



HM Government



The UK's points-based
immigration system
**An introduction
for EU citizens**

The UK's points-based immigration system: Information for EU citizens

Please note that 'EU citizens' referred to in this guidance can be read to include EU, EEA and Swiss citizens.

The UK left the European Union on 31 January this year. Free movement between the UK and the European Union will end on 31 December 2020 and from 1 January 2021, the UK will implement a points-based immigration system (PBS) that treats EU and non-EU citizens equally and which prioritises individuals' skills and talent over where a person comes from.

This means from 1 January 2021, if you do not already live in the UK or have rights under the Withdrawal Agreement, you, as an EU citizen, will need to meet specific requirements in order to study or work in the UK. You will also need to pass relevant checks, including UK criminality checks. You can continue to visit the UK for up to 6 months without applying for a visa and may participate in a wide range of activities, including tourism, visiting family and friends, short term study and business-related activities, such as events and conferences.

Irish citizens are exempt from the UK's points-based immigration system and there will be no change to the arrangements for the Common Travel Area.

EU citizens already living in the UK

If you're an EU citizen living in the UK by 31 December 2020, you and your family can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. The deadline for applying is 30 June 2021.

To find out more about the EU Settlement Scheme and apply, visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)



Applying through the points-based immigration system

You will be able to apply on GOV.UK and will need to demonstrate that you meet the relevant criteria and score the number of points required for the visa you're applying for. Visa routes will start opening later this year and will continue into 2021. Detailed guidance will be available on GOV.UK

Most people will be able to complete their application, including identity verification, using a smartphone app. Some applicants may need to attend a Visa Application Centre depending on the route they are applying for and whether they have a biometric passport or are unable to use the app.

You will need to pay an application fee and, if you are coming to the UK for more than 6 months, you may have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge, which will enable you to access the UK's National Health Service (NHS).

When you're in the UK, you will use an online service to view your immigration status and to prove your status to others.

Dependants can make their own application and from January 2021, EU citizens who do not qualify as a dependant under a PBS visa route, or under the EU Settlement Scheme, will need to apply and qualify for entry or stay on the same basis as non-EU citizens, through the family immigration rules.



Working in the UK from January 2021



Skilled Worker visa

The points-based immigration system will include a visa route for skilled workers. To be eligible for this visa, you must demonstrate:

- you have a job offer from a Home Office-licensed sponsor at the required skill level
- you will be paid the relevant minimum salary threshold by your sponsor (normally £26,500 or the going rate for their particular job, whichever is higher)
- you can speak English at the intermediate level at B1 (on the Common European Framework of Reference for languages).

If you will earn less than £26,500 – but no less than £20,480 – you may still be able to apply by ‘trading’ points for specific characteristics against your salary. For example, you may be able to trade points if:

- you have a job offer in a shortage occupation
- you have a PhD in a subject relevant to the job
- you have a PhD in a STEM subject relevant to the job
- you are a new entrant (the salary requirement for new entrants will be 30% lower than the rate for experienced workers in any occupation, to a lower limit of £20,480).



Skilled Work: Health and Care Visa

The UK Government welcomes the vital contribution which doctors, nurses and other health professionals from overseas make to the NHS and wider health and care sector.

If you work in an eligible health occupation and have a job offer from the NHS, social care sector or employers and organisations which provide services to the NHS, are able to speak English and meet the requirements of the Skilled Worker route, you can apply for the Health and Care Visa to come to the UK with your family.

There will be fast-track entry, with reduced application fees and dedicated support through the application process. If you're eligible to apply for the Health and Care Visa, you will also be exempt from having to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge. Frontline workers in the health and social care sector who are not eligible to apply for the Health and Care Visa will have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge and could benefit from a reimbursement scheme where they will be repaid. Further detail will follow in due course.



Global Talent

The Global Talent visa allows the most highly skilled to come to the UK without a job offer. This visa caters for recognised global leaders, and the leaders of tomorrow in science, humanities, engineering, the arts (including film, fashion design and architecture) and digital technology, with individuals' unique skills enriching the UK's knowledge, economy and society. Top scientists and researchers benefit from a quicker endorsement process as part of a fast track STEM scheme.



Alternative work visa routes and specialist occupations

There are a range of other visa routes available for working in the UK, such as the Start-up and Innovator visas. There are also visa routes for further specialist occupations, including ministers of religion, sports people and creatives.





Student visa

The UK has a world-leading education sector and will continue to welcome the talented and high potential students to universities and other higher education providers, further education and English language colleges, and independent schools.

You will need to meet certain requirements in order to study in the UK under the Student visa.

You will need to demonstrate:

- you have been offered a place on a course by a Home Office-licensed Student sponsor
- you can speak, read, write and understand English
- you have enough money to support yourself and pay for your course
- you genuinely intend to study in the UK.

There will be a separate Child Student visa for child students aged between 4-17 years old who wish to study at an independent school.





Graduate visa

If you successfully complete a degree at undergraduate level or above in the UK, you will be able to apply for a Graduate visa to stay and work, or look for work, for a maximum period of 2 years (3 years for PhD students) after completing your studies.

The Graduate visa will open in summer 2021 to international students who were sponsored by a Home Office-licensed Student sponsor which has a track record of compliance with the UK Government's immigration requirements.

From the Graduate visa, you will be able to move into different visa routes if you have a suitable job offer from a sponsor and can meet the requirements of the visa.

Final details on the points-based immigration system will be published later this year. For more information on routes you can apply to, the points-based immigration system and to sign up for email alerts, visit [GOV.UK](#)



