**EU Settlement Scheme**

**To continue to live, work and study in the UK post 30 June 2021 for those EU / EEA / Swiss citizens who have moved to the UK prior to 23:00hrs on 31 December 2020, they will need to make an application for Settled / Pre-settled status**. It is vitally important for EU citizens to make the application for their Settled / Pre-settled Status to be recognised in the UK as soon as possible, as this process can be anything from simple and straightforward, to lengthy and complicated, depending on personal circumstances, on documentation available and on HO responses. If EU citizens do not obtain Settled / Pre-settled Status prior to the **deadline (30 June 2021)**, they (and their families) will lose their entitlements to be in the UK, to have **access to education** and **health care**, **benefits**, **housing**, etc and **can be deported**.

**Applications can involve a complex process and take a long time to be decided.** Applications can take a number of weeks to be reviewed and dealt with by the Home Office and if, for any reason, they are denied, it will then take additional time to appeal or make new applications.

**Applications are individual.** Each family member will need their own **individual application**, but children can link theirs to their parents (they will need access to valid ID and relevant documents to prove their residence); they will also need proof of the relationship of the parent they are linking to (birth certificate, for instance).

**Who is at risk?**

* **The vulnerable and the old.**
* **Children whose parents might not have applied on their behalf and who are unaware of the need to obtain this status.** They will no longer be eligible for education, health care, etc and will be subject to immigration control.
* **Students without Settled / Pre-settled Status will be considered international students after 30 June 2021**, so they will no longer benefit from the same access to funding in the UK, will be subject to immigration control and have no rights to live, work and study in the UK.

**Time is running out and some are still unaware of the need for action.**  There are only just over 3 months left to apply for Status now and ensure that EU students’ current rights are protected beyond 30 June 2021. Too many people are unaware of their need to apply – for instance, those who have previously obtained permanent residence and may think that their rights are protected, will also need to submit an application and convert to the new status.

**Who needs to apply?**

If you have moved to the UK before 23:00hrs on 31 December 2020 and

* you’re an EU, EEA (EU countries plus Lichenstein, Norway and Iceland) 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)
* 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

**More information is available** [**here**](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/eligibility)**.**

**Who can obtain Settled Status?**

You will usually get Settled Status if you have been resident in the UK for 5 years or more. You may be considered to be resident in the UK on 31 December 2020 and may be eligible for settled status if you both:

* lived in the UK for a continuous 5-year period in the past
* have not left the UK for more than 5 years in a row since then

You can stay in the UK for as long as you like once you have obtained Settled Status.

**Who can obtain Pre-settled status?**

If you **have not** lived in the UK for 5 years in a row (known as ‘continuous residence’), you’ll usually get pre-settled status. You must have started living in the UK by 31 December 2020 unless you are applying as the existing close family member of an EU, EEA, or Swiss citizen who started living here by then. You can stay in the UK for a further 5 years from the date you get pre-settled status.

**More information about this** [**here**](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/what-settled-and-presettled-status-means)**.**

**What you need to apply**

* Proof of ID (a valid passport or EU ID card, or a biometric residence card AND digital photograph – further information at link below)
* Proof of continuous residence (a number of [documents](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-evidence-of-uk-residence) can serve as proof) – there is a limit of 10 documents which can be uploaded, so these must be chosen carefully.
* Access to a digital device where you can download the **EU EXIT: ID Document Check** app

**Further information** [**here**](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/what-youll-need-to-apply)**.**

**All the information necessary to make an application is available on the** [**UK Government website**](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families)**. However, some applicants may need help with the process. This support is available from a number of the organisations below.**

**Support available in the community**

The organisations below offer free support to EU / EEA / Swiss nationals to apply for Settled / Pre-settled Status. Some of the organisations below are UK wide and some are Scotland based.  Some offer advice directly to applicants, some in several European languages and some only to practitioners who work with potential applicants.  Also, some councils offer help with scanning documents (applicants need valid ID documents at the very first stage of their application process), etc – not sure how that is affected by Covid restrictions, but worth looking into it.

**UK wide organisations**

[Settled](https://settled.org.uk/en/) – provide advice and support on applying for Settled Status in different languages over the phone and online

[Here for good](https://www.hereforgoodlaw.org/about-us) – free legal advice, including applications for Settled Status, immigrations guides

[Right to remain](https://righttoremain.org.uk/) – immigration information, toolkit (for all nationalities)

**Scotland based organisations**

[Citizens Rights Project](https://citizensrightsproject.org/) – information, online and face to face advice and assistance in several languages

[Feniks](https://www.feniks.org.uk/project/eu-settlement-scheme-support-en/) – support with application for Settled Status in different languages; they organise regular face to face surgeries in different locations around Scotland

[JustRight Scotland](https://www.justrightscotland.org.uk/) – Scotland’s legal centre for justice and human rights; they provide advice over the phone at specific times for practitioners working with EU citizens – get in touch with them to request times or follow on social media.

[Just Citizens](https://justcitizens.scot/eu/) – a project of JustRight Scotland, providing information and [factsheets](https://justcitizens.scot/eu/) on rights of EU citizens in English and 5 other European languages.