



# UK International Students Guide 2023 Entry

# MetFilm School UK International Students Guide



## London Campus

Our London campus is based at the famous Ealing Studios, known for productions including *The Ladykillers*, *Notting Hill*, *Downton Abbey*, and *The Theory of Everything*. Ealing is a vibrant borough situated in West London, and is home to a vast number of shops, bars, pubs, and restaurants, with something to suit every taste and budget.

Studying in London means that you have access to a huge range of filmmaking resources. London houses the British Film Institute, The Cinema Museum, The Kubrick Archives, and The London Film Museum. London is also a great place to find work in the industry; with the UK's largest film studios based either within or in easy reach of London. These include: Pinewood, Ealing, Shepperton, and 3 Mills Studios.



## Leeds Campus

Like our London and Berlin campuses, MetFilm School Leeds is situated in a working film studio complex – Prime Studios, which plays host to professional film and television productions on an ongoing basis, and is next door to ITV Studios, the home of its flagship soap *Emmerdale Farm*, one of whose current directors is MetFilm School tutor Emma Lindley.

Yorkshire is a fast growing site for the screen industry – Channel 4 recently moved its headquarters to Leeds, joining ITV and BBC in having a permanent presence in the region, and a host of production companies have also made similar moves. When the industry grows, it needs space as well as talent, and the county is proud to boast several new studio developments.



## Application Process

### Undergraduate BA Degrees

Please note: MetFilm School Leeds undergraduate courses are offered through ScreenSpace, which does not currently accept international students. For Undergraduate applications to MetFilm School London, please see the below information.

#### Entry Requirements

All applicants need to be 18 years or older at the time the programme begins. If you are over the age of 21, you are considered a mature student, so your application relies on relevant skills and experience rather than academic qualifications.

All applicants will be interviewed, either in person or via Skype, with a member of our Admissions Team. This will allow us to understand your reasons for applying for a place, and your suitability.

#### Language Requirements

Students applying for a Student visa must provide evidence of their English language ability, unless they reside or have completed study in a majority English speaking country (for example: US, Australia, Canada etc.). The following tests are satisfactory to demonstrate this: IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge PET, ESOL Skills for Life Level 1 and 2, Trinity Level 1.

#### IELTS – BA (Hons) Practical Filmmaking

Students need to achieve an IELTS overall score of at least 6.5 with at least 5.5 in writing, listening, reading and speaking or equivalent.

#### IELTS – BA (Hons) Screen Acting

Students need to achieve an IELTS overall score of at least 7.0 with at least 6.5 in writing, 7.0 in listening, reading and speaking or equivalent.

Please discuss additional questions on language requirements with our Admissions Team.

### Postgraduate MA Degrees

#### Standard Entry Requirements

All applicants must be 18 years or older at the time that the programme begins. Applicants require a 2:1 honours degree from a UK university or overseas equivalent.

#### Non-Standard Entry Requirements

Students with a degree below a 2:1 equivalent are still able to apply. They will need to submit the following to support their application:

- A compulsory academic essay (750-1000 words)

Applicants without a degree, but possessing relevant work experience are still able to apply. They will need to submit the following to support their application:

- A compulsory academic essay (750-1000 words)
- A professional industry reference
- A CV

Please discuss non-standard entry requirements with our Admissions Team prior to applying.

**No degree or relevant work experience:** Candidates with no degree or filmmaking experience do not meet the entry criteria.

#### Language Requirements

Students from outside of the UK must provide evidence that their English language ability is up to standard for the programme they have applied to.

Prior to applying for your Student Visa, you will need to demonstrate a B2 English Level (Upper-Intermediate).

For MA Programmes, we require an IELTS overall score of 6.5, with at least a 6.5 in writing, and at least a 5.5 in listening, reading, and speaking.

The following tests are also satisfactory to show this:

- TOEFL
- Cambridge PET
- ESOL Skills for Life Level 1 and 2
- Trinity Level 1

Some applicants do not need to prove their knowledge of English. Information on language requirements and exemptions can be found at [gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english](https://gov.uk/student-visa/knowledge-of-english)



## Before you Arrive

On receiving an offer of a place at MetFilm School, non-UK nationals will need to demonstrate they either:

- Have settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) if an EU, EEA, or Swiss national that has been resident in the UK prior to 31st December 2020;

OR

- Meet the criteria for a Student VISA

Other actions to prioritise when receiving your offer:

- Check that your passport is valid – depending on your programme, you will need a valid passport for either the first six months of study, or the entire duration.
- Organise your accommodation
- Book your flight to the UK and take out travel insurance to cover any losses or delays/cancellations
- Apply for your Student Visa (if appropriate)

### EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)

EU, EEA & Swiss nationals with settled or pre-settled status under the EUSS must prove their immigration status by providing a share code. You can do this using the digital immigration checking service at [gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status](https://gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status)

You must hold a valid UK Visa which entitles you to study at MetFilm School before you can begin your course.

### Student Visa (The Student Route)

The Student Route is open to all non-UK nationals and EU, EEA, and Swiss nationals who do not have settled or pre-settled status under the EUSS.

The route requires that applicants have a genuine offer to study on an approved course, at an accredited institution (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies). It also requires applicants to demonstrate that they have sufficient funds to support themselves during study, and have the required knowledge of English.

The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) has an excellent website with plenty of information on how to apply, and guidance on life as an international student living in the UK. For more information visit [ukcisa.org.uk](https://ukcisa.org.uk)

Most Student Visa applicants must apply from outside of the UK. The earliest you can enter the UK is one month before your course start date. You will be advised of your Student Visa start date in your decision letter. It is vital that you do not come to the UK before this start date.

You can see all the documents you will need to make your application at [gov.uk/student-visa](https://gov.uk/student-visa)

### Working on a Visa

**Standard Visitor Visa:** If you come to the UK on a standard visitor visa, you will not be allowed to do any paid or voluntary work and you will not be able to extend your stay in the UK.

**Post Study Work:** The Post Study Work Visa will allow eligible students to work, or look for work, in any career or position of their choice, for two years after completing their studies.

**Student Visa on Student Route:** Students are allowed to work for a maximum of 20 hours per week during term time. This is a maximum of 20 hours in total in any one week, including paid or unpaid work and for one or more organisations. Student Visas do not allow students to be self-employed.

### Student Visa (The Student Route)

After successfully completing their course, students become eligible for the Graduate Route Post-Study Visa. The Graduate Route provides an opportunity for international students who have been awarded their degree to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, at any skill level, for two years.

This is an unsponsored route, meaning you do not need a job offer to apply for the route. You can work flexibly, switch jobs, and develop your career in the UK as required.





## Getting to MetFilm School London

### Travelling to London from an Airport via Car & London Transport

#### London Heathrow to MetFilm School London



22 minutes via car (6.9 miles)

Alternatively, you can get the Piccadilly Line on the London Underground directly through to South Ealing Station (33 minutes).

#### London City Airport to MetFilm School London



1hr via car (28.2 miles)

Alternatively, you can get the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) into Central London and connect to other various Underground stations to reach MetFilm School.

#### London Stansted Airport to MetFilm School London



1hr 5 minutes via car (43.8 miles)

Alternatively, you can take the Stansted Express to London's Liverpool Street Station (45 minutes), where you can then take the Central Line Underground train to Ealing Broadway.

#### London Gatwick Airport to MetFilm School London



58 minutes via car (49.6 miles)

Alternatively, you can take the Gatwick Express, a direct to London Victoria, where you can catch a District Line train to Ealing Broadway.



### London Transport

Transport for London (TfL) and their website [tfl.gov.uk](https://tfl.gov.uk) will provide you with a basic guide to everything you need to know about getting around the city. You can use the Journey Planner, find out when your bus is due, download maps and keep track of station and trainline closures.

The Underground does not run all night; however, some routes do run a night service. Check before you travel!

#### Top Free London Transport Apps

1. **Citymapper** – Simply add your start and end location and Citymapper will advise you on all the different transport options available to you i.e. buses, underground routes, walking, and cycling. (Available on iOS and Android)
2. **Kabbee** – Kabbee compares the price of 70 different minicab companies in London. You can pay for the journey by credit card via the app. (Available on iOS and Android)
3. **Busmapper** – If you are a regular user of London buses then the Busmapper app will assist you with live departures and route planning. (Available on iOS)

#### Oyster Cards

London's entire transport system (with the exception of taxis) accepts Oyster Cards for payment. You won't be able to use cash to buy tickets. If you have a contactless credit or debit card, this works exactly the same and costs no more than an oyster card.

#### Where to purchase an Oyster card?

You will need to pay £5 for an Oyster card.

- Online at [tfl.gov.uk/fares/contactless-and-oyster-account](https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/contactless-and-oyster-account)
- At Oyster Ticket Stops in many newsagents in London [tfl.gov.uk/maps/oyster-ticket-stops](https://tfl.gov.uk/maps/oyster-ticket-stops)
- At all tube, overground, and most TfL Rail Stations

#### Topping up your Oyster card

- Online with a contactless and Oyster account, if you live in the UK
- Using the free TfL Oyster and Contactless app
- At Oyster Ticket Stops in many newsagents in London
- At all tube, overground, and most TfL Rail Stations

#### 18+ Student Oyster Photocard

If you are 18 or over, a student, and living in a London borough, you can get discounted travel with an Oyster photocard, where you can save 30% on adult-rate travelcards.

For more information visit [tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/18-plus-student-oyster-photocard](https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/18-plus-student-oyster-photocard)



## Getting to MetFilm School Leeds

### Travelling to Leeds from an Airport via Car & Leeds Transport

#### Leeds Bradford Airport to MetFilm School Leeds



20 minutes via car (7.0 miles)

Alternatively, you can travel via coach, taking the A1 Flyer from Leeds Bradford Airport to Washington Street Stop, a 3min walk from MetFilm School Leeds.

#### Manchester Airport to MetFilm School Leeds



1hr 5 minutes via car (59.0 miles)

Alternatively, you can travel into Leeds via the Transpennine Express (1hr 30mins), and walk (20 mins) to MetFilm School Leeds.

#### Liverpool Airport to MetFilm School Leeds



1hr 20 minutes via car (71.6 miles)

Alternatiely, you can take the 500 bus to St Johns Market (35 mins), switch to the Transpennine Express to Leeds (1hr 45 mins), and walk (15 mins) to MetFilm School Leeds.

#### London to MetFilm School Leeds



3hr 20 minutes via car (197 miles)

Alternatively, you can take the train from London Kings Cross Station to Leeds (2h 15 minutes), and walk (10 mins) to MetFilm School Leeds.



## Leeds Transport

### West Yorkshire Metro

You can travel to and around Leeds city centre via bus and train. You can use the WY Metro Journey Planner to find out when your bus is due, download maps, and keep track of station and trainline closures.

Most buses and trains run from 5am-11pm; however some routes do run a night service, including the N1 bus. Make sure to check before you travel!

### Top Free Leeds Transport Apps

- 1. First Bus App** – Plan your journey, check live bus times, and buy tickets for buses, including tickets for Heathrow RailAir and Bright Bus Tours. (Available on iOS and Android)
- 2. Moovit**– Moovit is a personal journey assistant which provides real-time arrivals and updates, digital payment, live directions, and includes bike routes around Leeds. (Available on iOS and Android)
- 3. UK Bus Tracker** – Provides real-time bus information and the ability to purchase mobile tickets for journeys across Great Britain, with additional information for tram, ferry, and underground journeys. (Available on iOS and Android)

### Metro Cards

You can travel throughout West Yorkshire with a 19-25 or Student Photocard. You can pre-load this card for discounted travel on the bus and train.

### Where to purchase a 19-25 or Student Card?

If you are aged 19-25, you can purchase this card either online, or at a Travel Centre. If you are a Mature Student, you will need to bring proof that you are in full-time education.

### Railcards

If you are planning on travelling around the UK during your time at MetFilm School, you might consider purchasing a railcard, which takes 1/3 off the price of all train tickets you purchase, and can be stored digitally on your phone.

### Where to purchase a railcard?

Depending on your age and requirements, there are multiple railcard options available, including 16-25 years, 26-30 years, and 'Two Together'. You can purchase your railcard by visiting the website [railcard.co.uk](https://railcard.co.uk)

## Packing

### What to pack in your hand luggage?

Make sure you pack the following important items in your hand luggage and keep them with you at all times

- Your passport
- Your Confirmation of Acceptance to Study (CAS)
- Your Visa decision letter from the Home Office
- Any medication you are taking
- Details and policy wording for your insurance
- Enough money for your first few weeks
- Any accommodation contracts or payments that you have been asked to bring with you
- TB Certificate

### Packing Appropriate Clothing

British weather changes throughout the year. During Summer (June to August) temperatures can reach 25-30 degrees. Whilst in the Winter they often drop to around 5 degrees during the day, and there is usually some snowfall in December, January or February.

## Useful Websites

### UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs)

**T:** +44 (0)20 7107 9922  
(Monday to Friday  
13:00–16:00 UK Time)

**W:** [ukcisa.org.uk](http://ukcisa.org.uk)

### UK Naric

**T:** +44 (0) 871 330 7033  
(Monday to Friday  
09:00–17:00 UK Time)

**W:** [naric.org.uk](http://naric.org.uk)

### Gov.uk – Visa Information

**W:** [gov.uk/government/  
organisations/uk-visas-and-  
immigration](http://gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration)

### Transport for London (TfL)

**W:** [tfl.gov.uk](http://tfl.gov.uk)

### Public Transport in Leeds

**W:** [newtoleeds.org/public-  
transport](http://newtoleeds.org/public-transport)



## MetFilm School Guides

For further information please download our other Guides:

- UK Accommodation Guide
- Berlin Accommodation Guide
- UK Finance & Funding Guide
- Berlin Finance & Funding Guide
- UK Student Support Guide
- Berlin Student Support Guide
- Berlin International Students Guide

Please note the information provided in this guide referring to any external company, is provided as an overview only. All details and information are subject to change and may be impacted by Covid 19 restrictions. Please refer to individual websites for the latest information.

Please note this MetFilm School Guide is correct at time of publishing and is subject to change. Please visit the MetFilm School website for the latest information.

## Contact

### MetFilm School London

Ealing Studios  
Ealing Green  
London  
W5 5EP

### MetFilm School Leeds

Prime Studios  
94-96 Kirkstall Road  
Leeds  
LS3 1HD

T: +44 (0)20 8280 9119

E: [info@metfilmschool.co.uk](mailto:info@metfilmschool.co.uk)

W: [metfilmschool.ac.uk](http://metfilmschool.ac.uk)