

EU Citizens - Applying for Settled Status

Introduction

This guidance document has been produced to give employees who are EU citizens information about what they need to do if they wish to continue to live and work in the UK after 30th June 2021. It is not intended to be an advisory document and employees should seek any additional advice needed from appropriate channels.

Who needs to apply for settled status?

Except in a few cases, you need to apply if:

- you're an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen
- you're not an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, but your family member is (or is an eligible person of Northern Ireland)

The EEA includes the EU countries and also Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

This means you need to apply even if you:

- were born in the UK but are not a British citizen - you can check if you're a British citizen if you're not sure
- have a UK 'permanent residence document'
- are a family member of an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen who does not need to apply - including if they're from Ireland
- are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen with a British citizen family member
- If you have children, you need to apply for them separately

Who does not need to apply?

You do not need to apply if you have:

- indefinite leave to enter the UK
- indefinite leave to remain in the UK
- Irish citizenship (including British and Irish 'dual citizenship')

What status will I get?

If you make a successful application to the EU settlement scheme you will be granted either settled status or pre-settled status.

Settled status will normally be granted to those who were living in the UK by 31st December 2020 and who have lived in the UK continuously for a 5-year period. This means that for 5 years in a row you've been in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for at least 6 months in any 12 month period. There are some exceptions, including one period of up to 12 months for an important reason such as childbirth or serious illness, or serving in the armed forces.

If you do not have 5 years continuous residence at the time of application you will normally be granted pre-settled status.

This will give you leave to remain in the UK for up to five years. Once you reach five years continuous residence you can then apply for settled status.

If you do not currently have five years continuous residence but you will before 30th June 2021, you can wait and make your application once you reach five years. This will allow you to apply for settled status without first having to apply for pre-settled status.

What rights will settled or pre-settled status give me?

Once you have been granted settled or pre-settled status you will be able to:

- Work in the UK
- Use the NHS for free, if you can at the moment
- Enrol in education or continue studying
- Access public funds such as benefits and pensions, if you're eligible for them
- Travel in and out of the UK

If you have settled status, you will be able to spend up to 5 years in a row outside the UK without losing your status. If you have pre-settled status, you will be able to spend up to 2 years in a row outside the UK without losing your status. You will need to maintain your continuous residence if you wish to apply for settled status.

What you'll need to apply

To make an application you will need proof of identity and proof of continuous residence.

Proof of identity could include a valid passport or national identity card. You will also need to provide a digital image of your face and your fingerprints (unless you already have a biometric residence card or permit).

Proof of continuous residence can be established by providing your National Insurance number to allow an automated check of your residence based on tax and benefit records.

How to apply

To make an application please visit <https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/euss>. It is free to apply to the scheme.

How to get further help and advice

You can get help by visiting the EU Settlement Resolution Centre at:

<https://eu-settled-status-enquiries.service.gov.uk/start>

You can also get help over the phone by calling 0300 123 7379 from within the UK or +44 (0)203 080 0010 from outside the UK. Lines are open Monday-Friday 08:00-20:00, and Saturday and Sunday 09:30-16:30.