

## NCU Registrations Guidance – Overseas Amateur Cricketers

The document below refers to Home Office guidance for clubs seeking to obtain overseas amateur cricketers in Senior Leagues Section One to Three. Please note this is guidance and all application must be submitted and approved by the NCU Registrations Committee.

Section A – Guidance on Expenses & Club

Section B – Home Office Immigration Rules for Cricket (ECB)

### Section A

Overseas amateur cricketers generally cover most of their own living expenses, as visa regulations in countries like the UK strictly limit the financial support, they can receive to maintain their amateur status.

#### **Typical Expenses Covered by the Cricketer**

An overseas amateur will need to budget for the following costs:

- **Flights/Travel:** The player is typically responsible for the initial airfare to the host country.
- **Accommodation:** The cost of housing for the duration of the season, though sometimes a club will assist in finding a host family or shared housing.
- **Daily Living Costs:** This includes food, utilities, local transport, and general personal expenses.
- **Personal Equipment:** While some kit might be provided, costs for items like bats, shoes, and grips often fall to the player.
- **Visa Fees:** The application fees for the required visa (e.g., Youth Mobility Scheme or Visitor Visa) must be paid by the player, and proof of sufficient savings may be required for the application.
- **Club Fees:** Potential costs for club membership and match fees may apply, though some clubs might waive these in exchange for coaching or playing.

#### **Potential Support from the Club**

To assist with costs without violating visa rules (which prohibit players from receiving payment that covers *all* or the *majority* of their expenses), clubs may offer specific, limited support:

- **Reimbursement of reasonable expenses:** Clubs can reimburse players for itemized and receipted travel to away matches or post-match refreshments.
- **Provision of "in-kind" benefits:** This might include shared accommodation, access to club-owned equipment, or a gym membership.
- **Paid Coaching Opportunities:** If the player has the relevant qualifications and a visa that permits work (like a Youth Mobility Scheme visa), they might be able to secure separate, paid coaching work, which helps cover living costs.

## Key Considerations

- **Visa Status is Crucial:** The type of visa determines what financial arrangements are legal. A player on a standard visitor visa generally cannot undertake any form of paid or unpaid work, even coaching.
- **Documentation:** All expense reimbursements must be supported by detailed invoices and receipts to comply with immigration and tax regulations.
- **Savings Requirement:** Players often need to demonstrate significant personal savings as part of their visa application (e.g., around £2,530 for a UK Youth Mobility Visa, or a minimum of £3,000 for an Australian Working Holiday Visa).

It is essential for both the player and the club to check the specific guidelines with the relevant immigration authorities, such as the [UK Visas and Immigration \(GOV.UK\)](#) for the UK, to ensure full compliance.

## Section B

# Home Office Immigration Rules for Cricket Overview



**Please Note: This document has been drafted by the ECB with the sole purpose of providing guidance to our stakeholders. This should not be interpreted as official Home Office guidance. The ECB are not registered immigration officials therefore if you require official guidance, please refer to the published pages on GOV.UK**

**Anyone wishing to use the services of a player and or coach, from outside the United Kingdom, must ensure that all immigration conditions are adhered to.**

Please note that these immigration routes do not define the registration category of a player - please refer to the relevant set of player registration regulations, either at [www.ecb.co.uk](http://www.ecb.co.uk) or at local League level.

Immigration entry route	Immigration provisions allow involvement in cricket at Professional or Recreational Level (As designated by ECB)	Can the holder play cricket	Can the holder Coach (if suitably qualified and vetted)	Can the holder be paid to Play	Can the holder be paid to Coach	Immigration provisions allow involvement with a County Cricket Academy	Notes
British passport holder who is also a British Citizen (see note)	All	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Those classed as British Overseas Territories Citizens, British Overseas citizens, British protected persons, and British subjects (under the British Nationality Act 1981) may not hold full British Citizenship. This will need to be checked before assuming they are a British Citizen.
Irish Citizen	All	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	This does not apply to dependents of Irish Citizens, unless they themselves have been granted Irish Citizenship
EU citizen with EU Settlement Status (Pre Settled / Settled)	All	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
EU citizen (Visitor - without EU Settlement Status)	Recreational level only	Yes	No	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.
International Sportsperson Visa (Short Term - Non First Class Player/ Coach)	Recreational level only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Can only play/coach for the main sponsor and undertake "Supplementary Employment"
International Sportsperson Visa (Short Term - Non First Class Coach Only)	Recreational level only	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Can only coach for the main sponsor and undertake "Supplementary Employment" No playing paid or unpaid.
T5 (Youth Mobility Scheme)	Recreational level only	Yes	No	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league. Can act as a coaching assistant (if suitable qualified and vetted) under direct supervision of a qualified coach. Can seek employment but not as a sportsperson or coach.
Indian Young Professional Scheme	Recreational level only	Yes	No	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league. Can act as a coaching assistant (if suitable qualified and vetted) under direct supervision of a qualified coach. Can seek employment but not as a sportsperson or coach.
"Asylum Seekers" - those with an ARC (Asylum Registration Card)	Recreational level only	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Settlement and citizenship depends on the outcome of the Asylum claim. If a person meets the definition of a Professional Sportsperson they are still able to play cricket on an amateur basis only.
Leave to Remain/ Permission to Stay - (does not include Points Based System Dependents)	All	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	If there are restrictions listed such as "Sportsperson", then the holder cannot play/coach cricket here, paid or unpaid.
Indefinite Leave to Remain (Settlement)	All	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Ancestry Visa	All	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Standard Visitor Visa	Recreational level only	Yes	No	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.
Non Visa National (now includes EU citizens who are visiting the UK)	Recreational level only	Yes	No	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.
Permitted Paid Engagements Visa (PPE)	All	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	This is only valid for a max of one month, it cannot be extended or duplicated in succession. Individual must be invited by an organizing body within the UK for more information visit the HO website
Student Visa	Recreational level only	Yes	See note	No	No	No	Can play as an amateur, at an amateur club or for the educational institution they are studying at, if they are classified as an Amateur by the Home Office. They can only undertake coaching paid or unpaid if it forms part of the course they are here studying.
Child Student Visa (4-17 year olds)	Recreational level only	Yes	See note	No	No	No	Can play as an amateur, at an amateur club or for the educational institution they are studying at, if they are classified as an Amateur by the Home Office. They can only undertake coaching paid or unpaid if it forms part of the course they are here studying.
Graduate Visa (T4 Student)	Recreational level only	Yes	See note	No	No	No	Can play as an amateur, at an amateur club or for the educational institution they are studying at, if they are classified as an Amateur by the Home Office. They can only undertake coaching paid or unpaid if it forms part of the course they are here studying.
Skilled Worker Visa	Recreational level only	Yes	No	No	No	No	Must be classified as an "Amateur" by the Home Office and can only play as an Amateur for a predominantly amateur club/ league.