

The UK's points-based immigration system: **Application guidance**



The UK's points-based immigration system: Applying to work or study in the UK

Please note that 'EU citizens' referred to in this guidance can be read to include EU, EEA and Swiss citizens. Those resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 should apply to the **EU Settlement Scheme** and have until 30 June 2021 to make an application.

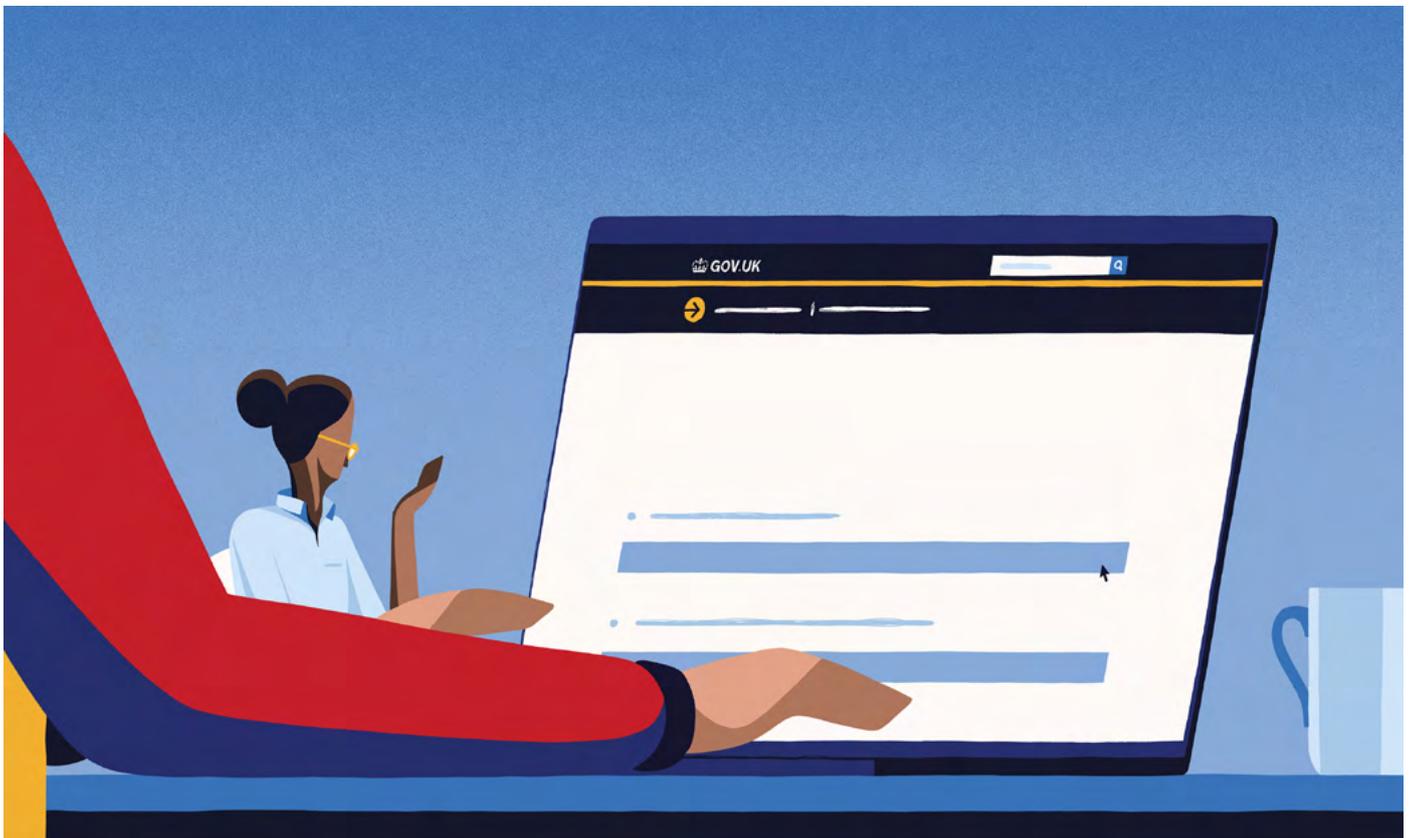
If you are an EU citizen planning to come to the UK to work or study, you may need to apply through the **UK's points-based immigration system**. This guide covers some of the key things you need to know about the application process.



Start your application on GOV.UK

You will start your application for a visa to work or study in the UK online at GOV.UK. As part of your application, you will need to complete identity verification. There are two ways you can do this. Most people will be able to complete identity verification through the UK Immigration: ID Check app. This will enable a smoother journey and will allow you to have a fully online experience. If you are unable to use the UK Immigration: ID Check app, you will need to attend a Visa Application Centre.

The **processing times for applications** vary depending on the visa you are applying for and the service available. You must apply and receive confirmation that you have been successful before you travel to the UK.



Identity verification – UK Immigration: ID Check app

To complete ID verification using the app, you must have a biometric passport and a compatible smartphone. The app is free and compatible with iPhone 7 or newer models, and Android phones that have Near Field Communication (NFC). Your phone will have NFC if it can be used to make contactless payments. If you do not own a compatible phone, you can use the app from a family or friend's mobile phone. No information is stored on the phone or app after you close it.

You can download this before you start your application. Search 'UK Immigration: ID Check' in your app store. The app will not work until you have started an application on GOV.UK.

If you start your application on GOV.UK using a compatible smartphone, you will be instructed to open the app, or download it, when it comes to the ID verification stage of your application.

If you start your application using a laptop or desktop computer, you will need to switch to a mobile phone to complete the ID verification stage via the app. You will be able to do this via a QR code or you can request a connection code. You will be instructed how and when to do this during the application process.

Full guidance for the UK Immigration: ID Check app can be found on GOV.UK.



Demonstrating your immigration status

If you use the UK Immigration: ID Check app and are successful in your application, 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.

The View and Prove service can also be used to share and evidence your rights in the UK at any time – for example the right to work or study – by giving organisations or people, such as employers or universities, access to the relevant information about your immigration status. This is a fully secure, simple service which enables you to view up to date information about your immigration status at any time. You will be able to access your immigration status information online instead of receiving a physical visa or permit card.

Identity verification – Visa Application Centre

If you do not have a biometric passport or access to a compatible smartphone, or if ID verification through the app is not yet available for the route you are applying through, you will need to attend a Visa Application Centre. You should still start your application on GOV.UK – if you are directed to attend a Visa Application Centre you will be given further information about this process and what documents you will need to provide upon your visit.

You can find your nearest **Visa Application Centre** on GOV.UK.

Demonstrating your immigration status

If you complete identity verification at a Visa Application Centre and are successful in your application, you will receive a sticker (sometimes called a vignette) in your passport and will be granted a **Biometric Residence Permit** after your arrival in the UK. This will allow you to use some online services on GOV.UK, such as evidencing your right to work.

Travelling to the UK

When making your journey to the UK, you will need to travel with the same document you made your application with. For example, if you use your biometric passport to apply, you will need to travel using this.

Tops tips for using the UK Immigration: ID Check app

- Start your application on GOV.UK before using the app. You will be told when you need to connect to the app
- If you are applying using a compatible smartphone, you will be directed to download the app, or if you have downloaded it already, the app will open
- If you are applying on a computer or laptop, you will need to download and open the app and use the smartphone's camera to scan a QR code
- Make sure you have a steady internet connection, via 3G, 4G or WIFI
- Make sure you remove any cases from your passport and your phone
- You will need to take a picture of the photo page of your passport. You can hold your passport like a book – this makes it easier to take the image and help avoid glare. It's important that you get the strip of numbers and letters at the bottom of the page in to your picture
- To scan the chip in your passport, don't hover your device over your passport – place it directly on top
- The chip is located in different places in different documents. You might need to move your device around slowly until you receive the 'accessing chip' message. This might take you a couple of goes.

You can find further information and apply for UK work and study visas online at GOV.UK.

If you are experiencing problems with the application process, you can find relevant **contact details** on GOV.UK.

