



# International Student Support Office

## Inviting your family and friends to visit

### Do my family/friends need a visa to visit me?

If you require a visa to enter the UK, it is likely that your family and friends will need one if they wish to come and visit you. They should get a visitor visa from the British Embassy or High Commission in the country where they are currently living. Visit <https://www.gov.uk/general-visit-visa> for the list of visa national countries and information on how to apply.

### What are the regulations?

A visitor visa allows your friend or family member to enter the UK and remain for up to 6 months. They are not allowed to work or study and must leave the country at the end of the 6 month period. Visitors are not entitled to free medical treatment on the National Health Service. It is not possible to switch from a visitor visa to any other category (for instance, your visitor cannot then extend their stay in the UK as your dependant.) More details are available in the Visiting the UK section of <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>.

### What documents do they need to show the Embassy?

- Passport
- 2 passport photographs
- A photocopy of **your** passport including the photograph page, your visa/BRP card, and your most recent immigration stamp.
- Entry clearance fee £83 in local currency
- At least 6 months' bank statements and/or payslips to show that they can fund their trip and any expenses. **If you are funding their visit**, you will need to provide proof of **your** finances.
- Evidence that they intend to leave the UK at the end of their visit (for instance, a letter from their employer).
- A student status letter from Student Information Desk confirming that you are a student at Exeter.
- A letter of invitation from you (see below.)

### What do I need to say in my letter?

Address the letter to the Entry Clearance Officer at the embassy where your visitor is applying for their visa. You will need to include these details:

- Your visitor's full name
- Your relationship to them (parent, friend, etc.)
- The reason for their visit (graduation, holiday, etc.)
- Their planned arrival and departure dates
- Where they intend to stay; if they plan to stay with you, give your full address.



- Your own immigration status (for instance, student until 2015)

### **What should I do with my documents?**

Send your original invitation letter, the letter confirming your enrolment, and the copy of your passport and visa to your visitor so that they can include them in their application. **Do not** send them directly to the Entry Clearance Officer. If you are supporting your visitor while you are here, you should also include proof of your finances.

### **If their application is refused, can we appeal?**

If your visitor is a close relative, they can appeal the decision. If they are not a close relative, then there is no right of appeal.

**For more information ask SID through your MyExeter portal**

