

Note to EEA applicants on Brexit:

The UK left the EU on 31 January 2020 with a Withdrawal Agreement in place. This agreement allows a transition/implementation period until 31 December 2020 during which freedom of movement remains as was before Brexit. EEA and Swiss nationals can enter the UK and can work and study on foot of their European passport.

EU settlement scheme

The settlement scheme allows European nationals in the UK by 31 December 2020 to apply for either pre-settled or settled status. Applications will be accepted up until 30 June 2021. If the applicant has lived continuously for 5 years or more in the UK they will be eligible for settled status. If the applicant has not been in the UK continuously for five years pre-settled status will be granted for five years to allow time to move to settled status. Both types of status protect the rights enjoyed by European nationals living and working in the UK. Settled status is effectively indefinite leave to remain which means holders are no longer subject to immigration restrictions.

New immigration system

The UK plans to introduce a new immigration system from 1 January 2021. Under this system European nationals who do not hold settled or pre-settled status will require a visa to work in the UK. Further detail on how the new system will work is expected in the coming months.