

Section 20 Visa compliance review for visa breaches

- 20.1.1 Students who are sponsored by the University under the Student Visa Route must adhere to their visa obligations and to all other immigration-based requirements. These obligations include the requirement to comply with the University's policies, including its disciplinary procedures. Specific codes of conduct may also apply, such as that of international partners.
- 20.1.2 Where there is an academic or attendance and/or engagement concern related to a visa-holding student, the Support to Study process should be followed. A Visa Compliance Review is to be called only when there is a breach or attempted breach of visa conditions or any UK immigration rules and regulations, which are not related to normal university functions (for example, if a student is working illegally, or a student has started their own business). This will relate to something which contravenes UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) guidance but is not part of academic studies).
- 20.1.3 Further information can be found on our [Visa and Compliance website](#).
- 20.1.4 Where concerns arise that any of these obligations have been breached, the student will be invited to a Visa Compliance Review. The Support to Study Stage 4 meeting procedure will be followed, with the following specific arrangements:
- a) The Visa Compliance Review will normally be convened and chaired by a Visa and Compliance team member. The Associate Head/Dean of School or other appropriate academic staff member will normally also attend, alongside a representative from Registry and the Progress Administration and Support Service (PASS) team.
 - b) The student will be given information about the alleged or attempted breach of visa obligations or UK immigration rules and regulations in advance of the meeting and will have the opportunity to respond to these concerns.
 - c) In cases where there is a breach or attempted breach of visa conditions or UK immigration rules and regulations, the Panel will normally recommend withdrawal of sponsorship. The consequence of this sponsorship withdrawal is that the student's enrolment will also be withdrawn (enforced), as the student will no longer be able to meet the requirements for attendance and engagement at the University.
 - d) The timing of any sponsorship withdrawal will reflect the University's obligations as a sponsor. In deciding on the timing of the enforced withdrawal of enrolment, consideration will be given to the student's current academic status, including whether the student should, for example, be allowed to complete any assessment opportunities from abroad. Assessment from abroad will normally only be permitted where the student has attended teaching for the relevant modules and the assessment is imminent at time of the sponsorship withdrawal.
 - e) When the Panel recommends a sponsorship withdrawal, the Assessment team in Registry will put forward the recommendation to the University's Authorising Officer (or delegate), who approves the final decision to enforce withdrawal of the student's enrolment and sponsorship.
- 20.1.5 The student may choose to be accompanied by a supporter at the meeting as defined in [section 2.1.11](#).
- 20.1.6 Audio or video recordings of the meeting must not be made by the student or any accompanying person. AI notetaking software must not be used during the meeting by the student or any accompanying person.
- 20.1.7 A student can only appeal the decision of a Visa Compliance Review if it considers that there has been a procedural irregularity in the process undertaken by the Visa Compliance Review Panel which has had a material impact on the decision. If a student appeals, the case will be considered by the University Secretary and Registrar and Academic Registrar, or delegates. If the appeal is upheld the case will be referred back to a new Visa Compliance Review Panel. Any appeal must be made **within 10 working days** of the original decision.