

## VISA APPLICATIONS FOR DEPENDANTS OUTSIDE THE UK

Your dependants can apply for immigration permission to join or remain with you **only if**:

- You are government-sponsored and your course is over six months long OR
- You are doing a postgraduate level course of 12 months or longer at a Higher Education Institution OR
- You had Tier 4 or pre-Tier 4 student leave for your previous course where the course was over six months long AND
  - your permission is current or expired no more than three months before this immigration application AND
  - your new immigration application is for a course over six months long AND
  - your dependants already have Tier 4 dependant or "student" dependant leave AND
  - you apply for immigration permission at the same time as your dependant

The only family members who can make applications as your 'dependants' are: -  
your husband/wife/civil partner/unmarried partner and children under 18 years of age.

You should only apply for a **dependant** visa if your dependant(s) are coming to live with you in the UK for the duration of your studies. If they will remain in your home country and only visit you occasionally, they should apply for a **Standard Visitor** visa.

For most countries it is recommended that applications are made eight weeks before the planned date of departure, but not more than three months.

Please note that there is a requirement to provide biometric information (fingerscans and a full-face digital photograph) and in some countries Tuberculosis (TB) screening is required.

**If you are staying in University halls, you will not be allowed to bring your dependants to stay until you have found suitable family accommodation.**

As a general guide, the main requirements for a Tier 4 Dependant visa are listed here, but **please check when you are applying as each Visa Application Centre has its own requirements.**

Further information can be found on the following websites:

[www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/family-members](http://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa/family-members)

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Dependants](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Dependants)

### **Documents to be sent by student to person applying for visa**

Copy of the personal details page of your passport  
Copy of your current visa – either passport page or Biometric Residence Permit  
Formal invitation letter from you addressed to British Embassy/Consulate/High Commission  
Proof of accommodation (lease or contract)  
Proof of adequate childcare (if bringing children)  
Letter from Infohub confirming student status  
Financial evidence - proof of funding to support dependants during their stay in the UK. You need to show that you have £680 per month for each dependant up to a maximum of 9 months.

## **Documents to be submitted by person applying**

In all countries, except Cuba and North Korea, your dependants need to make an **online** application as the dependant of a migrant under the points-based system (Tier 4)

Go to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa> Under **Select Visa Type** choose the options **Study** then **PBS Tier 4 Student** then **Tier 4 (General) Dependant Partner** or **Dependant Child**

Visa fee

Passport

A recent passport-sized (45mm x 35mm), colour photograph

Marriage Certificate (for spouses)

Birth Certificate (for children)

Financial evidence (if you have or your partner has additional funds in your home country)

Evidence of intention to leave the UK at the end of the stay

(for example, letter from employer, house ownership, family staying at home)

## **Bank Statements**

Your financial evidence must show that the money has been in the account for a minimum period of 28 days, and that 28-day period must not have ended more than 31 days before your dependants apply. The date of the **closing balance** on your bank statement will be counted as the 28th day of the 28-day period.

## **Immigration Health Surcharge**

Your dependants will be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS). The process for doing this is integrated into the online visa application form. You will have to make this payment before you can complete the online visa application.

The cost for students is £150 per year of study plus £75 for any additional period which is less than 6 months (including the extra 4 months granted after the course end date).

For Dependants applying at the same time as the student the charge will be the same. For Dependants applying later, the amount will be calculated from when the dependant applies for the visa to the visa expiry date of the student.

You can try and check the amount on the following web page:

[www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/Type](http://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/Type)

Once the visa has been granted, your dependants will then be able to use NHS services. They will still be required to pay for dental treatment but prescriptions and eye tests are free in Scotland.

They should take their Passport and Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) with them when attending a medical practice or hospital appointment.

## **Babies born in the UK**

Babies born in the UK are entitled to receive free medical treatment until they are 3 months old. After that they will be liable for charges for treatment received so you are advised to apply for a visa for your baby so that you can pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) to allow them to access NHS services.

## **Single Parents**

In the case of children, both parents will be lawfully living in the UK. The only exceptions are when the other parent is dead, or you have had sole responsibility for the child's upbringing, or there are other serious or compelling considerations that mean the child should be with you in the UK and you have made suitable arrangements for the child's care. If you are relying on any of these exceptions, it is important that your dependants include evidence of this with their application. This could include, for example, death certificates, divorce certificates and letters from employers.