy of this letter with you when you attend your appointment at the VAC and have it with you to show at the UK Border on arrival in London. Official invitation letters will be issued once you have an accreditation application approved by World Para Athletics Athletics in the online accreditation system at www.paralympic.org/accreditation/london-2017.

In addition, UKVI guidance states that the following is required: "evidence that you can support yourself during your trip, e.g. bank statements or payslips from the last six months". This may be evidence that the NPC is covering travel and accommodation costs.

All documents must be originals and not photocopies. If you submit a document that is not in English it must be accompanied by a full translation.

We recommend that you check the information about supporting documents before applying at www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/documents-you-must-provide.

Is the process different for under 18s?

Under 18s follow the same online application process for the 'IAAF and IPC World Championships' visa, however they will need to demonstrate that they have consent from their parent or guardian to travel to the UK.

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If they are not travelling with their parents, under 18s need to name one or two adults over the age of 18 in their visa application who will travel to the UK with them, for example a team manager or coach. Their names will appear on the under 18's visa and the under 18 will be refused entry if they arrive in the UK without at least one of them. The adults will also need to complete their own separate visa applications.

Under 18s should submit the following documents to support their application:

- Birth Certificate or legal document (e.g. adoption papers) showing the relationship between them and their parent or guardian
- A signed letter of consent to travel from their parent or guardian which specifies who they are travelling with

More information is available at www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/documents-you-must-provide.

Any questions?

If you have any questions relating to visas for the World Para Athletics Championships please contact the LOC on visas@london2017.org.uk.

If you are experiencing any delays with your application please contact the LOC providing the VAF or GWF number for your application.

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Appendix 1

Citizens of the countries listed below are visa nationals and require a visa to enter the UK.

Please note that the location of VACs is subject to change and applicants should check the latest information at www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre.

Afghanistan*	Dominican Republic	Laos	Senegal
Albania	Ecuador	Lebanon	Serbia
Algeria	Egypt	Lesotho*	Sierra Leone
Angola	Equatorial Guinea*	Liberia*	Somalia*
Armenia	Eritrea*	Libya*	South Africa
Azerbaijan	Ethiopia	FYR of Macedonia	South Sudan*
Bahrain	Fiji	Madagascar	Sri Lanka
Bangladesh	Gabon*	Malawi	Sudan
Belarus	Gambia	Mali*	Suriname*
Benin*	Georgia	Mauritania*	Swaziland*
Bhutan*	Ghana	Moldova	Syria*
Bolivia	Guinea*	Mongolia	Taiwan
Bosnia Herzegovina	Guinea Bissau*	Montenegro	Tajikistan
Burkina Faso*	Guyana	Morocco	Tanzania
Burma	Haiti*	Mozambique	Thailand
Burundi*	India	Nepal	Togo*
Cambodia	Indonesia	Niger*	Tunisia
Cameroon	Iran	Nigeria	Turkey
Cape Verde*	Iraq	Oman	Turkmenistan
Central African Republic*	Ivory Coast	Pakistan	Uganda
Chad*	Jamaica	Palestine	Ukraine
People's Republic of China	Jordan	Peru	United Arab Emirates
Colombia	Kazakhstan	Philippines	Uzbekistan
Comoros*	Kenya	Qatar	Venezuela
Congo*	DPR of Korea**	Russia	Vietnam
Cuba	Kosovo	Rwanda	Yemen*
DR Congo	Kuwait	Sao Tome e Principe*	Zambia
Djibouti*	Kyrgyzstan	Saudi Arabia	Zimbabwe

- The countries marked * do not currently have a VAC in the country.
- **Applicants in DPR of Korea are not able to apply online and should download a visa application form and guidance notes at www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply.
- All other countries listed above currently have at least one VAC in the country. There are also VACs in other locations worldwide.

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