

Chapter-6

Students and Research Visa

52. Students

Missions may grant a students visa for a period of five years, or for the duration of the academic course of study, whichever is less, to a foreign student coming to pursue regular, and full time academic studies in India, after usual security checks, without a prior reference to the Government of India, if

- (a) the student holds their national passport with sufficient validity to cover the period of studies;
- (b) (i) the student produces proof of admission to a full time course in a recognized/ reputed educational institutions in India;
- (ii) the student produced a letter of approval or a "No Objection Certificate" from the Ministry of Health, in case of admission in a medical or para-medical course. Ministry of Human Resource Development vide its resolution no. 21-2/2003-TS-III dated 1.6.2005 has withdrawn the condition of such no objection certificate (NOC) from that Ministry for taking admission to Diploma, Degree and Post-Graduate Degree in Engineering & Technology, Architecture & Town Planning, Pharmacy, Applied Arts, MBA, MCA, Hotel Management & Catering Technology etc. Therefore, no objection certificate from the Ministry of Human Resource Development will not be required for admission in such courses.
- (c) the student produces satisfactory evidence of financial support. A letter of support from the parent/guardian accompanied by a bank, guarantee may be accepted for this purpose;
- (d) the student produces, to the satisfaction of the Mission, evidence of transfer of adequate funds for at least 4 months sustenance in India, or produces travelers cheques for a similar amount.
- (e) the Mission is satisfied that the student will leave India on the completion of their studies; and
- (f) there is no adverse information against them.

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- (1) There will be no restriction on the number of courses a foreign students may like to undertake and each time the period of validity of the 'Student Visa' will be counted afresh.. There will be no restriction with reference to the number of courses a student wants to avail in one institution or multiple institutions, provided the institutions are recognised/reputed. In case a foreign student wants to change a course midway and join another course, the period for validity of visa will be counted with respect to the duration of the new course.
- (3) It has come to the notice of Central Government that certain State Governments deny extension of visa to foreign students if they fail to qualify a course within two attempts. Such foreign students may not be denied an extension of visa as long as the concerned University/ Institutions permits a student to complete a course subject to production of the necessary documentary evidence from the University/Institute permitting the foreign students to continue studies. **State Governments/ FRROs are empowered to grant an extension in such cases.**
- (4) State Governments/ FRROs are empowered to grant change / renew 'Students Visa'.

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"There might be some cases where the applicant does not have a firm letter of admission from the university / recognised college or educational institutions because of the procedure in some institutions that require an admission test etc. In such cases Missions may grant a 'Provisional Student Visa' on the basis of provisional admission certificate / letter of offer or advertisement for admission to foreign students issued by the University / recognised college or educational institutions in India. Provisional 'Student Visa' shall be valid for a period of six months. The name of the institutions should not be given in the 'Provisional Student Visa' as the foreign student may try admission in different institutions and alternative courses simultaneously. In case the Student gets regular admission in some University / recognised / reputed college or educational institutions within the validity of provisional visa, the State Government / FRROs are empowered to grant a regular 'Student Visa' for the duration of the course or for a period of five years whichever is less. These provisions/amendments will not be applicable for Theological Studies by the Foreign Students.

Notwithstanding any provision contained in above paras, any foreigner holding Student visa can be deported forthwith if any adverse report comes to the notice of the local police.

Note: No change in other paras e.g. 54,55,56,57,58,59 and 60.