

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 of visa conditions which is 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 breach of visa obligations in advance of the meeting and will have the opportunity to respond to these concerns.
 - c) In serious cases, including cases where the visa breach may place the University in default of its own obligations as a sponsor, the Panel may recommend withdrawal of sponsorship. The consequence of this visa withdrawal is that the student's enrolment will also be withdrawn (enforced), as the student will no longer be able to meet participation requirements.
 - d) The timing of any visa 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 visa withdrawal.
 - e) When the Panel recommends a visa 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.
- 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. AI notetaking software must not be used during the meeting.
- 20.1.7 The student may appeal **within 10 working days** of the decision on the basis that:
- a) There has been a procedural irregularity.
 - b) New evidence material to the case is available, and the student can demonstrate a good reason why it was not previously available.
 - c) The decision is unreasonable and/or disproportionate.
 - d) The University will follow its standard appeal procedures for such appeals. If the Appeals and Conduct Committee upholds the appeal, the case will be referred back to a new Visa Compliance Review to be considered afresh (refer to [section 48](#)).