

## EU/EEA Nationals: Settlement Scheme

The United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020. We are currently in a “transition” period which will end on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

Until the end of the transition period the right to free movement continues. However this will change after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 – EU/EEA students who are already in the UK by the above date will have until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to apply for a **settlement scheme** to regularise their status.

EU/EEA students who arrive in the UK from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 onwards will need to apply for a “student” visa **before** their arrival – please see our [Visa Requirements webpage](#) for further details on the process to apply for a Student visa.

Anyone applying for the EU Settlement Scheme successfully will be able to continue living and working in the UK after 30 June 2021 with no restrictions.

Once you have applied for the Settlement Scheme, you will be given either:

### Settled status

If you can demonstrate that you have lived in the UK for a continuous 5 year period (known as ‘continuous residence’).

Continuous residence means that you have been in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for at least 6 months in any 12 month period for 5 years in a row.

There are some exceptions to the absence rule. Please contact [visaadvice@law.ac.uk](mailto:visaadvice@law.ac.uk) for more information.

### Pre-settled status

If you cannot demonstrate you have had 5 years of continuous residence when you apply, you will usually be granted pre-settled status. To qualify for this, **you must have started living in the UK by 31 December 2020.**

You can then apply to change to settled status once you have attained 5 years of continuous residence. You must do this before your pre-settled status expires.

You will not be asked to choose which status you are applying for. The status you will receive depends on **how long you have been living in the UK when you apply.** Your rights will be slightly different depending on the status you receive.

### Who should apply for the new Settlement Scheme?

Any EU/EEA & Swiss nationals and their eligible family members who are currently in the UK or will arrive in the UK **before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.** Please see this webpage for a complete list of eligible nationalities:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/EU-EEA--Swiss-Students/Are-you-an-EEA-national>

### How do I make an application for settlement and how much does it cost?

You can submit an application on the following webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status#content>

It is free and you can apply more than once if, for example you made an invalid application or submitted the wrong documents.

### What documents will I need to submit with my settlement application?

When you apply, you'll need to submit the following:

- Proof of your identity
- Evidence of your residence in the UK, unless you have a valid permanent residence document.

For a complete list of accepted documents, please check this webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-evidence-of-uk-residence>

### Where should I apply for the settlement scheme?

- If you have never lived in the UK in the past and you are starting a new course in January (or have started one online and are continuing the course face to face) then you **must be physically in the UK before the end of the transition period** and apply here.
- If you generally live in the UK but are temporarily absent (for example you are on holidays overseas or studying abroad) then you can apply from outside the UK. However, you must be able to demonstrate that you were resident in the UK before the end of the transition period AND meet all the eligibility criteria. For more information or to discuss your case, please contact our team: [visaadvice@law.ac.uk](mailto:visaadvice@law.ac.uk)

### How long will it take to process a settlement application?

It usually takes around 5 working days for complete applications to be processed, provided no further information is required, but it can take up to a month at peak times.

Your application is likely to take longer than a month to process if:

- UK Visas and Immigration need to request more information from you.
- You are applying as a minor and your application is not linked to an adult.
- You submit a paper application.
- You have a relevant criminal record.
- You are a non-EEA or non-Swiss citizen and are applying based on a relationship you have not relied on in a previous application to the Home Office.

### Is there a deadline to apply for settlement?

The current deadline to apply for it is 30th June 2021, but we recommend that you apply as early as possible. This is because it may take some time for the application to be processed **and you must have received a decision by the above date.**

**Do I need to apply for settlement if I arrived in the UK when I was a baby or if I was born here?**

Yes, you may need to apply unless you also have a British or Irish passport. Please note that, if your parents have already been granted settled status, you may qualify for it too, even if you have lived in the UK for less than 5 years. For more information please contact our team: [visaadvice@law.ac.uk](mailto:visaadvice@law.ac.uk).

**Can my family/friends/partner/spouse/children come to the UK to visit me?**

EU/EEA & Swiss citizens and citizens of countries NOT listed here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor-rules> will have the right to freely travel to the UK after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. However, they will be entering the UK as a Visitor (Tourist). They will be able to remain in the UK for a maximum of 6 months, but will not be allowed to do any work (paid or unpaid) or receive public funds.

**Can I sponsor my family/friends/partner/spouse/children once I have a settled status?**

You cannot sponsor friends to stay in the UK with you. However, your partner, spouse, children, grandchildren and dependant parents could also be granted settled status. For more information, please check the following document:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/910941/EUSS\\_main\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910941/EUSS_main_guidance.pdf)

**Where can I find further guidance on the settlement scheme?**

Please refer to the official policy guidance on the following webpage:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-applicant-information>