

Visitor Visas

What is a visitor visa?

A visitor visa allows you, a friend or family member to enter the UK and remain for up to 6 months. If you are a [visa national](#), you may need to apply for this type of visa to attend your graduation ceremony if it is held after your Tier 4 visa has expired. Your family and friends may also need to apply for a visitor visa to attend your graduation or visit you for a holiday.

Visitor visa applications should be made at the British Embassy or High Commission in the country where the applicant is currently living. Visit www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa for information on how to apply.

What are the conditions?

- Visitors are not allowed to work or study (unless on a course of 30 days or less) and must leave the country at the end of the 6 month.
- Visitors are not entitled to free medical treatment on the National Health Service.
- Visitors cannot switch from a visitor visa to any other category (for example, your visitor cannot then extend their stay in the UK as your dependant.)

More details are available in the Visiting the UK section of www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration.

What documents are required?

- Passport
 - 2 passport photographs
 - Entry clearance fee £93 in local currency
 - Your graduation letter, if you are returning for graduation
 - At least 6 months' bank statements and/or payslips to show funds for the trip and any expenses.
- If you are funding someone else's visit**, you will need to provide proof of **your** finances.

If you are inviting someone else you will need to send them your original invitation letter (see below), student status letter, and the copy of your passport and visa to your visitor so that they can include them in their application. If you are supporting your visitor while you are here, you should also include proof of your finances.

What do I write in my invitation 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, Tier 4 student and state the end date of your visa)

For full list of documents read through the information listed here:

www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/documents-you-must-provide

What if I am applying for a visitor visa?

If you are applying for a visitor visa to attend graduation you will need to complete the visa application at www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply and submit your documents to your chosen visa application center.

What should I do if the application is refused?

If the application is refused please send a copy of the refusal notice to sid@exeter.ac.uk and we will be able to advise you on your options.