

FACTSHEET: Dependant visas (for Spouse/partner and children)

The overview

Some Student visa holders can also have family (i.e. spouse, civil partner, unmarried or same-sex partner and/or under 18 year old children of either a Student or their partner) with them in the UK as “Dependants”. See [UKCISA website](#) to check if your dependants are able to come to the UK on a Dependant visa. Dependants can apply for their visas either at the same time as the student or separately, to join the student (main applicant) in the UK.

Applying outside the UK

If your dependants are applying from outside the UK (Entry Clearance), they must apply online via this link: <https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/apply-visa-type/dependant>

A separate application needs to be completed for each dependant (e.g. spouse/partner and children). In most countries, as part of the online application an appointment is booked to attend the visa application centre to enrol biometrics (have your fingerprints and facial image) and submit supporting documents.

If your dependants’ application is successful, a vignette (sticker) will be placed in their passport. They will have to enter the UK within the visa period. Your dependants will also receive a decision letter that contains important information about their Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) and what to do when they arrive in the UK. The BRP card will state the full duration of their visa. They must bring this letter with them to the UK.

Supporting documents

They will also be required to provide following supporting documents with their application. Any documents not in English must be accompanied by official certified translations.

- Current valid passport
- TB test certificate – if applicable, check on the [GOV.UK website](#)
- A copy of the student's visa if applying separately.
- Evidence of relationship to the student (main applicant):
 - **Married or in a civil partnership:** include your marriage and/or civil partnership certificate. If you have been recently married or been married for some time but not living together, it may be advisable to provide additional evidence of a subsisting relationship i.e. emails, phone call/chat history or another proof of correspondence.
 - **Unmarried partners:** you will need to provide evidence that you have been living together in a subsisting relationship for at least two years. Documents will only be considered where they are from official sources. These could include bank statements, utility bills, tenancy agreements and medical registration certificates.
 - **Same-sex relationship:** a valid overseas registration document for a same-sex relationship which is entitled to be treated as a civil partnership under the Civil Partnership Act of 2004

- **Dependant children:** include a birth certificate showing name of the child and parent. Other form of documents included a court order such as a special guardianship order or a government issued household registration certificate. For children over 16 years old when they apply, documentation confirming their residential address from two separate sources will need to be provided to prove they are not leading an independent life.

Evidencing genuine and subsisting relationship with your spouse/partner

If the spouse/partner is applying to join their partner who is studying on a Student visa in the UK, they must provide documentary evidence that their relationship is subsisting or ongoing. Failure to demonstrate that a relationship is genuine and subsisting is one of the main reasons for refusals of Dependant visa applications. Please note **the marriage certificate alone may not be enough** and you will need additional documents to evidence how the relationship was formed and how it's an ongoing relation. See below for a list of documents that you can use:

- Marriage certificate
- Residential mortgage statements or tenancy agreements
- Evidence that the couple has lived together at the same address (bank statements, council tax, tenancy agreement, utility bills, letters)
- Photos to proof the relationship, labelled with dates (engagement, wedding & ongoing photos)
- Flight tickets or date stamps in passport to demonstrate how many times the spouse has visited the dependant since their relationship began, and for how long on each occasion
- Evidence of maintaining contact whilst in separate countries (printed screenshots of call history and online contact: Facebook chat, WhatsApp call/chat, emails) for the whole duration you were not living together
- If applicable – the couple have had children together (biological, adopted or step-children) and shared responsibility for them.
- Any shared financial responsibilities (bank statement or investment)
- A covering letter from spouse confirming background details about the relationship such as when and how you met; when you decided to get married or live together, and what plans you have made for your life together in the UK. Also to confirm that applicant intend to live with spouse during the stay in the UK (provide accommodation contract, if possible) and that applicant do not intend to stay in the UK beyond any period of leave granted to spouse.

Financial documentation

- Self-funded students: Dependants must have sufficient funds to cover living costs in the UK. You need to show that you have £680 per month for each dependant up to a maximum of 9 months – a total of £6,120 for each dependant.
 - Funds must be shown in an account for at least 28 consecutive days before the application date
- Sponsored students: Sponsorship letter on official-headed paper showing the following:
 - both the student's name and name(s) of dependant
 - the name and contact detail of the sponsor
 - the date of letter
 - the length of sponsorship
 - the amount of money they are providing or a statement that they will cover full maintenance

Applying in the UK (without the main applicant)

Some visa categories will allow your family members to switch in the UK. Applicants under Dependant of a Student will meet the financial requirement if they have been in the UK with permission for 12 months or longer on the date of application. They must apply online:

Partner/Spouse: <https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/pbs-dependant-partner>

Child: <https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/pbs-dependant-child>

Advice available at the University

For further advice, attend one of the term-time [Immigration Drop-in Sessions](#). For out of term advice, please email us at immigration@hud.ac.uk