

THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME

**A GUIDE TO SUPPORTING YOUR EU CITIZENS
THROUGH THE PROCESS**



THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME

In order to secure their rights, EU citizens are required to apply for settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme. The scheme opened fully on 30 March 2019.

Acquiring status under the scheme means EU citizens can continue to live and work in the UK. It means they will continue to be eligible for:

- public services, such as healthcare and schools
- public funds and pensions
- British citizenship, if they meet the requirements

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Talk to Smith Stone Walters about how we can support your organisation and assist your EU employees in securing their long-term status in the UK.

A SUMMARY OF THE SCHEME

EU citizens and their family members who are resident in the UK before 31 December 2020 are able to apply for UK immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme. The main requirement for status to be granted is residence in the UK.



PRE-SETTLED STATUS

EU citizens with less than five years' continuous UK residence at the time they apply will be considered for pre-settled status. All EU citizens granted pre-settled status are able to continue living and working in the UK after 30 June 2021.

Once an EU citizen has reached five years' continuous residence in the UK, they can seek to obtain settled status.

Pre-settled status allows the EU citizen to spend up to two years in a row outside the UK without losing this status. However, they will need to maintain continuous UK residence if they want to qualify for settled status.

SETTLED STATUS

EU citizens continuously resident in the UK for five years will be considered for settled status. All EU citizens granted settled status are able to remain indefinitely in the UK.

To be eligible for settled status, an EU citizen will need to have lived in the UK for at least six months in any 12 month period for five years in a row.

Settled status allows the EU citizen to spend up to two* years in a row outside the UK without losing this status.

DID YOU KNOW?

When an EU citizen successfully applies under the scheme, the Home Office emails a link to the gov.uk website where they can view and prove their new status.

FAMILY MEMBERS ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHEME

Family members who are living with, or join, an EU citizen resident in the UK by the end of the implementation period on 31 December 2020 will be eligible to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme.



ELIGIBILITY

Under the agreement on citizens' rights reached with the EU, an EU citizen resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 will be able to be joined at any point thereafter by close family members resident overseas, if the relationship existed on 31 December 2020 and it continues to exist when the family member applies to come to the UK.

Whilst, family members are able to apply under the scheme on their own account, applications made by families at the same time will be considered together.

IMPORTANT RIGHTS

Acquiring settled or pre-settled status allows the EU citizen and their family to:

- *work in the UK*
- *use the NHS*
- *enrol in education or continue studying*
- *access public funds such as benefits and pensions, if eligible*
- *travel in and out of the UK*

DID YOU KNOW?

A child born in the UK to a EU citizen holding settled status will automatically be a British citizen at birth.

HOW TO APPLY UNDER THE SCHEME



Applying to the EU Settlement Scheme requires the EU citizen and their family members to verify their identity by using the EU Exit: ID Document Check App. The App will initially check that their identity document is genuine and verify that the document belongs to them.

THE FOUR KEY STEPS

1. Verifying identity and nationality

For an EU citizen, this will be a valid passport or a valid national identity card.

2. Criminality check

A declaration from the EU citizen confirming they have no serious or continuous criminal convictions.

3. Evidence of Residence

Using the EU citizen's National Insurance number, the App will conduct an automated check of their residence based on tax and certain benefit records. If this check is successful, the EU national will not need to provide any documents as proof of residence.

4. Check the Result

The App will confirm the status for which the EU citizen will be considered based on their answers. The EU citizen can accept this result if they agree, or add evidence of their residence if they disagree.

IMPORTANT DATE 31 DECEMBER 2020

The UK's transition out of the EU will be complete by 31 December 2020. EU citizens' rights will remain unchanged until then.

A new UK immigration system will be implemented from 1 January 2021.

DID YOU KNOW?

After using the app to verify their identity, the EU citizen can complete the rest of the application either on that device or on any smartphone, laptop or computer.

SUPPORT YOUR EU EMPLOYEES



With Smith Stone Walters by your side, you can play a crucial role in providing practical advice and reassurance to your EU workers.

PARTNER WITH US

Many EU citizens and their families remain worried and confused about the approach they should take to secure their long-term status in the UK.

The government's aim is to make the process as simple as possible for the great majority of EU citizens. However, many EU citizens are required to submit evidence of residence to substantiate their claim to settled status.

By partnering with Smith Stone Walters, we will work with you to assess your EU workers' individual circumstances and help them avoid any errors or omissions when applying under the scheme.

IMPORTANT DATE 30 JUNE 2021

EU citizens living in the UK by 31 December 2020 will have until 30 June 2021 to apply for either settled status or pre-settled status via the Home Office EU settlement scheme.

DID YOU KNOW?

A dated and signed letter from an employer confirming the duration of an EU citizen's period of UK-based employment will be considered evidence of their residence for the period stated.

EMPLOYERS: TAKE THE INITIATIVE



UK employers can play a crucial role by providing practical advice and reassurance to their EU workforce.

A CLEAR STRATEGY

Now is the time to conduct a workplace audit, communicate directly with your EU staff and reassure them.

- Are you aware of how many EU citizens you have recruited within your organisation and their individual family status?
- Is your business ready and able to answer questions from your EU employees regarding their immigration status and those of their close family members?
- What level of support do you intend providing to your EU employees to secure their long-term status under the EU Settlement Scheme?

Articulate a clear strategy before communicating the level of support your business intends to provide staff and their family members towards applying under the EU Settlement Scheme.

In doing so, you will reassure your EU employees that they are valued and supported.

IMPORTANT DATE

1 JULY 2021

From this date, EU citizens and their family members in the UK will be expected to hold or have applied for UK immigration status to remain in the UK legally.

DID YOU KNOW?

An employer's 'right to work' check on EU citizens (e.g. EU passport and/or national ID card) will continue to apply until the end of 2020.

BREXIT IMMIGRATION SERVICE



Smith Stone Walters is ready to assist your business. Our Brexit Immigration Service is tailored to the requirements of each client and is intended to reassure both you and your EU workers.

OUR SERVICE

Workforce Audit

We will review the status of all your EU employees to see how the Settlement Scheme will affect them and their family members.

Brexit Presentations

We will deliver seminar sessions to your workforce tailored to meet your objectives.

Brexit Surgeries

With your consent, we will provide on-site one to one drop in sessions with your EU employees.

Submit Applications

We will assist with submitting pre-settled status and settled status applications via the EU Settlement Scheme on behalf of your workers.

Review Compliance

We will review your Right to Work checks and provide advice on best practice post-Brexit.

EU TRACKER

Manage and track the progress of your EU citizens' progress towards EU Settlement via our unique EU Tracker.

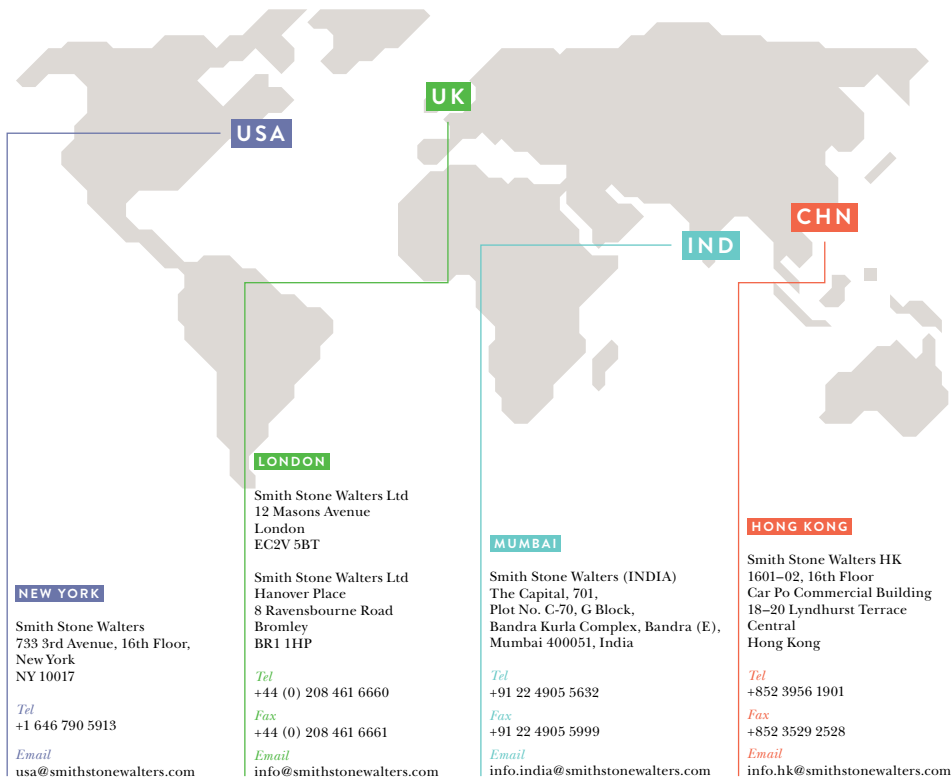
Boasting a host of features, our robust and secure software platform will support both you and your EU employee through the process of applying for UK immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Our EU Tracker will provide your business with a real-time overview of the current progress made by your EU staff towards settled status and ensure they apply within the permitted time.

Talk to Smith Stone Walters about how we can start supporting your organisation and assist your EU employees in securing their long-term status in the UK.

We hold the answers.

CONTACT US



www.smithstonewalters.com

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UK Immigration Practice