

**Please note:** This is a general overview of the differences between PSS and SS and does not provide a full picture of rights. Rights may be restricted, for example due to criminal conduct, absence or fraudulent applications. Legal advice should be sought where you have individual concerns. If you wish to raise a complaint in respect of your rights, our portal can be found [here](#).



## The differences between...

Pre-Settled Status (PSS)	Settled Status (SS)
<b>Status Type:</b> Limited leave to remain.	<b>Status Type:</b> Indefinite leave to remain.
<p><b>Eligibility:</b> EU, EEA, or Swiss citizens, and their family members, who lived in the UK by 31 December 2020 and have <b>less than 5 years</b> continuous residence*.</p> <p>Joining family members of an EU, EEA, or Swiss Citizen who started living in the UK by 31 December 2020 and has SS or PSS.</p>	<p><b>Eligibility:</b> EU, EEA, or Swiss citizens, and their family members, who lived in the UK by 31 December 2020 and have <b>at least 5 years</b> continuous residence*.</p> <p>Joining family members of an EU, EEA, or Swiss Citizen who started living in the UK by 31 December 2020 and has SS or PSS.</p>
<b>Duration:</b> Granted for <b>5 years</b> initially which will be extended unless you already have or are eligible for settled status, subject to some exceptions.	<b>Duration:</b> Granted indefinitely, no further application needed (subject to absence limitation, criminal conduct that reaches a particular threshold...)
<b>Absence from UK :</b> Up to <b>6 months</b> in any 12 month period (one absence up to 12 months may be permitted for important reasons, for example, childbirth, serious illness, study). Recent changes have been made, the changes do not apply on your first application for pre-settled status*.	<b>Absence from UK:</b> Up to <b>5 years (4 years for Swiss citizens)</b> in a row permitted without losing status.
<b>Access to Benefits:</b> May be restricted, some benefits may require proof of a 'right to reside'* as well as meeting the benefit eligibility requirements.	<b>Access to Benefits:</b> Full access to public funds, where eligibility requirements are met. Eligibility requirements are the same for UK nationals.

\***'Continuous residence'** generally means to be in the UK for at least 6 months in any 12-month period.

\***Change to Absences:** From 16 July 2025, changes have been made for PSS holders who are now permitted to retain their status and apply for settled status if they have lived in the UK for at least 30 months (2 and a half years) during the last 5 years. This change is not applicable to your first application for pre-settled status.

\***'Right to reside'** is a way of describing the conditions of residence, these include being a worker or a retained worker (for example, on maternity leave), being self-employed, having sufficient resources (for example, retired or a student) and comprehensive sickness insurance, being a family member of someone with PSS or SS who meets these conditions, or having already obtained SS.

