

Common Ground 2020: Visa guidance for WCF Districts hosting Delegations

Most importantly: thank you for your support! Your input is invaluable in making Common Ground truly international.

Standard Visitor Visa

- Delegations coming to Common Ground 2020 from the countries listed at Annex A (see end of document) will need a visa to enter the UK.
- The type of visa is called a Standard Visitor Visa.
- Everyone in the Delegation will need to apply online: both adults and children.
- You can only apply from 2nd May 2020, for arrival in the UK on 1st August. The exception is those individuals attending pre-camp in May.
- The visa allows the Delegation members to enter the UK for tourism, which is what the camp is.
- Travel DOES NOT NEED to be booked before the visa has been secured.
- Agree with the delegation how, when and by whom the cost of visas, passports and translations will be covered.

PLEASE MAKE SURE your delegation is using the Visa info sheet for Delegations, available at www.commonground.camp/about/international/.

Process

Delegation to:	Information for hosting districts:
1. Obtain a valid travel document for every member of the delegation.	<p>This is usually a national passport. The delegation should start this process as soon as possible.</p> <p>Useful questions to ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How many people in the delegation?• How many members already have a passport?• Anyone not a citizen of the country they're travelling from? Where and how will they apply for a passport?
2. Send the names and passport numbers to Common Ground team and the hosting Woodcraft District. These will be used for creating visa support letters.	<p><u>You have a choice:</u> the Common Ground Team is happy to issue visa support letters. OR your District may choose to do this, especially if they have members with expertise. A template is available.</p> <p>We need to include the District Co-ordinator name and at least one home address for any extra days in the UK before/after camp.</p>

	Encourage the delegation to protect sensitive data with a password, and to avoid sending via Facebook, WhatsApp or similar.
3. Collate the supporting visa documents and get them translated into English.	See here for background information. The delegation will start to incur costs at this point, towards certified translations and application fees. Have a discussion about the level of financial support. Will your district contribute? Pay upfront, or reimburse later? What will the payment method be, to keep transparency and low transaction fees?
5. Apply for a visa online on or around 2nd May 2020.	Applications can only be submitted 3months before planned travel. Please work with the Common Ground Team to ensure all applicants have documents ready by late April 2020. This can include a visa support letter and your district bank statement. The bank statement can demonstrate that you have sufficient funds to support the Delegation whilst they are in the UK. Weak financial evidence can be a reason for a visa to be refused.
6. Pay £95 visa fee online.	Have a discussion about visa fees. Will your district contribute? Pay upfront, or reimburse later? What will the payment method be, to keep transparency and low transaction fees?
7. Attend an appointment with a UK government appointed agent.	The agent might apply a mandatory fee of £55. The system may offer the delegation an OPTIONAL Package of Assistance, for a separate charge.
8. Inform Common Ground team and hosting district of any visa decisions	This should take about 3 weeks but can take longer. Please keep Common Ground team up-to-date with any visa decisions. In case of a rejection, a decision needs to be made regarding appeals, replacements or reducing the delegation size.

Further information

The Common Ground Team is happy to assist you with questions. Please call Project Manager Pauliina Keinanen tel +44 739983320 or email info@commonground.camp. Please note we are not authorised to give advice on UK immigration.

ANNEX A: List of IFM-SEI member countries where a visa is required to enter the UK

Passports holders of the countries listed below will require a Standard Visitor Visa to attend Common Ground 2020. We have listed the members of IFM, and this list is not exhaustive. Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply>

Armenia
Belarus
Bhutan
Bolivia
Cameroon
Egypt
Georgia
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Israel - PROVISIONAL PASSPORT (travel document in lieu of national passport)
Mali
Palestinian Territories
Peru
Senegal
Turkey
Western Sahara
Zimbabwe