



# **Immigration and Visa Guide for EU Students**

# What has changed?

On the 31st January 2020 the UK officially left the EU and entered into a transition period. The transition period ended on the 31st December 2020. After this date freedom of movement (the right to live, work, study and travel within the EU) will end and EU nationals must meet UK immigration requirements in order to live, work, study and travel to the UK.

# What do I need to do?

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national, and you wish to remain in the UK/travel to the UK to study, you must hold immigration status under one of the three options below.

Irish nationals are exempt and will continue to have the right to live work and study in the UK after the 31st December 2020. In other words, Irish students who will travel to the UK from 1st January 2021 will not require a visa to travel or study.



# Option 1: EU Settlement Scheme

This Scheme is intended to allow any EU/EEA/Swiss national to continue living in the UK if they arrived before the end of the transition period.

The EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) application deadline was the 30th June 2021 and it is no longer possible to submit an application under the EUSS (unless you are the family member of a person who already holds EUSS status).

If you have applied to the EUSS but not yet been granted status, you are permitted to remain in the UK while you wait on the outcome of your application. If you have applied and not yet travelled to the UK, you may use proof of your pending application to enter the UK.

## My application is still being processed, what status will I be granted?

**If your application to the EU Settlement Scheme is successful you will be granted either:**

**Settled status** – if you have been living in the UK for 5 years or more. This status allows you to live, work and study in the UK.

**Pre-Settled status** – if you have been living in the UK for less than 5 years. This status allows you to live, work and study in the UK. Once you have been in the UK for 5 years, you simply apply again and you should be given full Settled Status. You will lose this status if you leave the UK for a continuous 2 year period. If your absence was due to COVID-19 you may be eligible to apply for a further grant of Pre-Settled Status, refer to the Home Office EUSS COVID-19 Guidance (link below) for more information.

Once you have been granted Settled Status this will be permanent. You can only lose this status if you leave the UK for a continuous 5 year period.

## I have been granted Pre-Settled Status how do I apply for Settled Status?"

If you have Pre-Settled status, this will be granted for a maximum of 5 years. You must apply for full Settled Status once you have been resident in the UK for 5 years and you must apply before the date your Pre-Settled Status expires. If your absence was due to COVID-19, refer to the Home Office COVID-19 EUSS Guidance (link below) for more information, as you may be eligible to apply for a further grant of Pre-Settled Status, in order to allow you to reach the 5 years. You must be able to show a continuous 5 year residence period to be eligible for full Settled Status. Please see the section below for more information on what is counted as 5 years continuous residence. You cannot extend your Pre-Settled status (unless you are eligible under the Home Office EUSS COVID-19 Guidance), so if you do not qualify for Settled Status before the date your Pre-Settled Status expires, you must leave the UK and apply for different immigration permission. While your Pre-Settled Status is valid, you will continue to have the right to live, work and study in the UK.

## What is counted as 5 years residence – I plan to/I have already spent time outside the UK?

If you spend time outside the UK for any of the following reasons, you will still be considered to be resident in the UK, and this time will count towards your total time spent in the UK.

- No more than 6 months absence in any 12 month period
- One absence of over 6 months, but no more than 12 months and the absence was for an “important reason” such as study (e.g. Study Abroad/ERASMUS) , vocational training, an overseas posting, serious illness, pregnancy or childbirth
- An absence of any duration for compulsory military service, posting on Crown service (or certain family members of person on Crown Service) or period spent working in UK marine area.

COVID-19 Update - If you left the UK but continued your course of study online AND you left to UK for not more than 12 months, this is also considered to be an “important reason”.

You are permitted to have two absences for an “important reason” but at least one of the absences must be due to COVID-19. Another new EUSS COVID-19 concession was introduced from the 10th June 2021, and this concession allows students to remain outside the UK for over 12 months for reasons relating to COVID-19. These reasons include students whose University advised them not to return to the UK, and to continue to study remotely from their home country, due to COVID-19. EU students in this situation should contact [internationaladvice@uws.ac.uk](mailto:internationaladvice@uws.ac.uk) to find out if you are eligible to be issued with a letter confirming this. Your eligibility will depend on the date you returned/intend to return to the UK and whether you are based on the Scottish or London campus.

If you spend more than 6 months outside the UK and it is not for one of the reasons above, you will not be considered to be resident in the UK.

## I have applied for the Scheme and I have been asked for more documents – what should I provide?

The Home Office should tell you how long they think you have been resident in the UK. If it is less than 5 years, they may contact you to give you an opportunity to provide more documents to show you have been in the UK longer than their estimate. If they have estimated your time in the UK correctly, just reply and confirm you want to be granted Pre-Settled status. If they are wrong and you have been in the UK longer you can send them any of the documents below as evidence:

- UWS student status letter (will show your start date)
- Invoices for tuition fees and documentation issued by SAAS or student finance bodies
- Bank statements
- Employer letter, P60 and or P45

## Can I work in the UK?

You can work in the UK with no restrictions if you have Settled or Pre-Settled status

## Can I bring my family?

If you have family who did not apply for the EU Settlement Scheme by the 30th June 2021, you should visit the following website to work out if they are eligible to join you; <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/immigration/keeping-your-family-in-the-uk-after-brexit>



## Where can I find information and updates?

### **UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)**

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/EU-EEA--Swiss-Students/Brexit---EU-Settlement-Scheme>

### **Home Office Guidance:**

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-caseworker-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-eu-settlement-scheme-guidance-for-applicants>

## Other Support

**Citizens Advice Bureau:** <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

**The 3 million:** <https://www.the3million.org.uk>

**Settled:** <https://settled.org.uk/en>



# Option 2 – Visitor visa

## What are the requirements?

This option is only available if you intend to study for a period of 6 months or less.

## How do I apply?

EU/EEA and Swiss nationals will be able to enter the UK without applying for a visa before travel. You can enter the UK using the eGates and your EU/EEA/Swiss passport. Further information is available on the [Home Office website](#). Your passport must have a biometric symbol on the cover, otherwise you must talk to a border officer to be granted entry. Your passport must be valid for 6 months after the date you enter the UK. You will be admitted to the UK as a Visitor.

## What will I be granted?

You will not receive any physical visa/stamp or immigration permission. Instead it is important that you keep your boarding pass or flight booking as proof of travel. If you are ever asked for proof of your status in the UK, you should present proof of your travel.

## Can I work in the UK?

It is not possible to take any paid or unpaid employment under this immigration category. If you plan to work, you should apply under option 3.

## Can I bring family?

You cannot bring family members under this immigration status, however, if your family members are EU/EEA/Swiss nationals, they can apply for their own Visitor visa in their own right.

# Option 3 – Student visa

## What are the requirements?

If you do not meet the requirements for the EU Settlement Scheme, you must apply for a Student visa. Under this type of immigration status the University must sponsor you and issue you with an electronic document called a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).

For full details on the requirements, please read our Student Visa Guide Outside the UK, available on [our webpages](#).

The Home Office have also produced a [helpful guide](#).

## How do I apply?

You must apply online and upload supporting documents with your application. Full instructions are available in our Student Visa Guide Outside the UK, available on [our webpages](#).

## What will I be granted?

You will first be given a vignette (a visa stamp inside your passport) that allows you to travel to the UK. You must travel within the validity period of the vignette (90 days). Once you arrive in the UK you will be asked to collect your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). This BRP is your visa and you will collect it from a Post Office (which you choose during the application process). You must normally collect your BRP within 10 days but, if you are required to self-isolate/quarantine on entry to the UK the Post Office will automatically keep your BRP until you are able to collect it.

## Can I work?

You will be restricted to a maximum of 10 or 20 hours of work per week, depending on your course of study. During official vacation periods, and after you have completed your course, you may work full-time. There are some restrictions on the type of work you can do, and you cannot be self-employed. For full guidance on the work restrictions, please visit the [UKCISA website](#)

## Can I bring family?

You can only bring your family if you are studying on certain types of course and you may only bring your children and spouse/civil partner/unmarried partner, subject to meeting additional proof of relationship requirements. For full guidance on the requirements for family members, please read our Student Visa Guide Outside the UK, available on [our webpages](#), or visit the [UKCISA website](#).

# International Student Support Team Contact Details

E-mail: [internationaladvice@uws.ac.uk](mailto:internationaladvice@uws.ac.uk)

Appointments: To Book an appointment, phone the Hub **0141 848 3800**.

Virtual Quick Questions (VQQ) is available weekly through Zoom. To book contact [internationaladvice@uws.ac.uk](mailto:internationaladvice@uws.ac.uk) with VQQ in the subject title for joining instructions.

Web: <https://www.uws.ac.uk/international/visas-immigration-atas>

If you need urgent advice and the International Student Support team are not available, visit the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) website - [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk). Alternatively, you can call the UKCISA Student Advice Line on 0207 788 9214. The line is open from 1-4pm Monday-Friday. The service is free - you only pay for the call.



Student  
Services



International Student Support