

Standard Visitor visa – for friends/family visiting the UK temporarily

The overview

- the visa is available for a maximum of 6 months
- Visitors must leave the UK on or before the visa expiry date.
- Visitors cannot extend or switch into a different visa category in the UK
- Visitors cannot make an application more than 3 months before date they intend to enter the UK. However, they must give themselves sufficient time to make an application. Visa processing times for various countries is available on the UKVI [GOV.UK website](#)
- During the application process the visitor must state when they wish the visa to start (i.e. date you intend to enter the UK) otherwise the visa may have a start date whenever it is issued by the UKVI
- Visitors must attach sufficient evidence to support their application.
- Decision making can be subjective so they should not give UKVI a reason to doubt the validity of their application

Making the application

The application process is on-line unless the visitor is from North Korea in which case they have to make a paper based application. The online application on the [Visa4UK website](#)

The process is as follows:

- register an account with the UKVI
- complete the on-line application form
- pay for the application
- make an appointment to have biometrics taken
- submit relevant documentation

Selecting the right visa type – Online Application

When completing the online application it is important to select the correct type of visa from the drop-down lists. See a general guide below:

Who is applying for visa?	Question	Option you should select
A family member or spouse	1. Reason for visit	“Visit”
	2. Visa type	“Family”
	3. Visa sub type	“Visit – family – 6 months”
A friend	1. Reason for visit	“Visit”
	2. Visa type	“Tourism”
	3. Visa sub type	“Visit – tourism – 6 months”

Biometric appointment

For both the online or paper-based application, the applicants must attend a biometric appointment to have their fingerprints and photo taken. They will be able to select an appointment date at the end of the online application process.

Sending their documents

After the application has been paid for and the biometric appointment has been booked, the UKVI will send an acknowledgement email to the applicant. The applicant must then submit their documents to the UKVI. The acknowledgement email from the UKVI will instruct where to send the documents.

Documents required

The type of documents required can vary from country to country, however below is a list of documents they applicant should expect to submit with their application. They should check with UKVI to see if any additional documents are required locally.

- Passport and/or travel documents
- 2 passport size colour photographs
- Proof of finances - bank statements or pay slips covering a 6-month period. You can provide your personal bank statements of your UK bank account as additional proof.
- Accommodation and travel details – details of flight reservation (don't pay for any flights until you have received your visa) and confirmation of accommodation booking.
- If your visiting family member or friend will be staying with you for the duration of their stay in the UK, you should provide proof of your address (e.g. a copy of your tenancy agreement, council tax letter and/or a utility bill)
- A letter of invitation from you stating your address in the UK, your relationship with the visitor, the purpose of the visit, the dates of the visit and the details of where they will be staying. This letter must come from you.
- You can also attach a letter issued by the iPoint team confirming your student status.
- A copy of your visa or biometric resident permit as well as the main page of your passport
- If applicable, invitation letter from the Registry to giving information about your graduation
- The visitor may also be asked to provide other socio-economic evidence to show that they have strong ties in their home country and intend to return home. For example, a letter from employer (on company headed-paper) confirming they have a job to return to.

Related links

[UKVI - Standard Visitor Visa – Overview](#)

[UKVI – Visa Guidance](#)

For further information please attend one of the term-time [Immigration Drop-in Sessions](#) (Mon & Wed 1200-1300 and Fri 1100-1200). For out of term advice, please [contact the Immigration team](#) for an appointment.

Note: The UKVI immigration requirements can change at a short notice. The University of Huddersfield and its staff cannot guarantee that the visa application will be successful or take responsibility for any decisions made by the UKVI.