

Many International Students may wish for their family members and/or friends to visit them in the UK, either during their studies at Imperial College or in order to attend their graduation.

International Student Support cannot assist with these applications, but we hope that the information listed below will provide all the guidance you need regarding visitor visas.

## What is the procedure for obtaining a visitor visa?

Any individual wanting to visit the UK from countries where a visa is required (known as 'visa nationals') must apply for a visa at their local UK embassy or consulate.

Any visitor who wants to come to the UK must be able to show that they:

- only want to visit the country for a maximum of six months;
- plan to leave the United Kingdom at the end of their visit; and
- have enough money to support and accommodate themselves during their trip without working or help from benefits or public funds (or prove that the person they are visiting is able to provide them with accommodation and financial support).

## What type of visitor visa does my family member/friend need?

**Family members** and friends will need to apply for a Standard Visitor visa (more information on the Home Office website <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa>) and an application can be made online via the Visa4UK website <https://www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/>

**Home Office guidance notes** on how to complete these application forms can be found at the same link above.

## What documents are needed from Imperial College to support the application?

A letter of invitation from Imperial College London is **not required**, so we do not provide this. Instead, we recommend that you request a **Statement of Attendance** confirming your student status from the Student Hub (Level 3, Sherfield Building or via email to [student.records@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:student.records@imperial.ac.uk)).



## What other documents should I provide to the applicant?

We also recommend that you **write your own letter of invitation**, explaining that you are currently studying at Imperial College, your relationship to the visitor, the reason for their visit (including why the visit is taking place at this particular time), and details of any accommodation / financial support you are planning to provide them.

It is also useful to provide a **photocopy of your passport and current visa** as proof of your immigration status in the United Kingdom and, if applicable, evidence of your ability to provide financial support (**copies of your last six months bank statements and salary slips**).

## Sample Invitation Letter for Family and Friends

(Insert your name)

(Insert your address)

(Insert your email address & telephone number)

Date

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Application for visitor visa**

**(Insert name of family member\*/friend)**

**(Insert their date of birth)**

**(Insert their nationality)**

I am currently studying (insert your course title) at Imperial College London – please find enclosed a student status letter in confirmation of this. Also enclosed are photocopies of my passport details page and my current UK visa.

I am writing to confirm that I wish to invite (insert name of friend/family member) to visit me in the UK for [?] weeks/months in order to attend my graduation ceremony/have a short holiday/other reason (delete as appropriate). He/she (delete as appropriate) would like to come on (give date).



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(Insert your visitor's name) will be staying at (insert the full address of where your visitor will be staying. If your visitor will be staying with you and will not need to pay accommodation expenses during his/her trip, you should add this to your letter.)

(Please add a final sentence saying how the visit will be funded, for example: "they will include a bank statement with their visitor visa application as evidence of their ability to finance their visit to the UK").

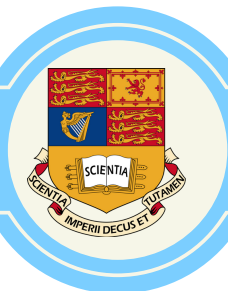
Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

(Add your signature)

(Insert your name)

\* If you are inviting your parents you should do one letter inviting both of them and include it with both applications



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