**APPLYING TO STUDY IN THE UK FROM 1 JANUARY 2021**

If you are an EU Citizen1 living in the UK **by the 31st December 2020** you can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme2 to continue living in the UK after the 30th June 2021.  The deadline for applications is the 30th June 2021.

If you are an EU Citizen1 and are planning to come to the UK to study **from the 1st January 2021**, you may need to apply through the [UK’s Points Based Immigration System](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/929165/The_UK_s_points-based_immigratin_system_-_an_introduction_for_EU_students.pdf).

Applications for the Student Route Visas3 are done online through Gov.UK and you will need to complete an identity verification and this can be done either by :

* Completing your identify verification through the App (most people should be able to do this)

* Or, if you are unable to use the App then you will need to attend a Visa Application Centre.

**Using the App**

To complete the ID verification using the app, you **must** have a biometric passport and a compatible smartphone.  You will need to search for ‘UK Immigration : ID Check” in your app store.

If you are successful through the App then you will receive written notification by email of that decision.  This will include details of how to sign in to the View and Prove Service on Gov.Uk, where you can check your immigration status and its conditions at any time and you will need this to verify your status during your Registration/ID check at the University.

**Visa Application Centre**

If you do not have a biometric passport or access to a compatible smartphone you will need to visit a Visa Application Centre to complete your ID verification.  You will still need to start your application on Gov.UK.  If you need to attend a Visa Application Centre you will be given further information about the process and what documents you will need to provide during your visit.

If you complete your identity verification at a Visa Application Centre and are successful, you will receive a vignette in your passport and will be granted a Biometric Residence Permit after your arrival in the UK.

**EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME**

The EU Settlement Scheme is currently open and it is free to apply.  In order to apply you must be an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen and once you have applied and if your application is successful you can continue living in the UK after the 30th June 2021.

If your application is successful then you will either be given :

* Settled status (you have lived in the UK continuously, for at least 6 months every year, for the last 5 years)

* Pre-settled status (you have entered the UK but have not been here for 5 years)

You will not be asked to choose which you are applying for.  Which status you are allocated will depend on how long you have been living in the UK prior to your application.  Your rights will be different depending on what is your status.

**Your Rights**

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 are eligible for them

* Travel in and out of the UK

* if you have settled status, you can spend up to 5 years in a row outside the UK without losing your status.
* If you are a Swiss citizen, you are your family members can spend up to 4 years in a row outside the UK without losing your settled status
* If you have pre-settled status you can spend up to 2 years in a row outside the UK without losing your status.  You will need to maintain your continuous residence though if you want to qualify for settled status.

**What you will need to apply**

When you apply you will need proof of :

* Your identity : valid passport or national identity card.  You will also need to provide a digital photo of your face

* Your residence in the UK, unless you have a valid permanent residence document, or valid indefinite leave to remain in or enter the UK.  You could provide your National Insurance number to allow an automated check of your residence based on tax and certain benefit records.

**Criminal Convictions**

The Home Office will check if you have committed and serious or repeated crimes and that you do not pose a security threat.  You will be asked to declare convictions that appear in your criminal record in the UK or overseas.

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**POINTS BASED IMMIGRATION SYSTEM – STUDENT VISA**

If you are considering starting a course at the University after the 1st January 2021 then you will need to apply for a Student Visa to study in the UK at a registered sponsoring institution.  You will need to complete an application form, pay a fee and have a current passport or other valid travel document.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply for a Student visa, you need to be able to score 70 points. Points are non-tradeable, which means you will need to meet all the requirements. You will be awarded points for meeting the requirements of the route as set out below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Points Type** | **Requirements to be Met** | **Number of Points** |
| **Study** | Confirmation of Acceptance for Students (CAS) requirement  Approved Qualification Requirement  Level of Study Requirement  Place of Study Requirement | 50 |
| **Financial** | Financial Requirement | 10 |
| **English language** | English Language Requirement | 10 |

The listed requirements set out in the table above mean that to successfully apply for a Student visa, you must demonstrate that:

• you have an unconditional offer from an approved sponsoring institution. When you apply for a Student visa, you will need to provide your reference number from the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) which is provided by your education provider once they’ve offered you an unconditional place on a course

• you are taking a course that leads to an approved qualification at an appropriate level of study

• you have any relevant academic qualifications needed to undertake the course

• you genuinely intend to study in the UK

• you can financially support yourself during your studies in the UK

• you can speak, read, write and understand English to the required standard for the level of course you intend to study.

You can apply for a Student Visa up to 6 months before your intended course starts.

A student application costs £348 and you will also need to pay the Immigration Healthcare Surcharge as part of your application.  Paying the Surcharge gives you access to the UK’s National Health Service.  As a student you receive a 25% discount which makes the cost £470.