

Dependants and Family – October 2025

I will be applying for a Student visa and want to bring my family with me, is that possible?

Not all students are eligible to have Student dependants. It depends on your level and duration of study:

- If you are a PhD, other doctoral qualification, or a research-based higher degree student for a postgraduate course that starts on or after 1 January 2024, you are eligible to bring dependants.
- If you are in receipt of an award from a Government and your course is full-time for at least 6 months. The scholarship must cover all fees and living costs for the student, you are eligible to bring dependants.
- Your current or most recent immigration permission was as a Student on a full-time course lasting at least six months AND all four bullet points below apply:
 - your permission is current or expired no more than three months before this immigration application AND
 - your new immigration application is for a full-time course that is at least six months AND
 - your dependant:
 - already has Student dependant immigration permission (or it is the most recent immigration permission that they had, and it expired no more than three months before this application); or
 - is your child who was born since you were last granted permission AND
 - you apply for immigration permission at the same time as your dependant

Who can be a Student dependant?

Only your partner or your child can be your dependant. No other family members can be your dependant for Student visa purposes. SAET cannot provide advice about immigration options for family members who do not qualify for Student dependant visas.

What is the definition of partner for visa purposes?

Your partner must either be your husband/wife/ civil partner or unmarried partner. However, if you are unmarried, your dependant will need to have proved that you have been in a relationship similar to a marriage or civil partnership with you for at least two years before the date of their application. The relationship with your partner must be “genuine and subsisting” and it may be necessary to provide additional evidence to prove this such as shared financial responsibilities and household bills.

What is the definition of a child for visa purposes?

The child must be your biological or adopted child. They must be under 18 when first applying as your dependant and they cannot be leading an independent life.

My dependant and I intend to live separately in the UK, is that OK?

The rules no longer expressly require you to live with your dependant(s) in the UK.

I have been in a relationship with my partner for many years, but we are not married, in a civil partnership or living together, can they be my Student dependant?

The rules no longer require unmarried partners to have lived together for 2 years before applying for a dependant visa. However, you must prove that your relationship is genuine and subsisting.

Does my dependant need a CAS?

No. A CAS is only required for a Student visa. A dependant cannot be given a CAS because they are not applying for a Student visa. However, you can give your dependant a printout of your CAS statement to submit with their application.

My partner won't be coming to the UK with me, but I intend to bring our children with me as my dependants. Is this possible?

Both parents must be coming to the UK for a child to obtain a dependant visa. Neither parent can be on a visitor visa. There are some exceptions (e.g., if one of the parents is dead or if you have sole legal custody), contact SAET for advice if required.

What are the requirements for a dependant visa?

You should refer to the guidance at:

- [UKCISA](#)
- [Home Office](#)

You will need to show evidence of your relationship and your dependants will need to meet the financial requirements; your dependant/s must show that they have £845 per month of the visa up to a maximum of 9 months (£7605). If relying on bank statements, funds must be held for a 28 consecutive day period, and the closing balance of the statement must be dated within 31 days of the date when the online application form is submitted and paid for.

Can my dependant use their own account to show finances, or does it need to be from a shared account?

Dependents can prove their own finances and the funds can also be held by the main student visa applicant. If the dependant is a child, the funds can be held by the main student visa applicant or the other parent who is applying for the student dependant visa.

What does it mean if my dependant is low risk?

If your dependant is a low risk applicant, they must hold the correct amount of money (listed above), but they do not need to provide the evidence of this with their application. To check if they are low risk, [use the UKCISA website](#)

Will LSE provide any documents for my dependant?

No, your dependant doesn't require any documents from LSE because their visa is dependent on you rather than LSE. If you want to provide documents for your dependant's visa application (recommended if you are applying separately), you can give them a printout of your CAS email, a Certificate of Enrolment (if you are an enrolled student) and a copy of your passport and Student visa.

Must my dependant apply at the same time as me?

- Your dependant can apply at the same time as you and after you in most cases, however they cannot apply before you (because their visa depends on yours).
- If you are applying in the UK, you should check [here](#) to find out if it is possible for your dependant to apply after you.

Does my dependant need to complete their own application form?

- If you apply outside the UK, the application forms are currently separate.
- If you are applying for a visa extension from within the UK, dependants can be included in the Student application form if you are applying at the same time. Visa application fees and IHS will be charged per person. If you apply separately in the UK, you must complete separate application forms.

Do my dependants need a tuberculosis (TB) test?

If they are applying from outside the UK and are subject to the [TB testing requirement](#), they will need a TB test certificate for their visa application. Please read our [info sheet on TB testing](#) for further information.

My baby was born in the UK, do they need a dependant visa?

Please refer to this [information by UKCISA](#). Please note that:

- For your baby to have access to the NHS beyond the first 3 months, you will need to apply for a dependant visa for them.
- You must obtain a passport for your baby before you apply for their dependant visa.
- Your baby will not be able to re-enter the UK as your dependant until they have a dependant visa.
- Your baby will not automatically be a British citizen if they are born in the UK (unless a parent is a British citizen).

Is my dependant partner permitted to study in the UK?

Yes. Your dependant is permitted to study on a full or part-time basis. You may need to provide a certificate of enrolment and a copy of your Student visa so that they can register for studies. The dependant will need to check if they are subject to the [ATAS requirement](#).

Can my dependant work in the UK?

Your dependant should have permission to work. Please see [here](#) for further information about restrictions.

Can I bring a dependant on the Graduate visa?

You can only have a dependant on the Graduate visa if they are your dependant on a Student visa. Please read the information [on the UKVI webpage](#).

How long can my dependant stay in the UK?

Your dependant's visa is tied to your student visa. Therefore, the length of the dependant visa should match your student visa and if your student visa is curtailed, the dependant visa will be curtailed as well.

If I leave the UK, will my dependant's visa be affected?

Yes. They should not be in the UK without you because their visa is only based on yours. If you leave the UK (e.g., due to an interruption of studies) their visa will be cancelled with yours.

My dependant and I have separated but they still have a visa; do I need to inform the Home Office?

Their visa is based on your relationship so if that ends, you should [inform the Home Office](#). This should result in the curtailment (cancellation) of your dependant's visa.

Can I switch from Student visa to a dependant visa?

It is possible to switch from a Student visa to a dependant visa within the UK if you meet all the dependant requirements. You will need to bring evidence of your new visa status to the SSC as soon as it is received so your record can be updated.

Can my dependant children go to school in the UK?

If your children are aged between 5 and 16, they should be able to attend school. See [here](#) for further information.

Can you help with advice on housing for students with dependants?

SAET cannot advise on housing options. We recommend that you speak to [LSE Accommodation](#). There are limited options for students with dependant partners and students with families.

If my partner isn't eligible for a dependant visa, what other options are there?

If they just want to visit you (and not live with you throughout your studies) a Standard Visitor visa may be sufficient. If they want to investigate other options, they will need to seek immigration advice externally as SAET will not be able to assist.

My family won't be my dependants, but they do want to visit me in London, is that possible?

They should be able to apply for Standard Visitor Visas. For further information, please see [here](#). LSE cannot provide any specific documentation for your family or friends, but you can give them the following to submit with their application:

- A certificate of enrolment confirming that you are enrolled at LSE.
- A letter from you inviting them to visit you while you are studying in the UK. There is no set format, but you should include your details, their details and information about the arrangements for their visit.
- A clear copy of your passport and UK visa (your BRP).

I still have questions, who can I contact for advice?

You can [contact SAET](#).

Key webpages to use:

[UKCISA - international student advice and guidance - Dependents](#)

[Student visa : Your partner and children - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)