

VOLUNTEERING POST-BREXIT: Important information

This is a complex issue for many Volunteering Involving Organisations (VIOs), particularly those who have placed value on recruiting volunteers from overseas and in Europe.

There are two categories whereby volunteers can come to Northern Ireland. This document aims to provide you with relevant information to consider when advising and adapting to circumstances post-Brexit.

1. The Visitor Route

This route is for a person who wants to visit the UK for a temporary period, (usually for up to 6 months). Reasons for this type of visit are for tourism, visiting family or friends and/or undertaking a short course of study.

As a 'visitor', you can volunteer for up to 30 days with a registered charity.

This route may require a standard Visa (nationality-dependent).

Check if you need a VISA at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

2. T5 VISA route

If you are hoping to do volunteering for more than 30 days, you will need a T5 (Temporary worker – Charity worker) VISA. This VISA costs £244 (minus £55 for a number of EU nations).

The link below provides more information on the T5 VISA route, i.e. eligibility criteria, what can and cannot be done, etc.

<https://www.gov.uk/temporary-worker-charity-worker-visa>

Immigration Healthcare Surcharge (IHS)

It is also important to remember that applicants coming to the UK for more than 6 months will have to pay the IHS (£624) in order to access the National Health Service (NHS).

SUMMARY- For less than 30 days volunteering with a registered charity, you can do so as a VISITOR. If volunteering for longer than this, you must apply for a T5 Visa.

Disclaimer

Reasonable precautions have been taken to ensure information in this publication is accurate. However it is not intended to be legally comprehensive; it is designed to provide guidance in good faith without accepting liability. If relevant, we therefore recommend you take appropriate professional advice before taking any action on the matters covered herein. Charity Registration No. NIC101309. Company Limited by Guarantee No. NI602399. Registered in Northern Ireland. Volunteer Now, Skainos Centre, 239 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1AF. T: 028 9023 2020
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