

## Visitor Visas – Inviting Friends and Family

A visitor visa allows your friends or family members to enter the UK and remain for up to 6 months, for example to visit you for a holiday or attend your graduation.

Visitor visa applications should be made at the British Embassy or High Commission in the country where the applicant is currently living. The entry clearance application fee is £95 in local currency.

The following information is a summary, for full details please see [Standard Visitor visa - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa)

### Visitors:

- are not allowed to work
- can undertake up to 30 days of recreational study (unless they are visiting specifically for study purposes, see [here](#) for further details)
- are not entitled to free medical treatment on the National Health Service.
- must leave the country at the end of the 6 months
- 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)

### The applicant(s) will need:

- A passport - the passport should be valid for the whole of the stay in the UK and contain a blank page for the visa.
- to provide evidence that they are able to support themselves and any dependants for the duration of their trip and be able to pay for the return journey and any other costs relating to their visit.
- your invitation letter (see below)
- a copy of your student status letter
- a copy of your passport and visa
- proof of your finances if you are providing financial support for their visit

For further details see [Standard Visitor visa : Documents you'll need - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa:documents-youll-need) and [Visiting the UK: guide to supporting documents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/visiting-the-uk:guide-to-supporting-documents)

### **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 visa holder and state the end date of your visa)

### **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](http://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa/apply) and include your graduation email invite with your supporting documents.

### **What should I do if the application is refused?**

If the application is refused please send a copy of the refusal notice to [visaadvice@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:visaadvice@exeter.ac.uk) and we will be able to advise you on your options.