



## UK Visas & Immigration – EU Citizens

### **Frequently asked questions:**

#### **1. Do EU citizens have to pay for a visa, and how much does it cost?**

Yes, those seeking to move to the UK to live, work or study will need to meet specific requirements and apply for a visa and will need to pay an application fee. The current fees can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/visa-fees>. Those travelling to the UK as visitors for up to 6 months will not require a visa.

#### **2. Are there additional costs?**

Some applicants will also have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), which will enable them to access the UK's National Health Service (NHS). The IHS is only applicable for those seeking leave to enter the UK for a period of over six months. Visitors to the UK for a duration of under six months are not liable for IHS.

IHS costs are calculated based on the length of proposed stay in the UK and the duration of your visa. Customers are required to meet the costs of their IHS in advance of obtaining their visa. IHS payments can be made via the link [here](#).

For people coming to work in the UK in some cases there will be an additional payment of the Immigration Skills Charge. Further information on the Immigration Skills Charge is available [here](#).

#### **3. How long do applications take?**

The processing times for applications vary depending on the visa you are applying for and the service available. Further details on waiting times can be found [here](#).

You must apply and receive confirmation that you have been successful before you travel to the UK.

#### **4. When can EU Citizens apply for their visa?**

The earliest applicants can apply is usually:

- three months before your employment start date for most work visas.
- six months before your course start date for Student and Child Student visas.

#### **5. If an EU citizen is coming to the UK for less than six months, how much work can they do? For example, can they come for a seasonal job?**

Certain EU nationals can apply for a [seasonal agricultural worker visa](#).

Further information on activities that can be undertaken on a standard visit visa can be found [here](#).

## **6. If an EU citizen is coming to the UK for less than six months to study, can they undertake a full-time short-term course for the entire six months of their stay?**

Short term student is a permitted activity under the visitor visa route. Visitors may study for up to six months at an accredited institution, provided the study is not at a state funded school or academy

Further information on permitted activities for visitors can be found [here](#).

## **7. Do the same rules apply to EU citizens who were resident in the UK before 31 December 2021?**

No, EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who were resident in the UK on or before 31 December 2020 should not apply for a visa under the point-based immigration system. These citizens, and their family members, should [apply to the EU Settlement Scheme](#). Applications are free and the deadline for applying is 30 June 2021.

## **8. Who should applicants contact if they have a problem?**

Local Embassies, High Commissions, Consulates and British Council Offices cannot assist with individual applications. Customers who want to find out more information are advised to visit [GOV.UK](#) in the first instance. If their enquiry is about an appointment at a Visa Application Centre, they should visit the relevant country page on [TLS contact](#).

If customers have any problems completing their application, they can call the help centre using the following services:

Telephone: +44 (0)300 790 6268

- Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays), 8am to 8pm UK local time  
Saturday and Sunday, 9:30am to 4:30pm UK local time  
[Find out about call charges](#)
- If you cannot contact UK 0300 numbers, use +44 (0)203 875 4669

Online: [use the online help form](#)

- You'll need your unique application number or reference number, which will be in any emails you received about your application
- UKVI will aim to contact you within 5 working days with an answer to your problem, or to ask for more information

## **Applying for a visa**

### **1. How do EU Citizens apply for a visa?**

First check whether you require a visa using the online tool: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>. If you require a visa you can apply online at: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-come-to-the-uk>.

Customers start their application online and then complete the necessary identify verification via the UK Immigration: ID Check App. This replaces the need to attend a Visa Application Centre.

### **2. What is the UK Immigration: ID Check App (Chip-checker)?**

The UK Immigration: ID Check App is a downloadable app that is used to complete the identity stage of your application to enter the UK.

The UK Immigration: ID Check App will check that your identity document is genuine and verify that the document belongs to you. When accessing the UK Immigration: ID Check App, you must use your biometric passport from an EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland.

The App will only work once you start your application online at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). When you get to the identity verification stage you will be told to open or download it.

### **3. How do customers use the ID Check App?**

Customers can download the free, easy to use App before they start their online application. To be eligible for this journey EEA Nationals must have:

- A biometric passport
- Android 6.0 and above or an iPhone 7, 7 Plus or newer, iOS 13.2 or later (customers can borrow a friend / family phone) and be connected to 3G, 4G or WiFi
- Be applying for a Pointed Based Immigration System route - Skilled Worker, Intra-Company Routes, Student/Child Student, Global Talent, Innovator and Start-Up (and EEA dependants of those routes) will all be able to use the App.
- Initially, the current Tier 5 routes and the Seasonal Worker Scheme won't be available for App use. In addition, Tier 2, Minister of Religion and Sports person applicants won't use the digital approach either

### **4. Do these customers get a vignette in their passport or a permit card?**

Those who complete their application using the ID Check App, will not get a physical vignette in their passport. Instead they will be able to access, and prove, their immigration status online via the [View and Prove service](#) on GOV.UK.

### **5. Is the UK immigration: ID Check App available for everyone to use?**

No. At this stage use of the UK Immigration: ID Check App is only available to EEA nationals applying in eligible routes and with access to relevant technology.

Our long-term aim is that all visitors and migrants to the UK will provide their biometric facial images and fingerprints under a single global immigration system. To maximise customer

convenience and security, we will increasingly look to provide capabilities for biometric self-enrolment, integrated within digital application processes for immigration products.

## **6. How can I find out more information about the UK immigration: ID Check App and how it works?**

Full details on using the UK Immigration: ID Check App, including a link to a video walk-through, can be found on GOV.UK [here](#).

## **7. What percentage of applications from EU Nationals do you expect to use the UK Immigration: ID Check App (Chip-checker)?**

Up to 90% of EEA national applications are expected to use the UK Immigration: ID Check App and receive digital status, therefore avoiding the need to attend a VAC appointment, submit their passport, or obtain a visa vignette prior to travel. We expect that only a small proportion of EEA customers will need to attend a VAC appointment and that our VAC network is sufficiently resourced to manage this increase in footfall.

## **8. If I cannot finish my application in full, can I return to the UK Immigration: ID Check App and complete it later?**

Yes. If you have started your application and are unable to complete it straight away, you have the option to complete it later. You will need to submit your identity details in the UK Immigration: ID Check App before logging off. When ready, you can then log in again to your application dashboard and recommence your application.

## **9. What happens once I have completed my application via the UK Immigration: ID Check App?**

Once you have completed your application, you will receive an acknowledgment from UKVI and will be returned to your application dashboard. From there you can return to the application task list.

## **10. If I try to use the UK Immigration: ID Check App and I am not eligible, will I automatically be redirected to attend a Visa Application Centre (VAC)?**

Yes. If the ID Check App has been unable to verify your ID document, you will be invited to try again. If you are unsuccessful after a repeat attempt, you will automatically be redirected to complete your application online and attend a VAC to submit your biometrics.

## **11. If I am redirected to attend a VAC, will I need to restart my application again?**

Yes, you will have to restart the application process again if you are redirected to attend a VAC because you are not eligible to use the UK Immigration: ID Check App.

You will have to complete and submit your online application before you can select a VAC appointment.

## **12. How many VACs are there in Europe?**

There are 50 VACs across Europe. For the most up to date information on locations and opening information check visit the [TLS contact](#) page.

## **13. Why are some VACs free to use, whilst others attract a User Pay fee?**

VAC contracts with our commercial partners aim to provide a platform to deliver a world class customer experience. To increase access to our visa services overseas, we considered how we best support our operation and our customers, including through consideration of opening hours in some locations, and User Pay services in developing markets.

We continue to offer a free to use service in many VAC locations but in some of our low volume VAC locations we will require our customers to contribute towards the cost of running the service through an additional User Pay fee. This enables us to retain application points in locations where it would not otherwise be affordable to operate a service.

All customers have the option of applying at the nearest free to use VAC, but will need to arrange their own travel to/from the selected VAC.

## **14. Can I pay for priority or super priority services when applying using the UK Immigration: ID Check App via the App?**

If you are using the App you **will not** have the option to be able to pay for priority or super priority services. However, applying through the App is a fast, efficient and completely digital process, without the need to attend a VAC. Therefore, customers already benefit from an expedited service.

If you are applying via a VAC, many locations offer Priority and/or Super Priority visa services. These are chargeable services in addition to the standard visa fee. Details on the availability of priority visa services can be found on the [TLS contact](#) page.

## **15. What about third country nationals living in the EU?**

The process for non-EEA nationals and third country nationals living in EEA countries remains largely unchanged. They will still apply for their visa online, attend a VAC appointment and receive a vignette, however they will be able to access some online services on GOV.UK such as evidencing the right to work.

The addition of EEA nationals to the wider visa system will not impact the service that non-EEA national receive.