Which UK Visa Documents Need an Apostille? — Not the Invitation Letter

What an officer checks in this document — and what gets it refused.

What this document must contain

The letter itself needs no legalisation of any kind: signed, dated, and uploaded as a clear scan with your online application. What must accompany it is evidence — the host's passport copy or online status share code, proof of the address they have invited you to, and, where they have offered to fund any part of the trip, payslips and bank statements. Apostille exists for public documents such as birth, marriage and degree certificates, and only where the receiving body specifically asks for it.

Do

- Send the letter as a plain signed scan
- Spend the effort on the host's status and address evidence
- Ask for a share code — BRP cards are no longer issued
- Read the checklist for your specific route before legalising anything

Do not

- Don't pay anyone to apostille an invitation letter
- Don't notarise it either — it is not required
- Don't assume a stamp compensates for missing evidence
- Don't apply the rules for degree or birth certificates to private letters

Mistakes that get this document refused

- Paying an agent to apostille a letter UKVI never asked for
- Delaying the application by two weeks waiting for a legalisation stamp
- Submitting an apostilled letter with no host status evidence at all
- Confusing apostille (for public documents) with notarisation (a witnessed signature)

The finished document

A sample of this apostille / legalisation is on the guide page, free to read:
https://www.sureshotvisa.com/documents/uk-invitation-letter-apostille
The version filled in with your own details — and read by a consultant at our licensed firm before you submit it — is a paid service. Start it from the guide page above.