In line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement, if you are an EU citizen*, you and your family members will be able to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 31 December 2020. The information in this leaflet relates to the scheme when it fully opens by 30 March 2019.

**What is the EU Settlement Scheme?**

The EU Settlement Scheme allows you and your family members to continue to live, work and study in the UK. It means you 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.

**Who is eligible?**

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**Family members of eligible EU citizens**

Non-EU family members living in the UK by 31 December 2020 are eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Close family members who are not living in the UK by 31 December 2020 will be able to join their EU family member in the UK at any point in the future, as long as the relationship still exists.

**Did you know:** 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. Your family members from outside the UK and Ireland will need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. If you have a UK permanent residence document you will still need to apply.

* EU citizens used throughout refers to EEA and Swiss nationals, who are all eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.
Who are ‘close family members’?

Close family members include spouses, civil partners, unmarried partners, dependant children and grandchildren, and dependant parents and grandparents. 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 member).

Settled status and pre-settled status

If you have been resident in the UK for more than five continuous years you will be eligible for settled status. If you receive settled status this means there is no time limit on how long you can stay in the UK.

If you have been a resident for less than five years you will be eligible for pre-settled status. If you receive pre-settled status this means you can stay in the UK for a period of five years. This will allow you to remain in the UK until you are eligible for settled status, generally once you have lived continuously in the UK for five years.

How do I apply?

To get settled status or pre-settled status, you will need to fill in a short online application form using a computer, tablet or mobile phone. The application will ask for basic factual information like your name, address and reference numbers such as your passport, national identity card or National Insurance number.

The application

Verify your identity and nationality by scanning your passport, national identity card, or biometric residence card (if you are a non-EU citizen). You will also have to upload a photograph of yourself. Alternatively, you can send relevant documentation by post.

Confirm your residence. Provide your National Insurance number, if you have one. In some cases, other documentation may need to be provided. You can upload these to your application.

Complete the criminality check by declaring any criminal convictions. Only serious or persistent criminality will affect your application.

Successful applicants will get digital proof of their status through an online service. Subject to the application checks, you will be granted settled or pre-settled status, depending on how long you have lived here. In most cases your new immigration status will be granted within a couple of weeks. Once you receive your status, details will be provided on how to access it on GOV.UK. You will not get a physical document unless you are from outside the EU and do not already have a biometric residence card.
Support
There will be support available over the phone or in person if you need help to complete the online application form, including contact centre support if you have questions about your individual application. For more information on the support available visit GOV.UK.

When can I apply?
The EU Settlement Scheme will fully open by 30 March 2019. In line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement, you will be able to apply until 30 June 2021 and your rights will remain unchanged until then, provided that you were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020.

Where can I find out more?

GOV.UK
Visit the website gov.uk/eu-settled-status to:
- get email alerts
- get more detail on the EU Settlement Scheme
- find out about next steps and citizenship