

# Applying for settled status if you have pre-settled status

## This guide helps you to:

- Apply for settled status
- Understand the rules
- Gather the right documents
- Answer common questions

A confident computer or smartphone user, such as a family member or friend, can help you go through this guide.

If you have pre-settled status and want to continue living and working in the UK indefinitely, **you must apply for settled status**, which protects your right to:

- Live, work, study in the UK
- Use the NHS
- Access benefits and pensions
- Travel freely
- Stay outside the UK for up to 5 years without losing your status

**Disclaimer:** This guide only covers residence requirements. Seek legal advice if you have a complex case.

If you need further support, check the back of this leaflet.

## When and how to apply

You can apply for settled status once you've lived **continuously in the UK for 5 years**, starting from the day you moved here, not the day you got your pre-settled status.

We recommend applying for settled status as soon as you can.

You need to submit a **new application**, by following the steps below:

1. Download the EU Exit: ID Document Check App on your smartphone and follow the procedure. Take a photo of yourself, scan and find a chip on your biometric document (e.g. passport).
2. Once you finish the identity check, fill out your application online and use this link to access it anytime: <https://apply-to-visit-or-stay-in-the-uk.homeoffice.gov.uk/euss>
3. Insert your pre-settled status Unique Application Number (UAN). It is a 16-digit number that starts with 3434-. You can find it in the "Status Outcome" letter confirming your pre-settled status.
4. Insert your National Insurance Number, if you have it, to allow the Home Office to run an automatic check with HMRC and DWP.
5. Upload evidence of residence in the UK, if needed.



## Residence Requirements

To qualify for settled status, you must show that you have lived in the UK for five years. There are two ways the Home Office checks this:

### Option 1: Continuous Residence (6/12 rule)

You must have:

- Started living in the UK before 31 December 2020
- Lived in the UK for at least 5 continuous years
- During each 12-month period, you have not been absent from the UK for more than 6 months in total, unless an exception applies

Exceptions are allowed in specific situations, such as one single absence of more than 6 months but less than 12 months is permitted for an important reason (Covid-19, serious illness, pregnancy or childbirth, study or vocational training, or an overseas work posting).

You need to provide evidence justifying your absences, such as a letter from the hospital, school, employer, positive COVID-19 tests, etc.

*Even if you were absent from the UK for more than 6 months in any given year, you may still qualify for settled status if you can show that your total time in the UK over the last 5 years is at least 2.5 years.*

### Option 2: Flexible Residence (30/60 rule)

You must have:

- A valid pre-settled status
- Moved to the UK at least five years before the date of the application
- In the last 60 months (5 years), you have resided in the UK for a total of at least 30 months (2.5 years)
- Long absences are allowed, as long as your total physical presence in the UK adds up to 30 months



**Watch out for absences:** If you left the UK for 2 years in a row (without ever returning to the UK) before 21 May 2024, your pre-settled status has automatically expired. Seek legal advice if this is your case and you still live in the UK.

## How to prove your UK evidence

The Home Office may ask you for more evidence of your UK residence by email. You can also click “View the years you need to provide evidence for” at the end of your application. **If you can’t find additional evidence of your residence in the UK, seek legal advice.**

All documents must show your **full name, UK address**, and be **dated**.

### Accepted evidence includes:

- Bank statements with in-person transactions (e.g. Tesco purchase, TFL Travel, etc.). Direct debits and online payments might not be accepted
- Council tax, utility bills (e.g. gas, electricity, water, TV licence, etc.)
- Tenancy agreement with proof of payment
- Payslips, contracts, or letters from employer
- Letters from HMRC, DWP, NHS
- Letters from school, university or other professional course provider
- Used travel tickets (e.g. boarding passes)
- Any other evidence to prove your physical presence in the UK



**No** screenshots



PDFs or scans/photos **only**

You can upload a maximum of 10 documents (max. 6MB) to show evidence of UK residence. If you sign out and back in later, you can upload more documents.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Do I need a valid biometric passport or ID card to apply?

Yes, you usually need a valid (not expired) ID document to apply. If your document has expired, seek legal advice and contact your Consulate/Embassy to renew it as soon as possible.

For non-EU family members: Biometric Residence Cards can still be used via the App when they expired less than 18 months before.

### What happens after I apply?

After you submit your application for settled status, you will **not** receive a Certificate of Application. You can continue to use your pre-settled status to prove your rights in the UK until a decision on your application has been made.

### Is there a deadline?

No, but you should apply for settled status as soon as you are eligible for it, and before your pre-settled status expires.

### Can my application be refused?

Yes, if you do not provide sufficient evidence. However, the Home Office will **always** ask for additional evidence before refusing your application. If you cannot find evidence of your residence in the UK, seek legal advice. You have the right to appeal a refusal decision.

### Will my child obtain settled status automatically after I apply?

No, each child must submit an independent application. You can link their application to yours using the UAN linked to your settled status application.

Children born in the UK to a parent with settled status are automatically British.

### Can I apply for settled status if the relationship with my sponsor broke down?

In some cases, you can still apply for settled status if you have a retained right of residence. Seek legal advice.



**Scan the below QR code with your mobile  
phone camera to access more information**



For additional support, you can contact the EU Settlement Resolution Centre (Home Office) by phone at 0300 123 7379 (or +44 300 790 6268 if calling from outside the UK).

You can also reach them through their online web chat:  
<https://ukimmigration-support-webchat.homeoffice.gov.uk/euss>.

You can contact UK Visas and Immigration using their online form:  
<https://www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk>.

**The information in this leaflet is accurate as of:  
09.12.2025**