

Information for Staff Travelling to Europe from 12 October 2025

From **12 October 2025**, the EU will introduce the **Entry/Exit System (EES)** for **travellers from outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland**. This is a biometrics collection scheme in operation at all external borders of **Schengen countries**.

This affects **all non-EU international staff** travelling to Europe from 12th October. It **also affects UK staff** who are traveling. **It does not affect Irish staff.**

From late 2026, the **European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)** will be introduced. This is a new pre-travel authorisation system for non-EU non-visa nationals. Further information on that scheme will be provided nearer the date.

1. International Staff (non-UK, non-Irish passport holders)

- **Check nationality:**
 - **EU/EEA/Swiss nationals** – continue to have free movement and are exempt from EES/ETIAS.
 - **Visa-exempt non-EU nationals** (e.g., USA, Canada, Australia, Japan):
 - From 12 October 2025, subject to EES (fingerprints, photo, digital record).
 - ETIAS required from late 2026 onwards.
 - **Visa-required nationals**
 - Continue to require a Schengen visa before travel.
 - At the border, **will also be enrolled in the new EES system** when it launches.

2. UK Staff (British passport holders)

- **Visa exemption:** UK nationals can travel to Schengen Area countries for **up to 90 days in any 180-day period** without a visa, for business trips or tourism.
- **EES requirement:** From 12 October 2025, UK nationals will need to:
 - Register **fingerprints and a facial image** at the border.

- Have passport entry/exit recorded digitally instead of being stamped.
 - **ETIAS** (the EU's new electronic travel authorisation): **Not required until late 2026** at the earliest.
 - **Passport rules:** Must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the planned departure from Schengen and issued within the last 10 years.
 - **Practical advice:** Allow extra time at airports/ports as queues may be longer during the EES roll-out.
 - If you are a dual UK/Irish citizen, you should **consider travelling on your Irish passport** to avoid the EES provisions.
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3. Irish Staff (Irish passport holders)

- **No change:** Ireland is an EU and EEA member state. Irish nationals retain **full freedom of movement** in the EU/EEA/Switzerland.
 - **No EES or ETIAS:** Irish passport holders are exempt from the new EU Entry/Exit System and from ETIAS.
 - **Passport rules:** Only standard validity requirements for Irish passports when travelling in the EU.
 - **Note:** If travelling on a **UK passport instead of an Irish passport**, the UK rules above will apply.
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4. General Practical Advice for All Staff

- Arrive **earlier than usual** at airports, train stations, or ferry ports — especially after October 2025 — to allow for biometric checks.
- Carry supporting documents (hotel bookings, return ticket, invitation letter for conference/meeting).
- Ensure travel insurance is up to date.
- Keep in mind that **Ireland is not in Schengen** — **travel there is unaffected by EES**.
- Dual nationals (Irish & another nationality, such as UK) should **use their Irish passport** to avoid EES requirements.

Further detailed information is available on the European Commission website [here](#).

International staff members should contact internationalstaff@qub.ac.uk for further support if required.

All other staff should contact hrhub@qub.ac.uk for further support if required.