Student Visa Support Team

Tîm Cymorth Fisa Myfyrwyr

A guide to extending your Student visa inside the UK

2024 (Version 1)
Last updated May 2024

Please note: this guide is for Student route applications submitted in the UK only. If you intend to submit your application overseas then a different process applies. Please refer to our ‘Guide to applying for a Student route visa from overseas.’
Contents

1 Can I extend my Student visa in the UK? ........................................................................................................

2 Is there a maximum time limit (“cap”) on studying with a Student visa? .................................................

3 When should I apply to extend my Student visa? .........................................................................................

4 How do I apply? .............................................................................................................................................

5 How much does it cost? ................................................................................................................................

6 What is the Immigration Health Surcharge and how do I pay this? .........................................................

7 Do I qualify for the differentiation arrangement and, if so, what does this mean? ................................

8 What documents do I need? .........................................................................................................................

9 What are the financial requirements for Students that have been in the UK for less than 12 months? ................................................................................................................................

10 How can I prove I can meet the financial requirements if I have been in the UK for less than 12 months? ................................................................................................................................

11 How can the University help me make an application? ............................................................................

12 What about my dependants? .........................................................................................................................

13 What are the visa rules and responsibilities? ............................................................................................

14 Where can I get further information? ...........................................................................................................

15 Document checklist .......................................................................................................................................
1. Can I extend my Student Visa in the UK?

You can apply to extend your Student visa from the UK if you are extending for one of the following reasons:

- Starting a new course having **successfully** completed a previous course of study in the UK and where the new course represents **academic progression** (see below);
- Re-sitting an exam or repeating a course module or modules, or have already done so
- You are applying to complete a PhD or other doctoral qualification for which you were last granted Student leave,
- You are applying to undertake a role as a Student Union Sabbatical Officer, or to complete the qualification for which you were last granted permission as a Student (including Tier 4) after a period as a Student Union Sabbatical Officer;
- You are applying to extend your leave to remain in order to undertake a study abroad programme or a work placement or you have previously completed a study abroad programme or work placement and require leave to remain to complete your course;
- you are undertaking an integrated masters or PhD programme and are continuing to study your course but at the level of the lower level qualification (for example, an integrated masters Student continuing on the bachelors programme)

If you have a visa other than a Student route visa, please check the Home Office’s website to make sure you are eligible to switch to the Student route visa inside the UK.

If you are applying for an extension to start a NEW course (e.g. BSc to MSc) and this new course starts more than 28 **days** after your current leave to remain (visa) expires, you must return home to apply for fresh Student route entry clearance. If you are doing this then you should check our information on making a visa application from your home country.

**Academic Progression**
The Immigration Rules specify that a Student route sponsor can normally only issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) for a course that represents “**academic progress from previous study undertaken in the UK**”.

Students who wish to extend their Student route visa from the UK to start a new course must be moving up a level on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) e.g. pre-sessional to degree or undergraduate to postgraduate.

The exception to this is if the new course is at or above degree level and is related to previous study (meaning that it is either connected to the previous course, part of the same subject group or involves deeper specialisation), or the previous course and the new course in combination support genuine career aspirations. In this case you may study a new course at the same level as your previous course. Your CAS will need to include details of this. Therefore you should contact the Student Visa Compliance team on the StudentConnect portal to check if these requirements are met.

If your new course is below degree level e.g. English for University Studies or Pre-sessional English language, then the exception above will not apply. You must leave the UK and make your visa application from overseas.

If your new course is at a lower level than your previous course, it will not represent academic progression. In this case then you must leave the UK and make your visa application from overseas.
2. Is there a maximum time limit on studying with a Student visa?

Yes. Before you are issued with a CAS, Cardiff University Registry will need to check that your application will not take you over the maximum allowed time limit:

- Below degree level: 2-year limit
- Degree level: 5-year limit
- There is no time limit for those studying at postgraduate level.

There are some exceptions to the above. More information about the cap and details of the exceptions can be found on the UKCISA web page on time limits.

3. When should I apply to extend my Student visa?

Your application must be submitted online before your current visa expires or before you start a new course at Cardiff University, whichever is sooner.

It is a good idea to start preparing 8 weeks before your visa expires in order to make sure you have enough time to obtain all the required documents and maintain any required funds in your bank account.

You should submit your application to the Home Office at least 4 weeks before your visa expires.

You cannot, in most cases, make a visa application in the UK after your current visa expires. If you do not apply before your current visa ends, you will become an illegal overstayer. Overstaying your visa will have an extremely detrimental impact on your immigration history and will jeopardise any future immigration applications you make. Overstaying of over 30 days will cause a ban from return to the UK for 12 months.

4. How do I apply?

Please click here to access the online student visa application form.

The Home Office utilise the UK Immigration: ID Check app for uploading biometrics for eligible applicants. If you are eligible for this your previous biometrics will be reused. If you are not eligible, you will need to book a biometric appointment after you pay for your visa application to submit your biometrics. You will receive information about this after submitting your application. Currently, the UKVI are issuing new leave either on a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP card) or via digital status. All leave ill be issued at a digital eVisa only from 01 January 2025

You will need to apply on-line for any of the routes outlined below. We have prepared a QuickGuide to help you complete the application. In all cases, applications must be submitted before current visa permission expires.

**Standard applications**

You will need to complete and pay for the Student route application form before your current visa expires. The Home Office takes approximately 8 weeks to process standard applications. You should allow a further 5-10 working days to receive a BRP if applicable. You must not depart the UK while your application is in process. This is important as doing so cancels your application.
Priority applications
You will need to complete and pay for the Student route application form before your current visa expires. The Home Office takes approximately 5 working days to make a decision. You should allow a further 5-10 working days to receive a BRP if applicable. You must not depart the UK while your application is in process. This is important as doing so cancels your application.

Super priority applications
You will need to complete and pay for the Student route application form before your current visa expires. The Home Office takes approximately 1 working day to make a decision. You should allow a further 5-10 working days to receive your BRP if applicable. You must not depart the UK while your application is in process. This is important as doing so cancels the application.

How can Student Visa Support (SVS) help me?
SVS is able to check your visa application form and your supporting documents before you submit your visa application. If you wish to use this service, then you must upload a copy of your draft application form and supporting documents via an enquiry on the StudentConnect Portal. You will receive written guidance in the first instance and in most cases. An appointment will be offered if there are any anomalies or complications with your application.

5. How much does it cost?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of application</th>
<th>Main applicant</th>
<th>Dependant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>£490</td>
<td>£490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>£990</td>
<td>£990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super priority</td>
<td>£1490</td>
<td>£1490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: fee increases usually occur in April.
You will also need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS). Please see below for more information.

Are there any additional costs?
There are limited free appointments available to submit your biometrics and supporting documents (if applicable). However, there is often a waiting period for these free slots. You can often book an earlier or premium time slot for a fee. The cost of these slots varies. Please note: there is a deadline for submission of biometrics which will be stated when you submit your form. You MUST attend an appointment before this date. This date is approximately 8 weeks after the online submission date.

6. What is the Immigration Health Surcharge and how do I pay this?

Paying the IHS as part of your application means you are entitled to access free health services from the National Health Service (NHS) while you are in the UK. It is a compulsory charge and is integrated into the online visa application form. Therefore you are required to pay for both the IHS and your visa application fee when submitting your application. Please ensure you have sufficient money in your bank account to cover both payments.

The surcharge is currently calculated as £776 per year for each year of permission that you are applying for. If this includes part of a year that is six months or less, you will be charged an additional £388 for this period.
Example 1: An undergraduate Student is likely to have to pay £2,716 IHS at the point they apply for their visa because they will be issued with a visa for three years and four months: 

\[(776 \times 3) + 388 = £2,716\]

Example 2: A postgraduate Student is likely to have to pay £1,164 IHS at the point they apply for their visa because they will be issued with a visa for a year and four/six months: 

\[776 + 388 = £1,164\]

### 7. Do I qualify for the differentiation arrangement and, if so, what does this mean?

If you have a passport issued by one of the countries or territories listed in Paragraph ST 22.1 of Appendix Student of the Immigration Rules, then you will qualify for the differentiation arrangement (you may have heard this referred to as being a ‘low risk national’). This only applies if you are applying from the country or territory where you live or within the UK.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationals from the EU, EEA and Switzerland</th>
<th>Macau SAR**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>Mauritius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Oman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei</td>
<td>Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dominican Republic</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong SAR or BNO passport holders *</td>
<td>Taiwan (ROC) passport***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Hong Kong SAR or British National Overseas (BNO) passport holders who apply in the UK or Hong Kong

**Macau SAR passport holders who apply in the UK or in Macau

*** Taiwan (ROC) passport holders with a residence number in their passport who apply in the UK or Taiwan

This list is updated periodically.

Applying under the differentiation arrangement means that you do not have to provide financial or qualification documents at the time of application. However, the Home Office reserves the right to request the full range of documents in all cases. Therefore, we recommend that all students prepare these documents before submitting the visa application.
8. What documents do I need?

Most applicants will need to provide the following documents. Some applicants may need to provide additional documents depending on their individual circumstances.

➤ Current passport;

➤ Biometric Residence Permit (if you have one);

➤ Cardiff University CAS Statement. The CAS, or Confirmation of Acceptance for Study, is a virtual document similar to a database record. Each CAS has a unique reference number and contains information about the course and student. You can request a CAS statement through SIMS Online. You will need to log in using your username and password and select the ‘request CAS statement’ option. If you need further assistance please contact the Student Visa Compliance SVC) team via the StudentConnect portal. Allow 5 working days to receive the CAS statement email. This email is generated by SVC from SIMS and will go to your Cardiff University email address.

➤ Any document regarding academic progress that is listed on the CAS statement (if applicable). This is normally a certificate from a previous school, college or university or alternatively a transcript of results. If any of your documents are in another language you must get them translated.

➤ If you are starting a new course having completed a previous course of study in the UK you must provide evidence that you have completed your previous course. This can be in the form of a certificate or transcript of award or formal written confirmation from your previous educational sponsor. If you do not have this, please contact your previous sponsor to request it.

➤ Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) Certificate (if applicable) ATAS clearance is only required for a limited number of maths, science and engineering courses and only certain nationalities. To find out if you need an ATAS certificate and how to apply for one please check our ATAS page.

You must apply for a new ATAS clearance certificate if you:
- Change your course
- Change your institution
- Extend your course end date by more than 3 months
- Apply to extend your visa in order to complete your course (even if you already have a previous ATAS certificate)

Please note: It takes approximately 30 working days to receive an ATAS Certificate so prepare early!

➤ Consent letter from official financial sponsor A Student who has, in the last 12 months before the date of application, completed a course of studies in the UK for which they have been awarded a scholarship or sponsorship by a Government or international scholarship agency covering both fees and living costs for study in the UK, must provide written consent in relation to the application from that Government or agency.
If you have not been in the UK with a valid visa for longer than 12 months, you must also provide the following documents:

➤ If you are sponsored to study in the UK by an official financial sponsor, you must provide an official financial sponsor letter

➤ Evidence that you have enough money to meet the maintenance requirements in the form of personal bank or building society statements, letter from a bank or building society, loan agreement or other acceptable financial documents

If you have already paid any of your tuition fees to the University, this must be noted on your CAS as evidence. This money would not need to be shown again in savings.

IMPORTANT: If you have been in the UK with a valid visa for longer than 12 months, without an extended absence from the UK within this 12 month period (extended absence defined as more than 3 months), you will not require the financial documents above.

Translations

If any of your documents are not in English, the original must be accompanied by a fully certified translation by a professional translator. This translation must include all of the following information:

- The full name of the translator;
- Details of the translator’s credentials (qualifications);
- Confirmation that it is an accurate translation of the original document;
- The translator’s contact details.
- It must also be dated and include the original signature of the translator.

You can arrange for documents to be translated according to the strict requirements of the Home Office here in Wales. Please see below for some translation services in the local area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Translation Company</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penguin Culture Co. Ltd (Contact: Bin Li), 45 Park Place, Swansea, SA2 0DJ Tel: 01792 425817 or 07828 245968 Email: <a href="mailto:penguinculture@googlemail.com">penguinculture@googlemail.com</a> (Chinese translations only)</td>
<td>1-2 days plus postage time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages Direct, Regus House, Falcon Drive, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF10 4RU, UK Tel: 029 2076 3868 Email: <a href="mailto:tmd@talkingheads.co.uk">tmd@talkingheads.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.languagesdirect.co.uk">www.languagesdirect.co.uk</a></td>
<td>2-3 days depending on source language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translatemydoc – online/phone only Tel: 0114 470 1075 Email: <a href="mailto:info@translatemydoc.co.uk">info@translatemydoc.co.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.translatemydoc.co.uk">www.translatemydoc.co.uk</a></td>
<td>5-6 days for standard delivery, less if urgent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>001 Translation UK, 45 Salisbury Rd, Cardiff CF24 4AB Tel: 029 2154 0001 Web: <a href="https://www.001-translation.co.uk/">https://www.001-translation.co.uk/</a></td>
<td>3 days standard, 1 day expedited service available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please note, you may be exempt from providing certain documents at the point of application if you qualify for the differentiation arrangement.

9. What are the financial (maintenance) requirements for students that have been in the UK for less than 12 months?

If you have been in the UK with a valid visa for longer than 12 months, without an extended absence (3 months plus) within this 12 month period, you will not need to provide financial documents.

If you do not meet this requirement, please read on for the requirements you will need to meet.

You must prove that you have the following amount of money available to you to pay for your current years’ tuition fees and your living expenses in order to get a Student visa:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course length as per your CAS</th>
<th>Amount to be shown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9 months</td>
<td>Full course fee + £1,023 for each month of course length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 9 months</td>
<td>1st year course fee + £9,207 (£1,023 x 9 months)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course lengths that include part of a month will be rounded up so a course duration of 5 months and 1 day means that you will have to show 6 months of maintenance.

You can find your tuition fee amount in your offer letter and on you CAS. Any money you pay towards your tuition fees can be deducted from the required total amount of money you have to show, but this amount paid must be shown on the CAS statement. If you pay any money after your CAS has been issued, please contact the SVC team to update the CAS.

It is advisable that your funds remain available to you unless spent on tuition fees until your new visa has been granted.

Money already paid to the university for accommodation

If you have already paid some of your accommodation fees to the University before making your application, then a limited amount of £1,334 may be deducted from the amount of money you will need to show for your living costs. Please note that the amount taken away cannot exceed a maximum of £1,334 even if you have paid more than this. Money paid to private halls of residence, private landlords or letting agencies cannot be deducted from your living costs.

Examples

1) A Student holding a current Student visa needs extra time to complete a course and she has 9 months of studying left. Her tuition fees are £18,250 and she has already paid £10,000 of this to Cardiff University.
   • This Student will need to show £9,207 for living expenses + £8,250 for outstanding fees = £17,457.

2) A Student holding a current Student visa has just finished a short course of 8 weeks and will be starting a new course that is 12 months in duration. His tuition fees for the new course are £17,000 and he has paid all of this.
   • This Student will need to show £9,207 for living expenses + £0 for tuition fees = £9,207.

3) A Student holding a current Student visa and is starting a new course at Cardiff University. His tuition fees are £20,500 and he has paid this in full. He has already paid £2,000 to Cardiff University towards his accommodation fees.
• This Student will need to show £7,873 for living expenses (£9,207 minus £1,334 maximum already paid for accommodation) + £0 (tuition fees) = £7,873

10. How can I prove that I can meet the financial (maintenance) requirements if I have been in the UK for less than 12 months?

In all cases you must have this money available to you in a suitable format, but you may be exempt from providing documentary evidence if you qualify for the differentiation arrangement.

Cash in a bank/ building society account
Your money must be held in cash funds and you must show that you have held the money in your account for at least 28 days prior to the date of application. Shares, bonds, overdrafts, credit cards, pension funds and similar savings accounts will not be accepted.

Funds must not be held in a bank or a financial institution about which the Home Office is unable to make satisfactory verification checks. More information available here.

You must provide one of the following specified types of documents:
• Personal bank statements covering a 28-day period. The end of that 28 day period and the closing balance must be no more than 31 days before the date of your application.

Statements must show:
• Your name
• Account number
• Date of statement
• Name and logo of bank / building society
• That your balance has not fallen below the required amount for the full 28 day period
• That the required funds remain in your account up until the closing balance of the statement;

• Electronic bank statements. These must contain all the details highlighted above.
• A letter from your bank or building society including all the information highlighted above.
• Joint account statements if you are named as one of the account holders and they include all the information highlighted above.
• Parental or legal guardian bank statements that include all the details highlighted above. If you intend to use this evidence to prove your ability to meet the maintenance requirements, then you will also have to provide the following:
  • Your birth certificate (or an alternative acceptable legal document that confirms the relationship)
  • Signed and dated letter from the parent(s) or legal guardian which confirms your relationship and that they have given their consent to the funds being available to you to study in the UK. Please access a template letter for this on our intranet pages by using the search term ‘parental financial support template letter’ or contact us if you cannot access the intranet.
If you are using bank statements from overseas, the Home Office will expect you to write on the document the closing balance in pounds sterling. You should use the official exchange rate on the OANDA website (Use the exchange rate on your visa application submission date.)

**Official financial or government sponsorship**

The Home Office define an official sponsor as:

- The UK Government or your country’s Government
- The British Council
- Any international organisation
- Any international company
- Any university

If your studies are wholly funded by an ‘official financial sponsor’ you do not have to provide separate evidence of your savings. However, you must provide a letter confirming that the sponsor will pay all your tuition fees and living expenses.

The letter must be:

- Printed on official letter-head paper
- Not more than 6 months old

The letter must show:

- Your name
- The date
- Name and contact details of your official financial sponsor
- Length of sponsorship (including start and end date)
- The amount of money they will give you OR confirmation that they will cover all tuition fees and living expenses
- Your dependant(s) names (if applicable)

If your sponsor only pays some of your costs, you will need a letter from them (as above) and proof that you have enough money yourself to meet the rest of the financial requirement e.g. personal bank statements.

**If your total tuition fees and living expenses are covered by your official financial sponsor and they limit the time you may study in the UK, your visa extension will be limited to the same length of time (which is stated on the sponsor letter) plus the usual post-course period allowed.**

If you have previously received official financial sponsorship from a government or international sponsorship agency, covering both course fees and living costs, it is a UKVI validation requirement that you must obtain consent from your financial sponsor for any further visa application being made within 12 months of completing your course. If the financial sponsor does not give consent, the Home Office could invalidate your application which can have serious implications for your immigration status.

**An educational or academic loan in your name**

Loan letters must state that the loan is provided by the national government, the state or regional government, or a government sponsored Student loan company, or is part of an academic or educational loans scheme. The letter must be dated and not more than 6 months old. It must be on headed paper and state the money is available to you.
11. How can the University help me make an application?

The Student Visa Support Team operates a checking service for Student visa extension applications via the StudentConnect portal. We can check your draft application form and supporting documents and provide you with written advice before you submit your application.

**Do not travel out of the UK until your visa is issued.** Exiting the UK while the application is ongoing withdraws the application. Standard applications take approximately 8 weeks to process.

**Step 1 – Complete the online application**

We have prepared a QuickGuide to help you complete the application form. Complete the form up to the declaration section (DO NOT complete the declaration section). At this point please STOP and save your application.

**Step 2 – Prepare the supporting documents**

Gather together all the required supporting documents. See our document checklist for more information.

**Step 3 – Open an enquiry on the StudentConnect Portal with Student Visa Support.**

Please send us all your supporting documents and your draft application form via an enquiry in the StudentConnect portal.

You must include the following information:

- Your full name
- Your contact telephone number
- Student ID number
- The date your current visa will expire
- How many dependants you have (if applicable)

**Step 4 – SVS checking service**

We aim to respond to your enquiry within 5-10 working days. We will provide you with written advice regarding any necessary amendments to your application form and supporting documents. If all is complete you will then need to pay the IHS and application fee and submit the application online. If further support is needed, we will provide advice on this or schedule an appointment where this is necessary.

After you submit your visa application, SVS will issue you with a receipt as proof to allow you to enrol on your course or extend your student ID.

**What is expected of you:**

- To complete the application form to the best of your ability and gather together all your supporting documents.
- To give us your correct contact details
- To follow our instructions and attend your appointment with the Home Office as scheduled or upload your information through the relevant app. During your appointment you will supply your documents and biometrics to the Home Office within the required deadline
- To inform us immediately if you change your address or contact details
- To be aware of the expiry date of your visa - it is YOUR responsibility to prepare the application ready for submission before this date.

**SVS is here to help you extend your Student visa. However the responsibility lies with you.**
What happens next?
You should keep the receipt that is issued to you by SVS. This can be used to extend your Student card.

If applicable, you will attend your scheduled appointment with the Home Office at the selected location. You must take the QR code for your appointment booking, the document checklist, and your supporting documents to this appointment. During the session your biometrics will be taken.

Normally you should receive your visa decision within 8 weeks of submission.

More information about the BRP can be found on our BRP intranet pages.

On receipt of your BRP, please send us scanned copies of the front and back so that we can update your SIMS record.

You may be issued with digital status. If so, you will be provided further information regarding how to view your status with your grant email/letter.

12. What about my dependants?

Your dependants can stay with you in the UK if:
- You are studying a postgraduate course that lasts 9 months or longer at a Higher Education Institution, and, if the course started on or after 01 January 2024, this course is a PhD or other doctoral qualification, or a research-based higher degree; or
- You are a Government-sponsored Student on a course that lasts 6 months or longer

For further help finding out whether your family members can come to or stay in the UK with you please use the following UKCISA website about dependant visas.

If your dependants are able to stay with you in the UK then:
You will be able to apply to extend their visas at the same time as your own. They will need to provide the following documents:
- Passports and current visas
- If they have been in the UK for less than 12 months, proof that you have £6,120 for each dependant for courses of 9 months or over. If the course is less than 9 months you will need proof that you have £680 for each month of immigration permission for each dependant.
- If they have not been in the UK for more than 12 months and you are sponsored by an official financial sponsor and are providing a sponsor letter to confirm that you meet the maintenance requirements for yourself and your dependants, this letter must state all names of dependants.
- If you have had a child since your last immigration application, their birth certificate (full version that includes parents’ details).
- Proof of cohabitation for dependant spouse/partner - this is an official document showing residence at a shared address.
- Proof of relationship for dependant partners. This is only a requirement for dependants who wish to switch from the Student route or another eligible category to become a PBS dependant from the UK:
  - Married and civil partners: proof of relationship to the Student including marriage certificates/certificate of civil partnership.
Unmarried partners: If your dependant is switching from another visa category, you must submit evidence that you have lived with your partner for the last 2 years. This can be in the form of joint bank statements, medical registration letter, council tax or utility bills. In both cases, you will also have to prove that your relationship is both genuine and subsisting. We would suggest submitting as much evidence as possible. This could include: evidence of correspondence during times apart, evidence of living together if applicable, a timeline/history of your relationship and letters of support. The Home Office may also require both you and your dependant partner to attend interviews.

It is advisable to read the Caseworking Guidance carefully before submitting your application.

Children over the age of 16
Child dependants over the age of 16 should submit two items from the list below confirming their residential address (the Home Office caseworker must be satisfied that the child is not living an independent life):
• Bank statements; and/or
• Credit card bills; and/or
• Driving licence; and/or
• NHS registration document; and/or
• Letter from their school, college or university confirming their address. This must be on official headed paper and bearing the official stamp of that organisation. It must have been issued by an authorised official of that organisation.

The documents submitted should be from two separate sources and dated no more than 1 month prior to the date of application.

Additional information for children over the age of 18
To apply for a visa as the child of a Student, you must be under the age of 18 on the date of application. If you are aged 18 or over, you must have, or have last been granted, permission as the family member of a Student or someone applying at the same time for permission as a Student and must not be living an independent life. You will need to evidence dependence on the parents in this case.

13. What are the visa rules and responsibilities?

Whilst you are in the UK on a Student visa you are responsible for complying with the immigration rules that allow you to enter or remain in the UK. The University also has legal duties as a licensed sponsor. We have more information on our intranet pages about the visa rules and regulations. UKCISA have also produced a useful section on their webpage called ‘Protecting your Student status’.

Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that you have a valid visa at all times when you are in the UK. Make a careful note of the expiry date of your visa, and prepare your next visa application or travel out of the UK well in advance. Remaining in the UK after your visa expires makes you an illegal overstayer. You lose all of your permissions in the UK, including permission to study at the point your visa expires. In most cases, a visa application cannot be made in the UK once you are an overstayer, and should you overstay over 30 days you would be subject to a ban from the UK for 12 months in the first instance.

14. Where can I get further information?
If you have any questions that are not answered by this guide or you are not clear about any of the information provided, you can get further assistance from the following:

**Student Visa Support Team**
You can contact our team via the StudentConnect portal or by calling the Student Connect team: **Telephone: 02922 518888**
We recommend contacted via the StudentConnect portal and providing as much information as possible in order to get the most efficient and thorough response.
We offer consultation appointments where needed and following the submission of an enquiry with details of your enquiry.

**UKCISA**
Student advice line: +44(0) 20 7788 9214 (Monday – Friday 1pm-4pm UK time). UKCISA have useful information on making a Student visa application.

Student Route Caseworking Guidance.

### 15. Document Checklist

- Current passport and any passport containing your current entry clearance visa;

- Biometric Residence Permit (if you have one);

- Cardiff University CAS statement.

- Any document regarding academic progress that is listed on your CAS statement.

- Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) Certificate (if applicable);

- Evidence that you have enough money to meet the maintenance requirements if you have been in the UK for less than 12 months. Please check Sections 9 and 10 of this guide to find out how much money you will need and which documents are required as proof that you have access to this money.

- Financial sponsor permission to remain (if applicable)

- Signed UKVI consent form- this will be generated during the visa application process.

If any of your documents are not in English, you must get them professionally translated.
Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, Cardiff University can accept no responsibility for errors or omissions. Cardiff University is not responsible for the content or reliability of the linked websites and does not necessarily endorse the views expressed within. The government makes changes to the immigration rules and procedures on a regular basis, so it is important that you check the current guidance and rules when applying for a visa. For further information visit UKCISA and the Home Office websites as provided on page 14 of this guide.