

Pre-settled Status

EU nationals and their family members will be eligible for Pre-settled Status if:

- They started to reside in the UK before 31 December 2020;
- They have been living in the UK for less than 5 years;
- At the date of the application, they have not been absent from the UK for 6 months or more;
- They have not been subject to an exclusion or removal or deportation order;
- They pass the criminal record check;

Watch [“Can I apply to the EU Settlement Scheme if I have a criminal record?”](#) for more information on criminal convictions.

The Pre-settled status entitles the EEA nationals and their family members to reside in the UK for up to 5 years from the date it is acquired. Anyone with pre-settled status will be able to apply for settled status once they reach 5 years of continuous residence. You must apply to Settled Status before your Pre-settled status expires, as this is not automatic.

Pre-settled status expires if you are absent from the UK for 2 consecutive years, but if you break your continuous residence you won't be able to apply for Settled status when your pre-settled status expires.