



Standard Visitor Visa for friends and family visiting the UK

Initial information

The [Standard Visitor Visa](#) allows you to visit the UK for a maximum of 6 months. The earliest you can apply is 3 months before you travel to the UK. You should ensure that you give yourself plenty of time to make your application and receive your visa. You can find out how long it takes to process a visa in your home country on the [UKVI website](#).

- You must demonstrate that you are a genuine visitor who will leave the UK on or before the expiry date of the visa. You are not able to extend this visa or switch into a different visa category in the UK.
- When making the application, you should state when you would like the visa to start from (date you intend to enter the UK) otherwise UKVI will start the visa from the date they issue the visa.
- Make sure you supply sufficient evidence to support your application. It is your responsibility to ensure you provide enough evidence to satisfy you that you meet the visitor rules ([Appendix V](#)).
- Decision making can be subjective so you should not give UKVI a reason to doubt the validity of your application.

Non-Visa Nationals

If you are a non-visa national you can ask for a Visit Visa Stamp upon entry to the UK from the Border Officers. You can check whether you are a non-visa national on the [UKVI website](#). You will still need to show that you meet the requirements of the Standard Visitor Visa, so you should carry your supporting documents (listed later on this document) with you when you travel. You should also provide evidence that you have booked your return flight out of the UK.

Making the application

You will need to make your application online via Access UK. If you are from North Korea you will have to make a paper based application. You apply online using the following link: <https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/visa-type>

When you apply you will need to do the following:

- register an account with UKVI
- complete the online application form
- pay for the application- check visa fees in your country of application [here](#)
- make an appointment to have your biometrics taken at a [visa application centre](#). You will have your fingerprints and photograph taken.
- submit your supporting documents

Documents required

The type of documents required can vary from country to country. Below is a list of the standard documents required for the visa application:

- Current passport and/or travel documents- You need a blank page in your passport for your visa. Your passport should be valid for the whole of your stay in the UK.
- Proof of finances - to cover all reasonable costs in relation to your visit. This includes the cost of the return journey and cost of planned activities. We suggest you have available at least £1,265 for each month of your intended visit. You can use bank statements. You can additionally provide your family member/friend in the UK's bank statements etc.
- Proof of earnings such as a letter from your employer confirming employment details- start date of employment, salary, role, company contact details and/or payslips for 6 months.
- Accommodation and travel details- confirmation of accommodation booking. If you will be staying with your family member/ friend for the duration of their stay in the UK you should provide proof of the address (e.g. a copy of tenancy agreement). Evidence you can pay the cost of your return travel from the UK.
- A letter of invitation from the family member/friend you are visiting stating their address in the UK, your relationship, the purpose of the visit, the dates of the visit and the details of where you will be staying. This letter must come from the person you are visiting and not from UCL. Please see an example letter on the next page of this document.
- A copy the biometric page of your family member/friend's passport and a copy of their visa.
- A statement of student status, confirming your family member/friend's studies at UCL. They can obtain this from the [Student Centre](#), Gordon Street.
- Other socio-economic evidence to show that you have a strong link to your home country and intend to return such as details of your employment or studies where you have stated in your application that you are either employed or in full-time studies. This could include:
 - a letter from your employer on company headed paper, detailing your role, salary and length of employment and that you have been granted annual leave to visit the UK
 - a letter from your education provider, on headed paper, confirming your enrolment and leave of absence
 - evidence of owning property in your home country
 - family situation in your home country

For full details of UK visa requirements please refer to the [Visit Visa Supporting Documents Guide](#) and [Visit Guidance](#).

If you have any further questions about how to make this visa application please contact the Student Immigration Advice Team using the [contact form](#).

Immigration regulations are subject to change at short notice and therefore we cannot guarantee that a visa application will be successful if all the above documents are provided. **UCL cannot accept responsibility for any decisions made by the UK Visas and Immigration.**

Example Invitation Letter- written by UCL student

<Your name,
address,
telephone number and
e-mail address>

<Relative's name and address>

<Date>

Re: Visitor application for: <Full name of visitor; Date of Birth; Nationality>

Dear <relative's name>,

I am writing to support your application to come to the UK to visit me for <no of weeks/months> in order to [attend my graduation ceremony/have a short holiday/other reason*]. I hope you will be able to come on <date>.

I am currently studying / have recently completed the <course details> programme at University College London from <date> to <date>. I attach evidence of my student status including a [Visa Letter / University letter*] on University headed paper.

I am currently in the UK on a student visa and my current permission to stay in the UK is valid until <date visa expires>. I enclose copies of my passport and [UK student visa / biometric identity card*].

I have arranged suitable accommodation for you in my home at <address in UK> and have enclosed a [copy of the tenancy agreement / letter from landlord*]. **OR**

I have arranged suitable accommodation for you at <name of hotel/guest house in UK> and have enclosed [proof of hotel/guest house booking*].

I am also enclosing evidence of my financial status [*showing that I can support you whilst you are here in the UK with me* - only include this if you are going to pay for your visitor*].

This includes:

- Original bank statements for at least the last 28 days
- *my payslips**
- *a letter from my sponsor confirming my sponsorship**

<Signature>

<Student's name>

* delete as appropriate