



visabytes

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Lifting of restrictions for Chefs

Currently, restaurants that have a take away or banqueting service have been barred from bringing in chefs. However this restriction has been removed.

Shift for International Students

The Home Office announced today that international students will be allowed to stay in the UK for two years after graduating from university to find a job. Under the previous immigration rules, spearheaded by then Prime Minister Theresa May, overseas students were forced to leave the country a mere 4 months after finishing their degree.

It will be available to students starting in the next academic year, i.e. September 2020. Whether current students already on courses in the UK will also benefit from the rule change remains unknown.

It will also be possible for Tier 4 students to apply to switch to the Tier 2 route within 3 months of the expected end date of their course to enable them to start work on completion of the course.



Maria Fernandes

Tier 2 Changes

PHD level occupations will be exempt from Tier 2 annual limits (cap).

Furthermore for these positions, those who undertake research overseas related to their employment may do so without their absences being taken into account.

Tier 2 migrants will no longer be penalised if they are absent due to sickness, parental leave or assisting in a national or international or environmental crisis. If their salary drops as a result this will not affect their application.

English Tests

Doctors, dentists, nurses and midwives will not need to sit an approved language test if they have already passed a test accepted by their professional regulatory body.

Life in the UK test / approved English tests

There will no longer be a requirement to provide original documents relating to English tests but applicants will need to provide the unique reference number instead.

Expansion of the Shortage Occupation List

Immigration Rules have been amended to increase the range of skilled occupations on the Shortage Occupation list.

Jobs on the list are exempt from the Resident Labour Market Test requirement, are given higher priority within the Tier 2 (General) annual limit, and jobholders whose occupations are on the list are exempt from the relevant Tier 2 earnings threshold when they apply for indefinite leave to remain (although they must still be paid the appropriate rate for the occupation).

This list will be extended to include a range of professions such as veterinarians, architects and web designers which will give those coming to the UK to work in these industries, alongside the industries already on the list, priority in securing a Tier 2 work Visa.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens

If you're an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, you and your family can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. If your application is successful, you'll get either settled or pre-settled status. The deadline for applying is 30 June 2021.

The rights and status of EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK will remain the same until 30 June 2021, if the UK leaves the EU with a deal.

The EEA includes the EU countries and also Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

If you apply to the EU Settlement Scheme successfully, you'll be able to continue living and working in the UK after 30 June 2021.

You'll be given either:

- settled status
- pre-settled status

You will not be asked to choose which you're applying for. Which status you get depends on how long you've been living in the UK when you apply. Your rights will be different depending on which status you get.

Settled status

You'll usually get settled status if you've:

- started living in the UK by 31 December 2020 (or by the date the UK leaves the EU without a deal)
- lived in the UK for a continuous 5-year period (known as 'continuous residence')

Five years' continuous residence means that for 5 years in a row you've been in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for at least 6 months in any 12 month period. The exceptions are:

- one period of up to 12 months for an important reason (for example, childbirth, serious illness, study, vocational training or an overseas work posting)
- compulsory military service of any length
- time you spent abroad as a Crown servant, or as the family member of a Crown servant
- time you spent abroad in the armed forces, or as the family member of someone in the armed forces

You can stay in the UK as long as you like if you get settled status. You'll also be able to apply for British citizenship if you're eligible.

Pre-settled status

If you do not have 5 years' continuous residence when you apply, you'll usually get pre-settled status. You must have started living in the UK by 31 December 2020 (or by the date the UK leaves the EU without a deal).

You can then apply to change this to settled status once you've got 5 years' continuous residence.

If you'll reach 5 years' continuous residence at some point before 30 December 2020, you can choose to wait to apply until you reach 5 years' continuous residence. This means that if your application is successful, you'll get settled status without having to apply for pre-settled status first.

You can stay in the UK for a further 5 years from the date you get pre-settled status.

Your rights with settled or pre-settled status

You'll be able to:

- work in the UK
- use the NHS
- enrol in education or continue studying
- access public funds such as benefits and pensions, if you're eligible for them
- travel in and out of the UK

If you want to spend time outside 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're a Swiss citizen, you and 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 if you want to qualify for settled status.

If you have children after applying

If you get settled status, any children born in the UK while you're living here will automatically be British citizens.

If you get pre-settled status, any children born in the UK will be automatically eligible for pre-settled status. They will only be a British citizen if they qualify for it through their other parent.

If you want to bring family members to the UK

Your close family members can join you in the UK before 31 December 2020 (or before 31 December 2025 for spouses and civil partners of Swiss citizens). They'll need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme once they're here.

You may still be able to bring family members after 31 December 2020. It will depend on where you're from, when your relationship with your family member started, and whether the UK leaves the EU with or without a deal.

If you cannot bring your family member under the EU Settlement Scheme, they may still be able to come here in a different way, for example on a family visa.

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal

If you're a citizen of an EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland, you'll be able to bring close family members to the UK after 31 December 2020 if both of the following apply:

- your relationship with them began before 31 December 2020
- you are still in the relationship when they apply to join you

If you're a Swiss citizen, you'll also be able to bring your spouse or civil partner to the UK until 31 December 2025 if both of the following apply:

- your relationship with them began before 31 December 2025
- you are still in the relationship when they apply to join you

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal

If you're an EU citizen, the deadline for close family members joining you in the UK is 29 March 2022. You'll only be able to bring them here if:

- your relationship with them began before the UK left the EU
- you are still in the relationship when they apply to join you

If you're a citizen of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland, you'll be able to bring close family members after the UK leaves the EU if both the following apply:

- your relationship with them began before the UK left the EU
- you are still in the relationship when they apply to join you

Would you pass the Life in the UK test?

What important event happened in England in 1066?

- a. The Romans left England
- b. The building of the Offa Dyke
- c. The Norman invasion
- d. The Battle of Bannockburn

What type of government was formed after the General Election of 2010?

- a. National
- b. All-party
- c. One-party
- d. Coalition

True or False: the Union Flag comprises of four crosses, one for each part of the United Kingdom?

True or False: the daffodil is the national flower of Wales?

Answers: c, d, false, true

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