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## CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND BREXIT - THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME

There is a lot of information sources on the EU Settlement Scheme which opens fully after the UK leaves the EU (29 March 2019 to date). This section provides:

- A list of the most useful UK government and EU resources for guidance for UK citizens and EU citizens on their rights during any transition period and after Brexit
- a summary of the key points of the new EU Settlement Scheme
- more detail on the EU Settlement Scheme application process

## USEFUL OFFICIAL RESOURCES

### UK government resources

- **General information on Brexit:** information about EU exit including the article 50 process, negotiations and announcements about policy changes as a result of EU exit  
[www.gov.uk/government/brexit](http://www.gov.uk/government/brexit)
- **Prepare for EU exit: information for individuals, businesses, UK citizens in the EU and EU citizens in the UK**  
[euexit.campaign.gov.uk/?gclid=CjwKCAiA2fjjBRAjEiwAuewS\\_bVDMiYDzl0dorjA-cEwHaS6iduC2LxpNosFexHqi-tbHYg7kp5PFBoCuxsQAvD\\_BwE&gclid=aw.ds](http://euexit.campaign.gov.uk/?gclid=CjwKCAiA2fjjBRAjEiwAuewS_bVDMiYDzl0dorjA-cEwHaS6iduC2LxpNosFexHqi-tbHYg7kp5PFBoCuxsQAvD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds)
- **Information for EU citizens in the UK: the EU settlement scheme**, who is eligible to apply, when and how to apply:  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit/leaflet-important-information-for-eu-citizens-in-the-uk](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit/leaflet-important-information-for-eu-citizens-in-the-uk)
- **Information for EU citizens in the UK: the employer toolkit**  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-employer-toolkit](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-employer-toolkit)
- **How to prepare for Brexit if the UK leaves the EU with no deal**  
[www.gov.uk/government/collections/how-to-prepare-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/how-to-prepare-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal)
- You can sign up for **regular email alerts from the UK government** here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/email-signup/?topic=/government/brexit>
- There is guidance and support for community groups - the **community leaders toolkit** equips community groups and local authorities with the right tools and information to support EU citizens and their families to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit)

## Resources from the European Union

- EU citizens' rights and Brexit: information from the European Commission Representation in London  
[https://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/services/your-rights/Brexit\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/services/your-rights/Brexit_en)
- A website dedicated to the **rights of EU citizens living in the UK**  
<http://www.eurights.uk/>
- Help and advice for **EU nationals and their families in all EU countries** – *available in all EU languages*  
<http://europa.eu/youreurope/index.htm>
- The European Commission have produced a set of very helpful **video clips** on the impact of Brexit, on citizens' rights and on the EUSS  
[ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/news/videos\\_en](ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/news/videos_en)
- Information on **travel in Europe including travel documents, driving in Europe, passenger rights**  
[https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/index\\_en.htm](https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/index_en.htm)
- **UK European Consumer Centre** – information on travel and shopping in Europe  
<https://www.ukecc.net/>

## EUSS – KEY POINTS<sup>1</sup>

In line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement, if you are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, **you and your family members** will need to apply to the **EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)** to continue living in the UK after 31 December 2020. The information below relates to the scheme when it fully opens by 30 March 2019.

The EUSS will allow you and your family to continue to live, study and work in the UK. It means you will continue to be eligible for:

- public services, such as healthcare and schools
- public funds and pensions
- British citizenship, if you meet the requirements and want to apply
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### Eligibility

You need to be an EU citizen or a non-EU family member of an EU citizen. This includes those with a UK permanent residence document. You do not need to apply if you have indefinite leave to remain or enter, or you are an Irish citizen, but you can if you want to.

You need to be a resident in the UK by 31 December 2020. If you have been a resident in the UK for more than 5 continuous years (i.e. no absence of more than six months in any one year) when you apply, you will be eligible for settled status. If you have been a resident for less than 5 years when you apply, you will be eligible for pre-settled status.

You must not be a serious or persistent criminal, or a threat to national security.

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<sup>1</sup> Extracts from UK government website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-employer-toolkit/factsheet-eu-settlement-scheme-overview>

## Family members

The EU Settlement Scheme covers all EU citizens living in the UK and their family members. Family members do not need to be from the EU; they can come from anywhere in the world (referred to as non-EU citizen family members).

## EUSS – APPLICATION PROCESS

To get your new immigration status, you need to fill in a short online application form using a computer, tablet or an app on an Android mobile phone. You can download the app onto your Android device. You can get full details and help with how to use the app here:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-eu-exit-id-document-check-app](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-eu-exit-id-document-check-app)

If you choose to use the app, you will be asked to verify your identity by using the **EU Exit: ID Document Check app** during your application under the EUSS.

The app will

- check that your identity document is genuine
- verify that the document belongs to you

You must use either

- your EU biometric passport if you are an EU citizen
- your UK residence card with a biometric chip if you are the non-EU family member of an EU citizen

Note that when you are granted pre-settled or settled status, you will not get a document or stamp in your passport. Your status under the scheme will be recorded electronically on Home Office systems. You can view your status as soon as you get a decision on your application. You can go to your online profile to

- view your status
- understand your rights
- update your details

In the future, you will also be able to prove your rights to others online.

There will be support available if you need help to complete the online application form when the EUSS opens fully. If you need help you use the app, there is information about the government's Assisted Digital Service and a list of scanner locations you can go to here:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-assisted-digital-service/eu-settlement-scheme-assisted-digital-service](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-assisted-digital-service/eu-settlement-scheme-assisted-digital-service)



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