



Home Office

International students communications

Partner pack

December 2020



Introduction

Dear partner,

The UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020. On 31 December 2020 freedom of movement will end and from 1 January 2021, the UK will implement a points-based immigration system.

International students can now apply to the new Student route under the new points-based immigration system. This includes EU, EEA and Swiss students, who from 1 January 2021 will be subject to immigration rules.

The new and improved Student route improves on the previous Tier 4 route making for a more streamlined experience for both sponsoring institutions and students.

We recognise the end of free movement and the introduction of the points-based immigration system is a big change for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens. The Home Office communications team has launched a multi-channel communications campaign, which has been translated across 24 EU languages. The campaign directs EU, EEA and Swiss citizens to [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) where they have access to further information about the new system in their native language, including detailed information about working, studying and visiting the UK from 1 January 2021.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens resident in the UK before 31 December 2020 should not apply under the points-based immigration system. They are eligible to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme and should apply free of charge by 30 June 2021 to continue living in the UK.

This pack will provide you with key information for international students about the new Student route and the EU Settlement Scheme.

Please use the contents of this pack to update information on your own website and further cascade information via your own channels. We thank you for your support.



Please note that 'EU citizens' referred to in this pack and across the campaign should be read to include EU, EEA and Swiss citizens.

Key messages 1

- Freedom of movement between the UK and EU ends on 31 December 2020 and from 1st January 2021 the UK will implement a points-based immigration system.
- International students, including EU, EEA and Swiss citizens, can now apply for their visa to study in the UK in 2021, through the new and improved Student route which forms part of the UK's points-based immigration system. Apply on [**GOV.UK**](https://www.gov.uk)
- All prospective international students, including EU, EEA and Swiss nationals coming to the UK on or after 1 January 2021 will need to apply to the [**Student route**](#), or the [**Child Student route**](#) if they are aged between 4-17 years old. Further guidance for EU/EEA and Swiss students can be found [**here**](#).
- EU, EEA and Swiss students and their family members who are resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 are eligible to apply to the [**EU Settlement Scheme**](#) and should not apply under the points-based immigration system. EU citizens must have started living in the UK by 31 December 2020 to be eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme and should apply by 30 June 2021. Students should still apply to the EU Settlement Scheme even if they do not intend to stay in the UK long-term. It is free to apply and applications can be made online on [**GOV.UK**](https://www.gov.uk)
- EU, EEA and Swiss students can continue to visit the UK for up to 6 months without applying for a visa and may participate in short term study.

Key messages 2

- All students applying to the new Student route through the points-based immigration system, will need to demonstrate they meet the required 70 points. They will achieve the required points if they can demonstrate that they have an offer from an approved educational institution and have been issued a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) by their sponsor before making an application to the Student route, speak English and are able to support themselves during their studies in the UK.
- A Student visa will cost £348 if applied for outside the UK and students will also need to pay the **Immigration Health Surcharge** as part of their application, which gives migrants access to the UK's National Health Service on generally the same basis as a UK permanent resident. Students will receive a 25% discount on the Immigration Health Surcharge. The Immigration Health Surcharge increased on 27 October 2020 and the discounted rate for Student visa holders is £470.
- The UK has a world-leading education sector and will continue to welcome talented and high potential international students. There will be no limit on the number of international students who can come to the UK to study, and we will seek to increase the number of international students in higher education as set out in the International Education Strategy published in March 2019.
- We are also making it easier for the best international graduates to secure skilled jobs in the UK with our new Graduate route, which will allow international students who have completed undergraduate and master's degrees in the UK to stay for 2 years and those who have completed a PhD to stay for 3 years.

Specific audience messaging

To help you communicate more effectively and make sure students receive the right message based on their situation, we have provided some more specific messaging below.

(1) Non-EU, EEA and Swiss

- The UK's new and improved **Student route**, which falls under the UK's new points-based immigration system, is now open for applications. The Student route improves on the previous Tier 4 route making for a more streamlined experience for international students. Visas that have been issued through the Tier 4 route are still valid and those eligible will still be able to apply for the Graduate Route when it opens in summer 2021.

(2) EU, EEA and Swiss students applying this year (2020), to start their course in the UK next year (2021)

- You will need to apply for a student visa through the new points-based immigration system. You can apply up to 6 months in advance of your course starting. Further guidance for EU, EEA and Swiss students can be found **here**.

(3) EU, EEA and Swiss students who have started / are starting their course this year (2020) and who will arrive in the UK by 31 December 2020

- If you arrive in the UK by 31 December 2020, apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by 30 June 2021 to continue living in the UK. More information on the EU Settlement Scheme can be found **here**.

Specific audience messaging

(4) EU, EEA and Swiss students who have started / are starting their course this year (2020) but have deferred travel until next year (2021)

- If you are unable to enter the UK by 31 December 2020 and will arrive in the UK from 1 January 2021, you will need to apply for a Student visa through the new points-based immigration system before you travel to the UK. Further guidance for EU, EEA and Swiss students can be found [here](#).

(5) EU, EEA and Swiss students who are currently studying a UK course, have left the UK temporarily, but have not applied to the EUSS and may not be in the UK by 31 December 2020:

- If you were studying in the UK and have returned home during the pandemic and are continuing with your course online in your home country (when you would otherwise be studying in the UK), you are able to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme from outside the UK, so long as you are able to prove that you are still continuously resident in the UK. This means that you must not have been absent from the UK for more than six months in any 12-month period, except for a single absence of no more than 12 months for an important reason, for example due to studying outside the UK because of COVID-19. You will still be continuously resident in the UK for the purposes of the scheme.
- If you have commenced your course online in your home country due to COVID-19, and you would otherwise be studying in the UK, you will be eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme as long as you arrive in the UK by 31 December 2020. If you are unable to arrive in the UK by 31 December 2020, you will be required to apply to the Student route under the points-based immigration system, to commence studying in the UK. More information on the EU Settlement Scheme can be found [here](#). More information on the UK's new points-based immigration system can be found [here](#).

Amending Tier 4 references online

In account of the Student route replacing the Tier 4 route, we recommend that you amend any reference to Tier 4 on your website. To help you do this, we have provided wording below.

- On 5 October 2020, the Student route replaced the Tier 4 route.
- The UK's new and improved Student route, which falls under the UK's new points-based immigration system, is now open for applications to international students. It improves on the previous Tier 4 route making for a more streamlined experience for both sponsoring institutions and students. Apply on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
- Visas that have been issued through the Tier 4 route are still valid and those eligible will still be able to apply for the Graduate Route when it opens in summer 2021.
- The Graduate route will be available to international students who have completed a degree at undergraduate level or above at a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance and who have a valid Tier 4 visa at the time of application.
- More information about the UK's new points-based immigration system can be found [here](#). Further guidance for EU, EEA and Swiss students, who from 1 January 2021 will need to comply with the new system, can be found [here](#).
- EU, EEA and Swiss citizens resident in the UK before 31 December 2020 should apply to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#).

Social media assets

Please share the social media asset and supporting copy on your channels.

Asset to post for EU, EEA and Swiss students



Post copy: Applications to the [UK's new points-based immigration system](#) are now open. If you are planning to study in the UK from 1 January 2021, you may need to apply for a visa. EU, EEA and Swiss students in the UK by 31 December 2020, should apply to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) #PointsBasedSystem

Files for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are available to [download](#).

Asset to post for non-EU, EEA and Swiss students



Post copy: The new [Student route](#), part of the UK's points-based immigration system, is now open, making it easier for students from across the globe to study at our world-leading universities. #PointsBasedSystem

Files for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are available to [download](#).

Social media assets and supporting information: EU, EEA and Swiss only

Student communications, including the EU citizens campaign, will direct people to [GOV.UK/MovingToTheUK](https://www.gov.uk/moving-to-the-uk) where they will have access to further information about the new system, which we have translated in 24 European languages. We have also created an introductory guide, tailored to EU, EEA and Swiss students to provide further detail studying in the UK from 1 January 2021, as well as application advice.



Guidance
The UK's points-based immigration system: information for EU citizens

Information about the UK's points-based immigration system for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who will arrive in the UK after 31 December 2020.

Published 19 October 2020
 Last updated 26 October 2020 — see all updates
 From [UK Visas and Immigration](#)

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- Applying through the points-based immigration system
- Working in the UK from January 2021
- Student visa
- Graduate visa
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Overview

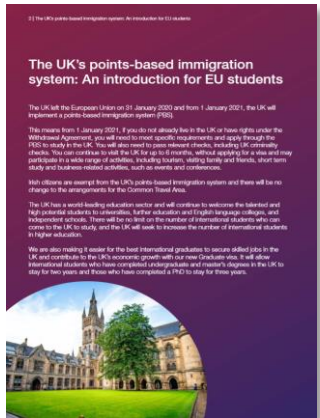
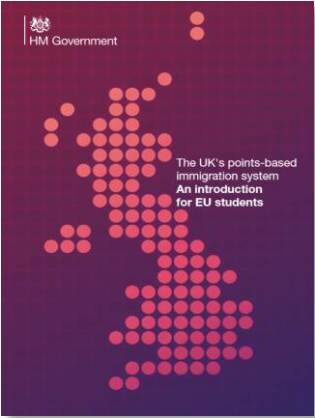
The UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020. Free movement between the UK and the European Union will end on 31 December 2020. From 1 January 2021, the UK will implement a points-based immigration system that treats EU and non-EU citizens equally, prioritising individuals' skills and talent over where a person comes from.

This means from 1 January 2021, if you do not already live in the UK or have rights under the Withdrawal Agreement, you, as an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, will need to meet specific requirements in order to study or work in the UK. You will also need to pass relevant checks, including UK criminality checks. You can continue to visit the UK for up to 6 months without applying for a visa and may participate in a wide range of activities, including tourism, visiting family and friends, short term study and business-related activities, such as events and conferences.

English | [Burmese](#) | [Czech](#) | [Danish](#) | [Dutch](#) | [Estonian](#) | [Finnish](#) | [French](#) | [German](#) | [Greek](#) | [Hungarian](#) | [Italian](#) | [Japanese](#) | [Korean](#) | [Latvian](#) | [Lithuanian](#) | [Maltese](#) | [Polish](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Romanian](#) | [Slovak](#) | [Slovenian](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Swedish](#)

Related content

- [Resolving indefinite leave to remain in the UK](#)
- [Exclusion from the UK, decisions and notices](#)
- [Visitors to the UK from 1 January 2021](#)
- [Exam workers in the UK, rights and advice](#)
- [Family members of points-based system migrants](#)



Students guide

Further information about the EU Settlement Scheme

EU Settlement Scheme guidance

- EU, EEA or Swiss students who are already resident in the UK or become residents in the UK by 31 December 2020, should apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. The deadline to apply is 30 June 2021. It is free to apply and applications can be made online on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) using a computer, tablet or mobile phone.
- Successful applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme can continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021 and will be given either settled status or pre-settled status, depending on whether they have lived in the UK for a continuous five-year period.
- The Student route has been open to EU, EEA and Swiss students as well as international students since 5 October 2020 however, EU, EEA and Swiss students resident in the UK on or before 31 December 2020, should not apply through the route. These students, and their families, are eligible to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme and have until 30 June 2021 to do so. More information on the EU Settlement Scheme can be found [here](#).
- Please visit the [EU Settlement Scheme asset library](#) for a range of social media assets to download and share.
- View the community leaders toolkit on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) to download communication materials to share with EU, EEA and Swiss citizens.
- Access the translated communication and guidance on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Sign up to receive a regular Community Bulletin](#) from the Home Office for updates on the latest EU Settlement Scheme news and activity.

EU Settlement Scheme: settled and pre-settled status

Settled status

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will usually get settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme if they've started living in the UK by 31 December 2020 and have lived in the UK for a continuous 5-year period (known as 'continuous residence'). EU, EEA and Swiss citizens with settled status can spend up to 5 years in a row outside the UK without losing their status.

Pre-settled status

If EU, EEA and Swiss citizens do not have 5 years' continuous residence when they apply, they'll usually get pre-settled status. They must have started living in the UK by 31 December 2020. EU, EEA and Swiss citizens can then apply to change this to settled status once they've got 5 years' continuous residence. They must do this before their pre-settled status expires. EU, EEA and Swiss citizens with pre-settled status can spend up to 2 years in a row outside the UK without losing their status. They will need to maintain their continuous residence if they want to qualify for settled status.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens with settled or pre-settled status will be able to:

- Work in the UK
- Use the NHS for free, if they can at the moment
- Enrol in education or continue studying
- Access public funds such as benefits and pensions, if they're eligible for them
- Travel in and out of the UK.

Find out more about settled and pre-settled status on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

FAQs

FAQs

How does the new Student route differ from the current Tier 4 route for international students?

- The Student route will streamline and simplify the current requirements and application process for international students studying in the UK. Improvements include:
 - Allowing greater ability to apply for further leave as a Student in the UK, including study at any student sponsor type and at any level;
 - Giving prospective students overseas the option to apply up to six months in advance of their course start date;
 - Removing study time limits for all students on postgraduate courses;
 - Removing the maintenance requirements for students who have already been in the UK for 12 months with valid leave, for those on recognised foundation programmes as doctors and dentists, and for students applying as student union sabbatical officers;
 - Expanding 'light touch' documentary evidence requirements to EU, EEA and Swiss nationals;
 - Giving higher education providers with a track record of compliance the ability to confirm students academic ability without the need for previous qualifications to be submitted alongside an application;
 - Bringing in a new 'academic engagement' policy to replace attendance monitoring for students at degree level and above;
 - From the summer of 2021, introducing the new Graduate route for those who successfully complete a degree in the UK – allowing them to work or look for work for up to two years (three years for PhD graduates) after their studies.

What happens to applicants who have made an application / been issued a CAS before the new route went live?

- Applicants who have a valid Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) issued before 5 October 2020 at 0900 under the Tier 4 route will be able to use it for an application under the Student route.
- All live applications made before 5 October 2020 at 0900 will be considered under the rules in effect at the time of application.
- Students with a CAS issued before the launch of the route will not be in any way disadvantaged if they make an application now the new rules have come into affect.

FAQs

Can international students work under the Student route?

- As with the previous Tier 4 route, depending on the level of study and the sponsoring institution, a student may be able to take up part time work in the UK alongside their studies. Different restrictions apply regarding what type of employment is permitted. Students will be notified of the work conditions that apply to them when they receive notice of their application being granted.

What is changing for Child students?

- Child students will benefit from new, simplified rules in line with the Law Commission's report. They will also not need to demonstrate funds if they have already been in the UK for 12 months at the point they make a further application to remain as a Student or Child student.
- There will also be an explicit safeguarding requirement introduced for all sponsors of international students aged under 18, giving UKVI additional tools to take swift action if there are any concerns about child safeguarding at a particular sponsor.

What about EU, EEA and Swiss nationals who have already started studying?

- EU, EEA and Swiss students who are already studying in the UK, or plan to come to the UK to study by 31 December 2020 should apply under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) before 30 June 2021.

What about EU, EEA and Swiss nationals who have started studying by distance learning and will come to the UK in the future?

- EU, EEA and Swiss students starting courses through distance learning must apply under the Student route if they are coming to the UK from 1 January 2021.

FAQs

- **What is the application process like for EU, EEA and Swiss nationals?**
 - EU, EEA and Swiss nationals are able to use the new 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app which will use a chip in their passport to verify an applicant's identity. If the chip is broken, or someone is unable to use the app then they will be directed to a Visa Application Centre to register biometrics instead.
 - Those able to use the UK Immigration ID check app when applying will receive electronic notification of UKVI's decision. This will set out the full conditions of their immigration status.
 - They will also be able to check their immigration status and its conditions at any time using the 'view and prove' service on GOV.UK. This online service will provide a secure record of someone's immigration status which is held digitally by the Home Office and is available to them at all times.
 - The 'view and prove' service can also be used to share and evidence of someone's rights in the UK – such as the right to work or study – by giving organisations or people, such as employers or universities access to the relevant information about their immigration status.
- **Will EU, EEA and Swiss citizens need to apply for a visa for short-term study?**
 - EU, EEA and Swiss students can continue to visit the UK for up to 6 months, without applying for a visa and may participate in short term study. All nonrecreational study must be undertaken at an accredited institution. Recreational courses undertaken for leisure, that last no longer than 30 days and which do not lead to any formal qualifications, will not need to be undertaken at an accredited institution.
 - The 6-11 month **Short-term study route** is distinct from the main student route and requires applicants of all nationalities to obtain a visa before travelling to the UK. This route is specifically for people taking English language courses, and it does not require sponsorship and does not permit work.

FAQs

- **Will EU, EEA and Swiss students continue to be eligible for home fee status and student support?**

- EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who start a course in England in the 2020/21 academic year or before will continue to be eligible for home fee status and student finance support from Student Finance England for the duration of their course.
- Eligibility rules are changing for EU, EEA and Swiss nationals and their family members who wish to commence courses in England in the academic year starting in August 2021.
- EU, EEA and Swiss nationals not in scope of the citizens' rights protections will not be eligible for home fee status, undergraduate, postgraduate and advanced learner financial support from Student Finance England for courses starting in academic year 2021/22. This change will also apply to further education funding for those aged 19+, and funding for apprenticeships. It will not affect students starting courses in the 20/21 academic year. This will not apply to students from Ireland whose right to study and to access benefits and services will be preserved on a reciprocal basis under the Common Travel Area arrangement.
- EU, EEA and Swiss students, staff and researchers make an important contribution to our universities. The Government wants that contribution to continue and is confident – given the world-leading quality of our HE sector – that it will. More information can be found at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

- **Will we stay in Erasmus+?**

- Under the Withdrawal Agreement negotiated with the EU, the UK will continue to participate fully in the current (2014-2020) Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes. This means that the projects successfully bid for during the current programmes will continue to receive EU funding for the full duration of the project, including those where funding runs beyond 2020 and the end of the transition period.
- The Government remains open to considering participation in some elements of the next Erasmus+ programme. This will be subject to our ongoing negotiations with the EU.
- We will, in parallel with the negotiations, continue to develop a domestic alternative to Erasmus+, to ensure we are prepared for every eventuality as the Government remains committed to international exchanges in education, both with the EU and beyond.

For further policy information about the Student and Child Student routes please visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

Thank you

- Please share key messages and our social assets via your own channels and link to our guidance documents on GOV.UK, and update your own guidance for students on your websites and encourage your stakeholders to update information on their websites as well. Remember to include information about the EU Settlement Scheme for EU, EEA and Swiss students arriving in the UK by 31 December 2020.
- Your help and support in communicating this essential guidance to international students is much appreciated. We hope this pack makes it as easy as possible for you to do so.
- We have also launched a **campaign preparing UK employers** for the implementation of the new points-based immigration system, and to generate understanding about how they hire from the EU, has launched across the UK.
- Please do let us know how you use this pack and any feedback you have.
- If you have any communications questions, please email **EUcitizenscampaignPBS@homeoffice.gov.uk**

Thank you

GOV.UK and other links

- **Guidance for EU, EEA and Swiss students arriving in the UK to study after 31 December 2020**
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-information-for-eu-citizens>
- **Applying to study in the UK from 1 January 2021 guide for EU, EEA and Swiss students**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-eu-student-information>
- **Top tips for using the UK Immigration: ID Check app animation**
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-uk-immigration-id-check-app>
- **Links to download social assets (EU, EEA and Swiss)**
<https://homeoffice.brandworkz.com/bms/?link=4328CA1A>
- **Links to download social assets (Non- EU, EEA and Swiss)**
<https://homeoffice.brandworkz.com/bms/?link=5BA4AE37>
- **EU Settlement Scheme**
Asset library: <https://homeoffice.brandworkz.com/BMS/albums/?album=2143&lightboxAccessID=61937BA7-3E37-4A6F-9EF4D12C3B7CD05E>
Community leaders toolkit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-community-groups-toolkit>
Translated guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-translated-information-materials>
Sign up to the community bulletin: <https://gov.smartwebportal.co.uk/homeoffice/public/webform.asp?id=132&id2=413D6B>
GOV.UK page: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>
- **Sign up to the points-based immigration system mailing list**
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-immigration-system-what-you-need-to-know>
- **Student and Child Student routes GOV.UK guidance**
www.gov.uk/student-visa
www.gov.uk/child-study-visa