

## ESRC International Institutional Visits (IIVs) FAQs

Frequently asked questions should be read in conjunction with the guidance notes which provide information about criteria and process. These FAQs are designed to support your decision making.

### General Queries

**1. At what stage in my studentship can I apply?**

Applicants must be in the research component of their award (not masters) and the visit should not start within the first three months of their studentship period and must be completed at least three months before the end date of the award and prior to the extension period being implemented.

**2. Can my supervisor apply for me?**

No all applications should be student led

**3. Where can I visit?**

Your visit must involve a Higher Education institution, or an organisation with a substantive research office outside of the UK and you must follow all UK travel guidance, which is updated here <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

**4. What confirmation do I need from the host institution?**

You will need a letter on institutional headed paper signed by the host with details of any activities/support to be provided. This should be a PDF from the host.

**5. How will my application be assessed?**

UBEL has a process where applications are assessed independently, scored and ranked by three members of the board. The board then meets to discuss the merits of each application before making a final decision. See guidance notes for details of the application

**6. Is there are template for the end of visit report?**

Yes, it can be found here <https://ubel-dtp.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/IIV-Research-Blog.docx>

**7. Can I visit more than one institution?**

No. Your IIV should be to one institution, but you can make more than one visit there.

### Practicalities

**8. Is the deadline fixed?**

Yes, there are two application deadlines per academic year (usually in February and September) and details are outlined in the guidance notes

**9. Can I use the IIV for fieldwork?**

No, the IIV does not support fieldwork and you should apply via the Fieldwork scheme - <https://ubel-dtp.ac.uk/difficult-language-training-extension-overseas-fieldwork/>

**10. If successful will my studentship be extended?**

Yes, your studentship can be extended for up to three months

**11. Do exact dates of visit need to be decided in the application? or can I give a broad timeline (e.g. Spring 2027)**

You need to specify the exact length of your visit in weeks although the potential timeline can be broad

**12. If I submit early, will I get a quicker response?**

Unfortunately, no. All outcomes are announced at the same time for fairness in the assessment process.

**13. What other costs can be claimed?**

Travel and subsistence costs can all be claimed, in line with the amounts outlined in the guidance. You need to include the exact amount you are requesting including front end cost (covers your flights only), weekly amount (£70 x weeks on placement), giving the total required.

**14. Can the IIV be considered part of the Research in Practice placement**

Yes, depending on the purpose and duration of the visit. In general, the visit should align with your doctoral project plan / development needs analysis.

**15. If I wanted to travel on to somewhere else after my research visit ended, could the funding cover those flights (then my flight home would come out of my own pocket?)**

In general, we only fund the return flight directly between the visit site and home except when there are exceptional circumstances.

**16. Can I apply at an institution in the same city where I am completing my fieldwork**

To be based in the same city where you are completing your field work an exceptional case for the visit would need to be paid. Travel would not be paid if you were there for fieldwork prior to, or following, the fieldwork. Note no additional fieldwork can be carried out during the IIV visit.