

EU Settlement Scheme Glossary



HM Government

EU CITIZENS STAY INFORMED



EU Settlement Scheme

The UK and the EU have agreed that your current rights will continue until 31 December 2020. If you want to stay in the UK beyond then, you need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. This means you and your family members will have ongoing rights to healthcare, work arrangements and access to benefits and public services according to the same rules as now.



Settled status

If you have settled status, also known as indefinite leave to remain in the UK, this means there is no time limit on how long you can stay in the UK. EU citizens who have been granted settled status will have the same access to work, study, healthcare, pensions and other benefits in the UK according to the same rules as now.

- If you leave the UK, and return within five years, you can enter the UK and continue to live here as a settled person.
- If you are absent from the UK for more than five consecutive years, your settled status will lapse.
- If you have a child born in the UK after you are granted settled status, that child will be a British citizen.

Settled status will run alongside any rights you have as an EU citizen under the EU Free Movement Directive, which run until 31 December 2020.



Pre-settled status

If you have pre-settled status, also known as limited leave to remain in the UK, this means you can stay in the UK for a period of five years. This will allow you to remain in the UK until you are eligible for settled status, generally once you have lived continuously in the UK for five years. EU citizens who have pre-settled status will have the same access to work, study, healthcare, pensions and other benefits in the UK according to the same rules as now. Pre-settled status will run alongside any existing rights you have as an EU citizen under the EU Free Movement Directive, which run until 31 December 2020.



Close family member

A close family member is a spouse, civil partner, unmarried partner, dependent child, dependent grandchild, dependent parent or dependent grandparent. A family member can come from anywhere in the world and does not need to be from the EU. British family members do not need to apply.



Continuous residence

You will need to have been continuously resident in the UK for five consecutive years (less in some exceptional circumstances) to be eligible to get settled status straightaway. If you have been continuously resident in the UK for less than 5 years you will be eligible for pre-settled status, enabling you to stay until you have reached the 5 years generally needed to be eligible for settled status. If your continuous residence has been broken, time spent in the UK before the time it was broken cannot be counted.

Continuous residence generally means that - over 5 consecutive years - you have not been outside the UK for more than 6 months in total, in any 12 month period. There is no restriction on the number of times you can be outside the UK, provided that the total period of time outside the UK is not more than 6 months, in any 12 month period.

There are some exceptions. You can have a single absence from the UK for no more than 12 months if it is for an important reason, such as pregnancy, childbirth, serious illness, study, vocational training, or an overseas posting for work. Any period outside the UK on compulsory military service is allowed. Continuous residence is broken if you have been subject to a deportation order, exclusion order or exclusion decision. It can also be broken by periods of imprisonment.



Implementation period

The implementation period will run from the EU Exit date of 29 March 2019 until 31 December 2020. This will enable the UK and the EU, businesses and public services to put in place the new arrangements required. The rights of EU citizens will remain unchanged throughout the implementation period.

The EU Settlement Scheme will be open to applications until 30 June 2021 for those who are resident here by the end of 2020.

