

What is EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) Status and why do I need it?

What is EUSS Status?

The EUSS was established in the UK to enable EU, EEA and EFTA citizens who were residing in the UK by 31 December 2020, along with their family members, to obtain the status needed to continue living, working and studying in the UK following Brexit.

Under the EUSS, eligible individuals are granted one of two types of status:

Settled status (SS)

- For EU and EEA EFTA citizens who have lived in the UK by 31 December 2020, and their family members, and have at least five years continuous residence

Pre-settled status (PSS)

- For EU, EEA and EFTA citizens who have lived in the UK by 31 December 2020, and their family members, and have less than five years continuous residence

Continuous residence' generally means to be in the UK for at least six months in any 12-month period. Our fact sheet summarises the differences between PSS and SS and the change to absences.

Who can apply for EUSS status?

You can apply for EUSS status if you are:

- An EU, EEA or EFTA citizen living in the UK before 31 December 2020
- A family member of an EU, EEA or EFTA citizen who holds status (or applied for status)

Free of Charge

Applying to the EUSS is free of charge

Deadline for application

The deadline for most individuals applying to the EUSS was 30 June 2021. If you want to make a late application to the EUSS after the deadline, you may need to explain and show that you have a good reason for missing the deadline.

Some people have a different deadline to apply to the EUSS such as a joining family member or a child who was born or adopted in the UK on or after 1 April 2021.

More information can be found [here](#).



Certificate of Application (CoA)

Your application status for EUSS will not be decided immediately and whilst this is decided you will be issued a CoA. This will provide evidence of your right to live in the UK until you have a grant of status or until an appeal on any refusal is final, more information can be found [here](#).

Why do I need EUSS Status?

You need EUSS status because:

1. Legal right to stay

If you were an EU and EEA EFTA citizen or their family member living in the UK before the 31 December 2020 you may have had an automatic right to live in the UK. This changed when the UK chose to leave the EU (Brexit). You must apply to EUSS to continue living legally in the UK after 31 December 2020.

2. Proof of your rights to avoid immigration issues

EUSS status is proof that you can:

- Work legally
- Rent housing
- Access free healthcare
- Apply for benefits and services
- Enter and exit the UK

Without status you will find it difficult to live a normal day to day life.

3. Permanent residence

- Settled status is permanent as long as you meet certain rules, like not leaving the UK for more than five years in a row
- Can be used to apply for British citizenship

How do I prove my status?

EUSS status is digital only and you will not be issued with a physical card.

You prove your status by:

- Logging into your UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account
- Generating a “share code”
- Giving this code to employers, landlords, public authorities if accessing services and carrier or border control if travelling

More details on how to prove your status digitally can be found here.

Anyone experiencing difficulties in relation to their rights is encouraged to contact the IMA either via our complaints portal, or via other routes including our Your Story form.

