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/int071](http://uod.ac.uk/int071) 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.

You cannot bring other family members as the current rules state that dependants include your husband, wife (you must both be over 18 years when you receive your extension or when your dependant arrives in the UK.), civil partner, child (ren) under 18 or only over 18 if permission to be in the UK already granted or as the child of a Tier 1, 2, 4 or 5 person.

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’.

**If your dependants are already in the UK**

The main applicant can verify the number of dependants when completing the online application, therefore the dependants should apply at the same time and they will pay £457 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 £457 if they apply by post or £1047 if they apply in person. The online form PBS (Dependant can be completed at: [http://uod.ac.uk/int065](http://uod.ac.uk/int065). Click on 8. Family members, under Dependants 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.

**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)

e.g 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)

*Application fees used in the examples are correct at time of publishing. Current fee levels should be checked at Gov.uk
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.

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 Embassy or visa application centre in their home country before they travel to the UK.
- Each dependant must complete a separate online application form, and pay a fee which is the equivalent of £335 in local currency.
- They need to complete application form VAF10, which is available on the UKVI website [http://uod.ac.uk/intl075](http://uod.ac.uk/intl075)
- They should also refer to the ‘PBS Dependant Guidance Notes’ that are available on the same web page, when completing the form, and the ‘Points Based System – Dependents Policy Guidance’
- A separate form is needed for each dependant, and a fee of £335 applies for each dependant.
- If you do not submit your visa application at the same time as the main applicant, you should make sure that you include in your application a copy of your student visa and passport. Your application form should state clearly that you are accompanying the main applicant who will be in the UK as a student.

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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.

Important: For more detailed guidance see: [http://uod.ac.uk/intl076](http://uod.ac.uk/intl076)

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.

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

For more detailed guidance see the UKVI PBS (Dependant) Policy Guidance here: [http://uod.ac.uk/intl088](http://uod.ac.uk/intl088)