

The information in this leaflet is for family members who will be applying as the **Dependant of a Student**

Please make sure that you are visiting our **Information for Families** web resource to help you to check that your family are eligible to join or stay with you in the UK and where and when you can make their visa applications. You will find this information in our Guide for Families found here:

<https://www.swansea.ac.uk/international-campuslife/families-international-students/>

Please note: if you have a baby whilst in the UK, they can legally stay with you until they travel abroad. If your baby were to leave the UK, they will need to have a valid visa in order to come back. You would either need to obtain a Dependant visa for them before leaving UK or get one while overseas before returning. The baby must meet the same criteria as any other Dependant as outlined in the Guide above. Crucially, your baby's access to free UK healthcare will **end after 3 months** and so you must either get private healthcare after that date or apply for a UK visa for them. If you do not do this and your baby becomes ill, you will be liable for any medical costs incurred.

Forms and Fees

All visa applications for Student dependants are made online. There is a different application form and fees depending on whether the application is made **in the UK** or from **overseas**. Links for either application are available on the UKVI website <http://www.gov.uk/student-visa/family-members>. Please make sure you are using the **correct application form** as failing to do so can result in the application being delayed or rejected as invalid.

Up to date application fees for a standard application are also listed on the UKVI website above. If you want yours and your family's visa applications to be processed quicker, you can make a priority or super-priority application at an additional cost of between approx. £500 – £800 per applicant.

Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)

Student applicants and each of their dependants who are applying for more than 6 months immigration permission have to pay an additional Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) as part of the application process. Paying this charge will mean that you and your family members are entitled to receive free health services from the National Health Service (NHS) while you are in the UK. The IHS is approximately £470 per year of leave (paid in your local currency if applying overseas). Periods of six months or less are charged at half the annual rate i.e. £235. Periods of leave which are more than six months but less than twelve months are charged at the full annual rate. The payment process for the IHS is embedded into the visa application form. Applicants will need to pay the IHS and the application fees in order to complete the process.

NOTE: for applications made on or after 6th February 2024 the immigration health surcharge will increase to £776 per year (£388 for part-year of 6 months or less).

IHS - how much will I pay?

It is important to remember that you pay for the length of leave granted and not the length of the Student applicants course. In order to be safe, you should add a month on to the front of their course date (as you can enter the UK up to one month before) and then remember to add the additional months granted by UKVI as standard onto the end of a given visa. The additional time will be 2 months for courses between 6 and 12

months in length and 4 months for courses of longer than 12 months. Any 'part months' will be rounded up and charges will be made per 6-month blocks.

You can find some specific examples of IHS fees in our 'Finances for a Student Visa' information leaflet accessible via our [website](#).

Other financial requirements for Student dependants

Dependants will also need to demonstrate that they have enough money to support, or be supported, whilst they are living in the UK. The amount of money that each dependant must show is £680 for each month of immigration permission (visa) that the main Student will be granted (if your dependants are applying at the same time as you) or has been granted (if your dependants are applying later). This is up to a maximum of 9 months (a maximum figure of £6,120). This financial requirement is waived for Dependants applying **in the UK** who have been living in the UK with **immigration permission for 12 months or longer**.

Dependants must have bank statements that show the required money has been in a cash bank account for a minimum period of 28 days, and that 28-day period must not have ended more than 31 days before application. Dependants **cannot** rely on funds held by the Student's parent or guardian.

Partner or spouse dependants can use bank accounts where either they or the main applicant (the Student) are named as an account holders. This includes bank accounts that are held jointly with someone else, there is no restriction on who the other joint account holders can be but they or the main applicant **must** be one of the named account holders. **Child dependants** can use bank accounts that are in the name of at least one of their parents. No other bank accounts can be used.

If the main applicant has **official/government financial sponsorship** which includes their dependants, this can be used as long as all dependants are all named and it states clearly that all living costs are to be met.

Further information about acceptable financial documents, including examples, can be found in our leaflet '**Guide to documents for a Student Visa application**' (requirements such as to format etc are the same in all cases) that can be found on our [website](#).

What other documents will your dependants need?

- **Passport(s)**: You should submit any passports that you have ever used to enter the UK
- **Proof of relationship**: These dependants must show proof of relationship to the student such as marriage certificates and birth certificates, plus certified translations if the original is not in English. In the case of unmarried partners, you will need to demonstrate that you have a genuine and subsisting relationship with your partner by submitting evidence showing you have been living together as a couple for at least 2 years prior to applying for the Dependant visa.
- **Proof of address**: Proof that the Student and Dependants are living in the same address (e.g. GP letter, utility bills, student statement). If a Dependent Child is over the age of 16, they will need to show two extra documents dated in the last month to confirm they are living at the same address the rest of the family and still rely on their parent/s for financial or emotional support. If a Dependant Child lives away from the family home e.g. at college or university they must submit evidence of this as well as evidence of receiving financial support from the parent/s.

If dependants are applying from **outside the UK** at a different time from the Student, they should also provide:

- **Proof of student's visa status**: Copies of the student's Student Route visa and passport details pages
- **Proof of student's enrolment**: A Student Status letter from the MyUniHub confirming that the Student is currently enrolled at Swansea University.
- **Proof of accommodation**: e.g. a copy of your tenancy agreement

A complete list of documents and requirements can also be found in the UKVI Student Route Guidance so you may like to also check there: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/points-based-system-student-route>