UK Visas & Immigration – EU Citizens

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) is responsible for making millions of decisions every year about who has the right to visit, work or stay in the country

Globally UKVI issues nearly 4 million visas per year

It is estimated that in this year 160,000 visas will be issued to EU nationals enabling them to live, work and study in the UK

Key facts for EU Citizens

- From 1 January 2021, EU citizens (aside from Irish citizens) who want to move to the UK to live, work or study will need to meet specific requirements and apply for a visa **before** they arrive
- EU citizens do **not** need a visa for visits up to six months; this includes holidays, short term study, limited business activities or family visits. EU nationals can seek permission to enter the UK as a visitor on arrival at port or use the e-gates. Guidance on what you can do in the UK as a standard visitor can be found [here](#)
- The vast majority, **90 percent**, of EU citizens applying for a visa should be able to complete their **entire application online** using the [UK Immigration: ID Check App](#) to verify their identity. This means they will not need to go to a Visa Application Centre, submit their passport or obtain a visa vignette prior to travel
- This visa process does not apply to EU citizens currently living in the UK. They are eligible to apply for the [EU Settlement Scheme](#)

How do EU citizens apply for a visa?

- First check whether they require a visa using the online tool: https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa.
- Applicants who require a visa can apply for their visa online at https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-come-to-the-uk.
- The vast majority of EU applicants will be able to complete their entire application online using the UK Immigration: ID Check App to verify their identity and will be guided through the entire process online. These applicants will receive digital status, which can be reviewed online, and will not receive a vignette in their passport.
- A small number of applicants will need to visit a Visa Application Centre to submit their biometric data to enable them to complete their application.
- There are 50 Visa Application Centres across Europe. Visit [TLS contact](#) to find local Visa Application Centres and their opening times