

University Visa Advice and Compliance Team support To Students Visa Holders

Where a Student Visa holder is pregnant, they should consider the following points to ensure that they continue to meet their visa conditions, particularly with regard to attendance and engagement on campus:

- Being pregnant does not necessarily stop a Student Visa holder from continuing to study alongside the rest of their classmates including attendance on campus
- Student Visa holders are strongly encouraged to communicate with the University Visa Advice & Compliance Team if they are experiencing any circumstances that may impact on their ability to attend their UK campus and/or engage with their studies
- The University Visa Advice & Compliance team will continue to treat a pregnant student the same as other students unless that student follows the Authorised Absence, Temporary Suspension of Studies or Permanent Voluntary Withdrawal process
- If a student ceases to attend their UK campus and engage with their studies due to pregnancy or another matter, students visa becomes at risk of sponsorship withdrawal and cancellation unless the correct absence process is followed
- If a Student Visa holder believes that they will be unable to meet normal visa attendance monitoring requirements for a period of around 60 days or less, they can enquire about an 'Authorised Absence' from attendance monitoring
 - Authorised Absence can be requested from the University Visa Advice & Compliance team via a Student Portal query for periods of up to 60 days
 - Students requesting Authorised Absence should include their name, student ID, planned absence start and end date, the reason for the proposed absence, plus any relevant supporting evidence including confirmation of academic consent
 - Typically, confirmation from an academic supervisor or programme director will be required that confirms that the proposed absence will not prevent the student from progressing with their studies and assessments on the normal schedule
 - Authorised Absence is not the same as Mitigating Circumstances for assessments, and does not generate extra attempts at assessments or academic extensions for PhD theses
 - Authorised Absence does not mean that the student will automatically be supported for a visa extension
 - Authorised Absence may not be granted for assessment or exam periods
 - Student Visa holders are not allowed to do more than 20 hours per week of casual work during periods of Authorised Absence
- If a Student Visa holder on a Postgraduate Taught or Undergraduate programme is unable to meet the requirements for an Authorised Absence from normal visa attendance monitoring (above) but still expects to be absent from attending their UK campus, it is recommended that they consider applying for a Temporary Suspension of Studies
 - Where a Student Visa holder is granted a Temporary Suspension of Studies that extends for more than 60 days into the future, it is likely that sponsorship of their Student Visa will be withdrawn
 - Where a university withdraws sponsorship of a Student Visa, it is likely that UK Visas & Immigration will cancel that Student Visa and give the person 60 days to leave the UK
 - The decision from UK Visas & Immigration typically takes several weeks to arrive and may take more than a month to arrive. The 60-day period to leave the UK will usually not start until notification of the visa cancellation has been sent
 - Where Student Visa sponsorship has been withdrawn due to Temporary Suspension of Studies, the University will usually be able to support the student to apply for a new Student Visa for them to resume their studies when they are ready, although that new visa application may need to be submitted from the student's home country (outside the UK)

Where a student's Visa Sponsorship has been withdrawn due to general absence from attending campus, without having followed the correct absence process, it may be more difficult for them to successfully apply for another visa in the future

If a Student Visa holder on a Postgraduate Research / PhD programme believes that they will be absent from their UK campus due to pregnancy, for any period, it is sensible for them to communicate with the University Visa Advice & Compliance team and the University Wellbeing team to discuss the options available to them, which may be different to the options available to students on taught programmes, due to the different ways that research programmes are delivered and differences in UK Visas & Immigration regulations that apply to Postgraduate Research / PhD students.