



## **Uganda – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 3 July 2012**

**Information on procedure for Ugandan nationals seeking UK Visas. What sort of documentation is required? Would it be possible to obtain a visa on a false passport? Any other relevant information.**

An article from the Ugandan newspaper *The Monitor* states:

“A new company, VFS Uganda Ltd, will now handle visa applications for those intending to travel to the United Kingdom (UK). The company, which started operations on July 11, replaces Visa Handling Services Ltd which has been doing the same work since 2003. According to British High Commission Entry Clearance Manager of the visa handling section Kingsley Magee, VFS was sought because it is a regional company unlike the previous one.” (*The Monitor* (20 July 2007) *Uganda: New Company to Handle UK Visas*)

A page on the *VFS Global* website, in a paragraph headed “Who are we?”, states:

“VFS Global is a commercial company, working in partnership with the UK Border Agency at the British High Commissions here in Uganda providing services to help people apply for a visa to enter the United Kingdom (UK).” (*VFS Global* (undated) *VFS global in Uganda*)

See also paragraph headed “What does VFS Global do?” which states:

“VFS manages visa application centres for UK Border Agency here in Uganda, where you should submit your completed visa application form, supporting documents and biometric data.” (*ibid*)

A *UK Border Agency* press release states:

“From 16 November 2011 all applications for a UK visa must be completed using our online application system before going to the visa application centre in Kampala to submit a printed copy of the application form and biometric data (fingerprints and photograph). Appointments to submit applications at the visa application centre must be booked online when completing the online application form. The visa application centre in Kampala will only accept applications from those who have applied and booked an appointment online. A 'drop in' service at the visa application centre will only be available to genuine emergency/time sensitive cases.” (*UK Border Agency* (14 November 2011) *Changes to the handling of UK visa applications in Uganda*)

A page on the *UK Border Agency in Uganda* website, in a paragraph headed “Before you apply”, states:

“Before you apply, you must:

- prepare the supporting documents that you will need;
- be ready to submit your visa application, enrol your fingerprints and photograph (known as biometric information) at our visa application centre; and
- be able to pay the visa application fee. The Visa application fees and guides page explains how much your visa application will cost.” (UK Border Agency in Uganda (undated) *Applying for a UK visa in Uganda*)

See also a page on this website which, in a paragraph headed “What will happen when you attend?”, states:

“When you attend the visa application centre, you will:

- submit your printed visa application form and your supporting documents;
- pay your visa application fee, if paying at the visa application centre; and
- enrol your biometric information. The Biometric information page describes the requirements for enrolling this information.” (UK Border Agency in Uganda (undated) *Visa application centre in Uganda*)

A paragraph on this webpage headed “What should you bring with you?” states:

“You should bring:

- your completed, signed visa application form (or a signed printout of your completed form, if you applied online);
- your passport. You are not legally required to have 6 months validity on your passport at the time you apply for your visa. But your passport must be valid at the time you apply and at the time you arrive in the UK;
- 1 recent passport-sized (45mm x 33mm) colour photograph of your face, which meets the requirements in our photograph guidance - you can download this guidance from the right side of this page
- your visa application fee, or evidence that you have already paid the fee;
- any supporting documents that are relevant to your application and a photocopy of each document (including English translations);
- if your applying under the points-based system, a completed self-assessment form, signed and dated; and
- any previous passports which show evidence of foreign travel.” (ibid)

An article from the government-owned newspaper *New Vision* states:

“A ten-year ban will be imposed on UK visa applicants who submit forged documents. The new immigration rules will be effected in April. The British High Commission clearance manager, Maggie Kingsley, said: ‘With a few exceptions, any applicant, who submits forged documentation, or any kind of false statement in support of their application, will automatically be denied a visa and may be ineligible for another 10 years.’ He was on Monday launching the commission's immigration brochure at their offices in Kamwokya on Monday. False statements include concealing information that an applicant has ever been denied visa(s) or misrepresenting his or her

unemployment status. Kingsley added: 'The 10-year ban will send a powerful message to prospective visa applications that UK will not tolerate people using forged or fraudulent documents.'" (New Vision (20 March 2008) *Uganda: Fake UK Visa Applicants Get 10-Year Ban*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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