Student Dependant Immigration

The PBS Dependant Visa is designed to allow dependants, who are family or partners, to stay in the UK with the main Tier 4 applicant. The UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) webpages: http://uod.ac.uk/int1857 webpages provide further helpful guidance.

The UK Government’s immigration policy places some restrictions and conditions on dependants and you will have to meet the following requirements to apply:

If you want to bring your family to the UK for the first time, you can bring them if:

- you are studying at postgraduate level for twelve months or more, or
- you are fully sponsored by your government for a programme of study longer than six months

If you meet these requirements, you or your dependants can apply outside the UK at the same time as you or separately.

Who is a dependant

You cannot bring other family members (parent, brother, sister or other relative) as the current rules state that dependants can only be:

- your husband or wife
- your civil partner. For information about partnerships in countries outside the UK that are treated as civil partnerships, see http://uod.ac.uk/int1855

Civil Partner information states: ‘a person who has been living with the applicant in a relationship akin to a marriage or civil partnership for at least two years prior to the date of application’

- your unmarried or same-sex partner. You need to have been living together in a relationship similar to marriage or civil partnership for a period of at least two years and provide evidence of this.

In all cases, you must both be over 18 years when you receive your extension or when your dependant arrives in the UK.

- child (ren) under 18 at the time of application. Both parents must be coming to the UK except in exceptional circumstances. If only one parent is applying to come to the UK, please speak to an International Student Adviser at the University because there are very limited exceptions to this requirement.
- child (ren) aged over 18 if permission to be in the UK already granted or as the child of a Tier 1, 2, 4 or 5 person

If your child(ren) is over 16 years when they apply, they will need to provide particular documents. Documents required are described in UKV&I PBS (Dependant) Policy Guidance at http://uod.ac.uk/int1888

If your dependants are already in the UK

If your dependant is applying at the same time as you

The main applicant can verify the number of dependants when completing the online application, therefore the dependants are encouraged to apply at the same time and they will pay £475 each, and should be given the same time of leave as the main applicant. Children who are 18 or over are always required to pay a fee of £475 if they apply by post or £1085 if they apply in person. The online form PBS (Dependant) can be completed at http://uod.ac.uk/int065, Click on Family members, under ‘Dependants applying in the UK’, click apply online and the main dependant should register to create an account, click on next and choose 3rd option –Dependants to apply.

If your dependant (partner) is applying later than you

http://uod.ac.uk/int1857

If your dependant (child) is applying later than you

http://uod.ac.uk/int1859
If your dependants are currently outside the UK at time of application

- They should apply for entry clearance as PBS Tier 4 dependants from the British authorities in which they are legally residing before they travel to the UK.
- They need to apply online under ‘Dependants applying outside the UK’ [http://uod.ac.uk/intl1860](http://uod.ac.uk/intl1860).
- Where relevant, they can book appointments during the application process to have their fingerprints and photograph taken at a visa application centre. Unless they are applying from North Korea, they need to complete application form VAF10, downloadable at UKVI website [http://uod.ac.uk/intl1870](http://uod.ac.uk/intl1870).
- Each dependant must complete a separate online application form, and pay a fee which is the equivalent of £348 in local currency. Depending on the country they are applying from, payment can be made online for the visa fee and Immigration Health Surcharge as part of the application process. Some countries cannot accept online payments for visa applications, but this will be shown on the payment page of online application. Depending on the country they are applying from, they can pay for additional services such as priority and super-priority where applicable, as part of the application process.
- They need to know your course details and CAS number in order to complete the online application form.
- They should always refer to the ‘PBS Dependant Guidance Notes’ that are available on the same web page, when completing the form, and the ‘Points Based System – Dependants Policy Guidance’ [http://uod.ac.uk/intl1088](http://uod.ac.uk/intl1088).
- If they do not submit their visa application at the same time as the main applicant, they should make sure that they include in their application a copy of your student visa and passport. Their application form should state clearly that they are accompanying the main applicant who will be in the UK as a student.

Evidence of Maintenance

If you are applying for dependants you will need to show an additional £680 per month per dependant up to a maximum of 9 months (depending on the length of leave you applied for). For example:

- If applying for 4 months leave, dependants will be required to show maintenance/living costs of 8 months leave.
- If applying for 6 months leave, dependants will be required to show maintenance/living costs of 9 months leave.

Funds must be held in the main visa holder’s bank account or a joint account for 28 days (dated within 1 month of application). Funds must be held for 28 days in your bank account (dated within 1 month of application).

For an explanation of the application process, choose the country they are living in from the list on the UKVI website [http://uod.ac.uk/intl-94](http://uod.ac.uk/intl-94) and look at the information displayed there and PBS dependant guidance: [http://uod.ac.uk/intl1076](http://uod.ac.uk/intl1076).

Immigration Healthcare surcharge

Each dependant will be required to pay the healthcare surcharge as part of the visa application process. The charge will be calculated at £150 per year plus £75 for the extra 4 months. [http://uod.ac.uk/intl1877](http://uod.ac.uk/intl1877).

Babies born in the UK

If your baby is born in the UK, you do not need to apply for immigration permission for the baby unless your baby needs to re-enter the UK after travel. If you are in the UK as a Tier 4 (General) Student, you can apply inside the UK for your baby if you meet the following requirements:

- you are sponsored by your government to study on a programme longer than six months
- you are studying on a programme at postgraduate level and for twelve months or more

Switching to Dependant visa in the UK

It is now possible to ‘switch’ to a dependant visa from other types of immigration permission within the UK. This means, for example, that it is now possible to apply as a PBS dependant after having been in the UK with Tier 4 leave, without having to leave the UK to apply for entry clearance. However, those here on a PBS (Dependant visas) cannot switch in to Tier 4 student visa within the UK. They must travel outside the UK to make an application for Tier 4.

Please note those with leave as a 'visitor' or 'student visitor/short term study' will not be able to switch to a PBS (dependant) visa from within the UK.

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