



Can I bring my family to the UK?

If you have a student visa which was issued after 31 March 2009 under the Points-Based System then you are entitled to bring your partner or children to the UK as dependants if you meet the following requirements:

- You are government sponsored and your course is over 6 months long,
- or,**
- Your course is postgraduate and is 12 months or longer at a higher education institution.

What should I do if I want to bring my family to the UK?

If you meet the criteria listed above then you will first need to check that your dependants meet all other requirements for coming to the UK.

Who are Dependants?

- your husband, wife or civil partner
- your unmarried or same-sex partner
- your child under 18 years old - including if they were born in the UK during your stay

What will they need to do and what documents need to be prepared?

- Read the guidance for dependants of UK visa applicants (tiers 1, 2, 4, 5): www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-dependants-of-uk-visa-applicants-tiers-1-2-4-5
- Read the information on the [Home Office website](#)
- Complete the [online application form](#). (If they are a national of North Korea each of them will need to complete a paper-based form).
- Current application fee in local currency: approximately £348
- Dependant's current passport and visa and any old passports and visas used to travel to the UK
- Evidence of their relationship to you (e.g. marriage certificate, birth certificate, evidence of subsisting relationship).
- Evidence showing your current permission to stay.
- A letter from LSBU which confirms your student status. You can [request this letter](#) from the Student Centre

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Immigration and International Student Advice

Admissions & Recruitment Centre (ARC), Southwark Campus

T: +44 (0)20 7815 7037 / 6156

E: international.advice@lsbu.ac.uk

W: www.lsbu.ac.uk/international/visas-and-immigration/advice-team



- To submit biometric information (fingerprints and photo) at a visa application centre.
- Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) reference number:

If your dependants make a visa application to enter or remain in the UK for a period of more than 6 months, they will now be required to pay an immigration health surcharge to the National Health Service (NHS). Find out further information, including how much they will be required to pay here:

www.gov.uk/healthcare-immigration-application

They need to pay this surcharge before submitting their application.

- Medical certificate confirming your dependant has undergone screening for tuberculosis:

They will need to have a TB test if they are coming to the UK for more than 6 months and are resident in any of the countries listed on their website. Their test must be from a clinic approved by the Home Office. To see whether this applies to you and to find a list of approved clinics please see the Home Office website: www.gov.uk/tb-test-visa

- Your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number:

The application form may ask for the CAS number that was issued to you when you applied for your current student visa.

Evidence that they can support themselves financially:

You are studying in inner London so each dependant will need to be able to show that they have £845 for each month of your course, up to a maximum of 9 months. If your course is for 9 months or more they will need to show that they have £7605 available.

The money can be held in your or your dependant's bank account. If the dependant is your child, the funds can be held by the child's other parent, but only if the other parent will also come to the UK.

The required funds must be in the account for at least 28 consecutive days and the bank statement should be no older than 31 days before the date of the visa application. Please see more information in the Guidance for Dependants of UK visa applicants (Tiers 1,2,4,5).

Check that the bank is a financial institution whose documents are accepted by the Home Office. The list of accepted accounts and unverifiable accounts can be found in Appendix P of the Immigration Rules.

Children aged under 18

If you wish to bring a child aged under 18 to the UK as a dependant then both parents are required to be lawfully living in the UK. If for any reason you will not be joined by the other parent then you need to show that you have sole responsibility for the child. You would need to show that:

- You are the sole surviving parent.
- You have sole responsibility for your child's upbringing.
- There are serious or compelling family or other considerations.

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Family already in the UK

If you are either:

- government-sponsored and your course is longer than six months, or
- you are doing a postgraduate level course of 12 months or longer at a publicly-funded Higher Education Institution or a 'recognised body' then your dependant can apply to extend their stay from inside the UK (provided that they are not currently in the UK as a 'visitor').
- Your dependant must also not have been given a notice from the immigration authorities telling them that they have 'Temporary Admission' or 'Temporary Release' in the UK.

If you are someone who qualifies to have family members with you in the UK only because your current or most recent immigration permission was as a Tier 4 (General) student or a pre-Tier 4 student on a course over six months long AND all four bullet points below apply:

- Your leave must have been granted for study on a course that is or was over 6 months long, and
- That leave must be current or have expired within 3 months of this application, and
- You and your dependant must be applying at the same time, and the Tier 4 (General) leave that you are applying for now is for a course over 6 months long, and
- Your dependant has or most recently had leave as the dependant of a Tier 4 (General) student

What should I do if I need to extend my dependant's visa in the UK?

If you meet the criteria above then each dependant will need to read the [PBS Dependant Policy Guidance](#) and complete the relevant sections in your online application. If they are making a separate application then they will need to complete a separate online application form.

You should refer to the policy guidance but, as a guide, the following documents are usually required:

- Completed online application form (either as part of your application form or a separate one)
- Current application fee: £475 for a standard application
- Dependant's current passport and visa and any old passports/visas used to travel to the UK.
- Evidence that they can support themselves financially – see the guidance above.
- Evidence of their relationship to you (e.g. marriage certificate, birth certificate).
- Document showing you and your partner are living together (e.g., a utility bill, council tax bill or bank statement)
- Pay for the Immigration and Health Surcharge (IHS)
- They will also be required to submit biometric information (fingerprints and photo).

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My child has just been born here in the UK. Does my baby need a visa?

If your child was born in the UK then you do not need to make an immigration application. It does not make your child a British citizen but it is legal for your child to remain in the UK. If your child needs to leave the UK then they will need to apply for entry clearance in order to re-enter the UK.

However, from 06 April 2015 babies born in the UK are not entitled to free healthcare from the age of 3 months old, unless it is emergency treatment. Therefore, we strongly advise students to submit a visa application for the baby as soon as possible in order to access healthcare.

Any questions?

- UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA):
www.ukcisa.org.uk/International-Students/Immigration-/Dependants
- Home Office:
www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/family-members
- Immigration and International Student Advice:
www.lsbu.ac.uk/international/visas-and-immigration/advice-team

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