

## Family member of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals (new)

If you are a **close family member** of a citizen of EU, EEA or Switzerland, or their spouse or civil partner, who started residing in the UK by 31 December 2020, your relationship with them **started before 31 December 2020 and still exists**, you can apply under the EU Settlement Scheme to join them in the UK.

### Who can apply as a family member under the EUSS?

The categories of family members of relevant EEA citizen who can apply are:

- spouse
- civil partner
- durable partner (explained below)
- child, grandchild or great-grandchild (including of the spouse or civil partner) under 21 years old or over 21 years old if dependent (explained below)
- dependent parent, grandparent or great-grandparent (including of the spouse or civil partner)

### How to apply?

If you are **EU EEA or Switzerland**, you can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme using the **Home Office's "EU Exit: ID Document Check" app**, using a valid passport or identity card with a biometric chip. You can then complete and submit your application online .

If you do not have a biometric id document or you are not able to use the app to scan your passport/ID, you can still make an online application, but you will need to post your original document to the Home Office.

If you are not **EU EEA or Switzerland**, you must hold a relevant UK document to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, for example a residence card, a permanent residence card or a derivative residence card.

If you do not have any UK document, you need to apply for an **EU Settlement Scheme Family Permit** to come to the UK. Once you are in the UK, you can apply for the EU Settlement Scheme **within 3 months**.

## The EU Settlement Scheme Family Permit explained

A family permit makes it easier to travel with your family member to the UK or to join them there.

It allows you come to the UK for **up to 6 months**. You can **work and study**, and come and go as many times as you want before the permit expires.

**You must apply outside from the UK.**

## “Durable partner” explained

If you’re an unmarried partner, you’ll need to provide evidence that you were in your long-term relationship by 31 December 2020. You’ll also need to provide evidence that **you’re still in the relationship** when you apply.

According to the HO Guidance, the easiest way to prove a “durable relationship” with the relevant EEA citizen (or qualifying British citizen or relevant sponsor) is *having lived together in a relationship akin to a marriage or civil partnership for at least 2 years*. But this is a *rule of thumb, not a requirement*. Therefore, instead of the cohabitation, you can provide other significant evidence of the durable relationship.

## “Dependency” explained

The concept of “dependency” includes all cases where the applicant is in need of financial or other material support (i.e. medical support) from the relevant EEA citizen (or qualifying British citizen or relevant sponsor) or of the spouse or civil partner.

The dependency must be demonstrated by relevant financial, medical or other documentary evidence, such as bank statements or money transfers (financial dependence) or a letter from a hospital consultant (serious health grounds).