



An eVisa Guide **for anyone required to check immigration status** **in the UK**

Key points

- Government is replacing physical immigration documents with a digital proof of immigration status called an eVisa.
- Transition to eVisas also means a change for individuals and organisations that check immigration status, who will see an increase in people presenting them with share codes to prove their immigration status rather than physical documents as proof of their immigration status.
- Biometric residence permits (BRPs) and biometric residence cards (BRCs) cannot be accepted as evidence of a right to work and right to rent (in England).
- Guidance is available for those who need to check immigration status.
- People in the UK who currently use a physical immigration document, such as a biometric residence permit (BRP), or legacy paper document such as a passport containing ink stamps or a vignette sticker (if they have indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain) should take action to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa in 2024.
- Airlines and other carriers are able to accept BRPs and EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) BRCs expiring on or after 31 December 2024 as evidence of permission to travel to the UK, provisionally until 31 March 2025.
- Most new visa applicants now receive access to an eVisa instead of a physical immigration document.
- The latest updates and information can be found at www.gov.uk/eVisa.

This guide is designed for organisations and individuals ('status checkers') who are required to check the immigration status of people in the UK. British or Irish citizens, who hold a British or Irish passport, do not need an eVisa or a UKVI account and do not need to do anything. They should continue to use their passport to prove their status in the UK.

What is changing?

eVisas are a key part of delivering a border and immigration system which will be more digital and streamlined by 2025, a change that will enhance the applicant's experience, deliver excellent value, and increase the immigration system's security and efficiency.

The transition towards eVisas is already underway, with millions of people already receiving an eVisa. Most physical documents, such as biometric residence permits/cards (BRPs/BRCs) are being gradually phased out, with most BRPs expiring at the end of 2024.

Those with physical proof of immigration status, such as biometric residence permits (BRPs) and passports with vignette stickers or 'wet ink stamps' inside, are encouraged to create a UKVI account now at www.gov.uk/eVisa to access their



eVisa. It is free, and straightforward for those who hold physical and paper documents to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa, and. BRP holders may continue using their BRP card till it expires to access the online right to work and right to rent services, to generate a share code and prove their status – providing they continue to have valid immigration permission. Once expired, they should keep their BRP card as it may help with future applications to stay in the UK.

Holders of legacy physical documents will still be able to prove their rights as they do today, using their legacy documents where these are permitted, though we encourage these people to transition to an eVisa, which can offer a range of benefits to them and status checkers.

Those who check immigration status, including employers and landlords (in England) should continue to accept a 'share code' to check someone's immigration status using the relevant online service, or original, hard-copy documents set out in legislation and published guidance:

- Employers: www.gov.uk/view-right-to-work.
- Landlords: www.gov.uk/view-right-to-rent.
- All other checks: www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status.

What does this mean for those checking someone's immigration status?

The Home Office is delivering a range of targeted communications activity to raise awareness of the move to eVisas, and to encourage people to take the actions required to create a UKVI account and access their eVisa.

Those whose status you need to check may attempt to prove their rights in several ways:

- **If you are presented with a share code by an individual who needs to prove their rights**, then you can use the status checking service in the usual way to verify their rights. Eventually it is envisaged that everyone with an immigration status will demonstrate their status this way.
- **If an individual has a valid BRP** and they do not have an eVisa, they may present you with their BRP to prove their rights, other than to prove a right to work or rent. If the BRP is valid, then you can accept this as proof of their immigration rights. However, BRP holders need to use the online right to rent service and right to work service when confirming their right to rent in England or right to work in the UK using these links:
 - Right to work: www.gov.uk/prove-right-to-work.
 - Right to rent (in England only): www.gov.uk/prove-right-to-rent.
- BRP holders who already have a UKVI account can also use the view and prove service at www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status.
- Those checking status can then use the following links:
 - Check someone's right to work: www.gov.uk/check-job-applicant-right-to-work.
 - Check someone's right to rent: www.gov.uk/view-right-to-rent.
 - Check immigration status: www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status.



- **If an individual presents you with a passport containing an ink stamp, or a vignette sticker (detailing their immigration permissions)** then you should follow the guidance in the links to gov.uk below to check if the document is acceptable as proof of the right to work, rent, or immigration status. If you are presented with a passport containing a vignette sticker which was issued under the EEA Regulations, then this document ceased to be valid on 30 June 2021. If you are unsure of the document that they have presented then you can visit:
 - For information on right to work checks: www.gov.uk/legal-right-work-uk.
 - For right to rent checks: www.gov.uk/check-tenant-right-to-rent-documents.
 - Or, if you are still unsure, contact the Home Office UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) team to check. Details of how to do this can be found at www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk.
- **If an individual has an in-date valid BRC and they have status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)** then they already have a UKVI account and an eVisa, so should provide you with a share code using the view and prove services detailed above. You can then check this in the usual way. EUSS status BRC holders will be expected to continue using their eVisa to generate a share code to prove their rights.
- **If someone presents you with a BRC but they do not have status under the EU Settlement Scheme** then they should visit www.gov.uk/eVisa for information on what to do next.
- **If you are required to check someone's status as part of UK marriage and civil partnership preliminaries**, then use of digital immigration status remains limited to checks that confirm a non-British/Irish citizen's 'relevant national' status or whether they are settled in UK. Further advice will be provided if this situation changes.

The vast majority of BRPs, BRCs and Frontier Worker Permits (FWPs) expire on 31 December 2024. The remaining BRPs expire between 1 January 2025 and 27 March 2025, in line with the persons grant of immigration permission. Their BRPs remain valid until they expire and can continue to be used as proof of their immigration status where permitted.

You may want to tell those presenting you with a physical proof of status who do not have UKVI account and an eVisa to go to www.gov.uk/eVisa for the latest information about what this means for them.

What is an eVisa?

An eVisa is an online record of a person's immigration permission in the UK, and any conditions which apply, which can be viewed by logging into the 'view and prove' service using their UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account at www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status. They can also link their travel document (such as passport) to their UKVI account to facilitate straightforward international travel using



the 'Update your UKVI account details' service at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details

What are the benefits of an eVisa?

These changes will bring significant benefits to people who hold an immigration status in the UK:

- An eVisa cannot be lost, stolen or damaged.
- Visa holders can prove their rights instantly, accurately and securely to anyone who requests it while sharing only necessary information.
- It will prevent unnecessary delays when travelling internationally where people travel using the passport/national identity document linked to their UKVI account.
- Visa holders can access many UK government services and benefits without needing to present proof of immigration status. This is because selected government departments and authorities can securely access immigration status information. Immigration data is held securely, and government will never sell this data. Further information on how the Home Office handles data can be found [here on GOV.UK](#).

After a BRP expires, people with BRPs will still be able to use them to generate a share code through the '[Prove your right to work to an employer](#)' and '[Prove your right to rent in England](#)' online services for a limited time, and to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa. However, an expired BRP does not offer the full benefits of an eVisa.

Will an eVisa be needed to access public services?

We are taking further steps to reduce the number of circumstances where people need to provide evidence of their immigration status, by developing services to make the relevant immigration status information available automatically through system to system checks with other government departments and the NHS. This means at the point at which a person seeks to access public services such as NHS healthcare and DWP benefits, the service provider will check status directly with the Home Office, removing the need for people to prove their status themselves. Currently, this includes services with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), DVLA, Social Security Scotland, Student Loans Company (SLC), NHS England and Wales and some local authorities.

How will eVisas impact international travel?

The Home Office has developed technology to enable carriers to check immigration status automatically via systems checks. Commercial carriers have been integrated with our systems, enabling them to send us data on individual travellers and receive messages that will be used to confirm a passenger's permission to travel.



If for any reason the carrier does not receive confirmation of the passenger's immigration status, they will be able to check this using the 'view and prove' service, or the carrier can contact the 24/7 Carrier Support Hub for advice.

Airlines and other carriers are able to accept BRPs and EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) BRCs expiring on or after 31 December 2024 as evidence of permission to travel to the UK, provisionally until 31 March 2025. This will be kept under review. People travelling in the early part of the year are therefore advised to continue carrying their expired BRP or EUSS BRC, as this will add to the range of checking options already available to carriers.

Passengers travelling to and from the UK will remain subject to the usual immigration checks and requirements, and anyone seeking to enter the UK whose underlying immigration status has expired will be liable for refusal of entry.

This measure provides additional options to carriers and passengers in the event that automated checks on travel permissions are not possible. Existing measures include that carriers can call the dedicated 24/7 carrier support hub to confirm a passenger's immigration status.

We strongly advise people to check and update their travel document before travelling overseas. Full guidance on how to do this is available at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details. This will enable the Home Office to return a response to the carrier confirming that the passenger has a valid permission to travel to the UK.

People should ensure that the passport or ID card details linked to the UKVI account are up to date and [tell us about any changes](#), so that their immigration status can be easily identified. People should allow plenty of time to check that personal details are up to date and that eVisa information is correct before traveling. Not doing so may mean they experience delays, or risk being denied boarding by carriers.

If no personal details have changed (i.e. no change in name, nationality, date of birth or sex marker), a new or different passport can be added to a UKVI account using the [Update your UKVI account details](#) service whilst the visa holder is outside the UK.

Passengers can also generate a share code using the 'view and prove' service and provide this to the carrier. It is possible to do this at the airport, but passengers can also generate a code in advance of travel at www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status and take it with them (it is valid for 90 days).

Legacy document holders can continue to prove their rights as they do today using their physical documents where these are permitted. This includes for proving the right to rent, or for travel to the UK. We have informed carriers that some passengers may still only be in possession of a physical document providing proof of their visa or permission to travel and that, in those cases, they will not receive a permission to travel response automatically via system-to-system check. We are also clear that, in those circumstances, presentation of a valid, genuine physical proof of permission remains satisfactory evidence of a passenger's permission to travel to the UK. Valid



proof includes an endorsement in a previous passport that confers indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain, where accompanied by a current valid passport.

What will this mean for the individuals whose status is being checked?

Those with physical proof of immigration status, such as biometric residence permits (BRPs) and passports with vignette stickers or 'wet ink stamps' inside, are encouraged to create a UKVI account now at www.gov.uk/eVisa to access their eVisa. It is free, and straightforward for those who hold physical and paper documents to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa.

- **All BRP holders** are being advised to take action now to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa at www.gov.uk/eVisa. It is free, and straightforward for those who hold BRPs to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa. BRP holders may continue using their BRP card till it expires. Once expired, they should keep their BRP card as it may help with future applications to stay in the UK. People travelling in the early part of the year are advised to continue carrying their expired BRP or EUSS BRC, as this will add to the range of checking options already available to carriers.
- **For people who already have and use a UKVI account**, for example those who have been granted status through the EU Settlement Scheme or who used the ID checking app when applying for their visa, nothing will change. They should continue to present checkers with a share code which checkers can use to verify, and should [keep their UKVI account up to date](#) with their latest passport and contact details.
- Holders of **legacy paper document such as a passport containing ink stamps or a vignette sticker (if they have indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain)** will still be able to prove their rights as they do today, using their legacy documents where these are permitted, though we encourage these people to transition to an eVisa by making no time limit (NTL) application at www.gov.uk/eVisa, which can offer a range of benefits to them and status checkers.
- People **who have a BRC** and have been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) already have a UKVI account and access to their eVisa (also referred to as an EUSS digital status). They can prove their rights through the view and prove service at www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status and should keep their UKVI up to date with their current passport and contact details at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details. People travelling in the early part of the year are advised to continue carrying their expired BRP or EUSS BRC, as this will add to the range of checking options already available to carriers.
- **Individuals who have a BRC but who have not been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme** will need to ensure that they have a valid immigration status and should be directed to www.gov.uk/eVisa for guidance on what they need to do.



When will this change occur?

Using a phased approach to implementing digital services, the Home Office's aim is that by 2025, people will have a secure and seamless digital journey when they interact with the UK's immigration system.

The transition towards eVisas is already underway, with millions of people already receiving an eVisa. Most physical documents are being gradually phased out, with most BRPs expiring at the end of 2024.

The Home Office stopped issuing any new BRPs and BRCs on 31 October 2024. People with existing permission in the UK are encouraged to take action now to create a UKVI account if they have not already done so, to access their eVisa. Those with existing permission in the UK who have no valid ID documents will also now be able to create their UKVI accounts. New applicants will need to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa as part of their application or be advised to create a UKVI account when notified of their decision. We will create UKVI accounts for new applicants with no valid ID documents. We are planning to stop issuing visa vignettes in passports over the next year.

I am an employer – is there anything else I need to consider?

- Employers should continue to ask new/prospective employees who have a BRP to prove their status using the online right to work service to generate a share code at www.gov.uk/prove-right-to-work. Those with eVisas/UKVI accounts should use the view and prove service at www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status. Some physical documents will also remain a valid means of proving the right to work, and further details can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-work-checks-employers-guide.
- Employers will maintain a statutory excuse against a civil penalty if they undertook initial/follow up checks in line with the guidance that applied at the time they made the check.
- Where the most recent check was undertaken before 6 April 2022, and the evidence of status was a physical BRP or BRC that expires on 31 December 2024, this expiry date refers to the document only, and not to the holder's immigration status. A repeat check is not needed until the employee's permission is due to expire. If the BRP or BRC confirmed that person has settled status in the UK (also known as indefinite leave to enter or remain), then the check does not have to be repeated.
- If an individual presents a BRP, then you should direct them to use the online right to work service at www.gov.uk/prove-right-to-work to generate a share code, which you can then use to check their right to work. BRP holders can use this service to generate a share code even if they do not have a UKVI account. If they wish, employers can direct BRP holders to www.gov.uk/eVisa to find out more about the benefits of creating a UKVI account, and information on how to create one.



- When presented with a legacy paper immigration document, such as an expired passport with a vignette sticker (where the holder has indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain), you should direct the person whose status you are checking to www.gov.uk/eVisa for details of how they can create a UKVI account by making a No Time Limit application. A current passport endorsed with an ink stamp or vignette sticker (where the holder has indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain) should continue to be accepted as proof of right to work throughout 2025. While applicants are awaiting their NTL application outcome, employers are advised to verify a prospective employee's right to work via the Home Office Employer Checking Service (ECS).
- British and Irish passports, including expired British and Irish passports, can be used to evidence right to work, provided the person is the rightful holder of the passport.
- If you are unsure if a document is valid, you can visit www.gov.uk/check-job-applicant-right-to-work for more information or contact the Home Office for guidance using the details at www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk.
- Further guidance for employers is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-work-checks-employers-guide.

I am a landlord (in England) – is there anything else I need to consider?

- For new/prospective tenants in England, who have a BRP, landlords and letting agents should continue to ask those who need to prove their status to use the online right to rent service to generate a share code at www.gov.uk/prove-right-to-rent. Those with eVisas/UKVI accounts should use the view and prove service at www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status. Some physical documents will remain a valid means of proving the right to rent, and further details can be found at www.gov.uk/landlord-immigration-check.
- Landlords and their letting agents will maintain a statutory excuse against a civil penalty if they undertook initial/repeat checks in line with the guidance that applied at the time they made the check. Landlords will only need to carry out a follow-up repeat check to maintain a statutory excuse when the period of statutory excuse obtained at the initial or repeat check is due to expire, if applicable, or there is a change in tenancy such as variation, reassignment or surrender.
- Where the most recent check was undertaken before 6 April 2022, and the evidence of status was a physical BRP or BRC that expires on 31 December 2024, this expiry date refers to the document only, and not to the holder's immigration status. A follow up check is not needed until the tenant's permission is due to expire. If the BRP or BRC confirmed that person has



settled status in the UK (also known as indefinite leave to enter or remain), then the check does not have to be repeated.

- If an individual presents a BRP or BRC, then you should direct them to use the online right to rent service at www.gov.uk/prove-right-to-work to generate a share code, which you can then use to check their right to rent. BRP holders can use this service to generate a share code even if they do not have a UKVI account. If they wish, landlords can direct BRP holders to www.gov.uk/evisa to find out more about the benefits of creating a UKVI account, and information on how to create one.
- When presented with a legacy paper immigration document such as a passport with a vignette sticker (where the holder has indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain), you should direct the person whose status you are checking to www.gov.uk/eVisa for details of how they can create a UKVI account by making a No Time Limit application. Legacy paper immigration documents should continue to be accepted as proof of right to rent throughout 2025.
- If you are unsure if a document is valid, you can contact the Home Office for guidance www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk.
- Further guidance for landlords is available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/landlords-immigration-right-to-rent-checks.

Are educational institutions (e.g. college/university) required to check the immigration status of international students – is there anything else I need to consider?

- The Home Office stopped issuing any new BRPs and BRCs on 31 October 2024. Educational institutions should continue to accept valid BRPs as proof of immigration status for new/prospective students.
- Some students, especially those coming to the UK towards the end of the year, may present you with a share code to prove their immigration status, which you should check in the usual way.
- The BRPs issued to students in 2024 will expire on 31 December 2024, along with most other BRPs, as we phase them out. Students who do not yet have a UKVI account will need to follow the instructions in their grant email/letter or at www.gov.uk/eVisa to create their UKVI account, so that they can access their eVisa and continue to prove their rights after their BRP has expired.
- Students whose permission extends beyond 31 December 2024 should create their UKVI account at www.gov.uk/eVisa before their BRP expires. If they then wish to make an application for a new visa, they can do so in the usual way.



- Your support in directing students to take action before the end of 2024 by visiting www.gov.uk/eVisa is much appreciated. This is especially important as students may plan to leave the UK for the 2024-2025 Christmas period and find that their BRP has expired when attempting to return to the UK.
- The Home Office has also developed a short-term solution for data sharing to support educational institutions through the transitional period to:
 - check visa start and end dates for new sponsored international students for specific cohorts
 - confirm visa expiry dates for existing sponsored international students whose BRPs are short-dated to December 2024
- For institutions with an annual allocation of 100 or more CAS (Certificate of Acceptance for Studies), data including visa expiry dates will be shared using 'MOVEit', a secure file transfer software, to facilitate the necessary sponsor checks if they opt into the data sharing solution.
- For institutions with an annual allocation of 99 or fewer CAS, for students with a UKVI account, they can check the visa expiry date using a share code supplied by the student.
- For students without a UKVI account but with a BRP and a current condition permitting work, institutions can check visa expiry dates using a right to work share code. Students can get a right to work share code using their BRP number and date of birth in the Right to Work service, although no account is required to do this, we encourage all students to create their UKVI accounts as it brings significant benefits for them.
- Further details of this data sharing solution and other assistive measures have been sent to all educational institutions.
- For existing students, if you have already checked a student's immigration status and their immigration leave extends throughout their entire course of study, then there is no need to recheck their status regardless of the expiry of their physical immigration document, such as a BRP. The expiry of these documents is not always linked to the expiry of their immigration leave.
- You may still need to check the status of students who prove their rights using visa vignette stickers in their passport, to ensure students have entered the UK at the correct time, during the period of validity of their Student immigration leave. The Home Office will continue to issue visa vignette stickers into 2025 until they begin to be decommissioned. Further updates on this will be issued in due course.
- Out of country students will not need to wait until the start date of their studies to travel to the UK with their eVisa. They will be able to enter the UK as a student from the start date of their Student visa, as at present.



- Once a student has created a UKVI account, they must keep it updated with their current passport which they plan to use to travel internationally by following the instructions at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details.
- When checking a student's status using a share code, details such as a student's sponsor license number and list of entitlements do not currently appear alongside immigration status. However, the service will include these in the future.
- We understand the BRP end date has been used as the visa end date for many students and we appreciate the potential disruption this may cause.
- Academic visitors (less than six months) will continue to use vignette visa stickers in their passports and will transition to eVisas later in 2025. Therefore, they will not use share codes at this time.

I am a transport operator (such as an airline, ferry or rail operator) – is there anything else I need to consider?

- The Home Office has developed technology to enable carriers to check immigration status automatically via systems checks. Commercial carriers have been integrated with our systems, enabling them to send data on individual travellers to us and receive messages that will be used to confirm a passenger's permission to travel. Where they are still held, people should continue to carry valid physical immigration documents with them when they travel internationally.
- If for any reason the carrier does not receive confirmation of the passenger's immigration status, they will be able to check this using the 'view and prove' service, or the carrier can contact the 24/7 Carrier Support Hub for advice. Carriers have been advised on changes in the way that they are expected to check a passenger's documentation.
- Airlines and other carriers are able to accept BRPs and EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) BRCs expiring on or after 31 December 2024 as evidence of permission to travel to the UK, provisionally until 31 March 2025. This will be kept under review. People travelling in the early part of the year are therefore advised to continue carrying their expired BRP or EUSS BRC, as this will add to the range of checking options already available to carriers. The Home Office is providing guidance to carriers on acceptability of BRPs and EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) BRCs expiring on 31 December 2024 or later as evidence of permission to travel to the UK .
- Passengers travelling to and from the UK will remain subject to the usual immigration checks and requirements, and anyone seeking to enter the UK whose underlying immigration status has expired will be liable for refusal of entry.



- Legacy document holders can prove their rights as they do today using their physical documents where these are permitted. This includes for proving the right to rent, or for travel to the UK. We have informed carriers that some passengers may still only be in possession of a physical document providing proof of their visa or permission to travel and that, in those cases, they will not receive a permission to travel response automatically via system to system check. We are also clear that, in those circumstances, presentation of a valid, genuine physical proof of permission remains satisfactory evidence of a passenger's permission to travel to the UK. Valid proof includes an endorsement in a previous passport that confers ILE or ILR, where accompanied by a current valid passport.

I am a financial institution or another business that needs to check a person's identity – is there anything I need to consider?

- Foreign nationals who have permission in the UK are increasingly being issued with evidence of their immigration status in the form of an eVisa.
- Updated guidance was published in April 2023 on Know-Your-Customer: assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1149193/Guidance_Notes_for_KYC_-_April_2023.pdf.
- Where an individual presents a share code, this will allow for a real time check of identity and lawful immigration status. Legacy documents, such as visas, ink stamps, immigration status documents and immigration decision letters will still be acceptable evidence in the absence of a share code.

I am required to check immigration status in relation to UK marriage and civil partnership preliminaries – is there anything I need to consider?

You can check someone's immigration status using a share code, but only to confirm a person's 'relevant national' status, or whether they are settled in the UK, as outlined in internal handbooks and guidance. Further advice will be provided if this situation changes.

Further information

- The Home Office will be issuing further communications on the rollout of eVisas in due course.
- The latest information on eVisas is available at www.gov.uk/evisa and you can register to receive updates whenever this page is updated. It will be updated throughout 2024.
- Individuals who already hold an eVisa but are not sure how to use it can find further information in their original grant letter or email or at www.gov.uk/guidance/using-your-uk-visas-and-immigration-account.



- Guidance for employers when checking employee's right to work is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-work-checks-employers-guide.
- Guidance for landlords on checking prospective tenant's right to rent is available at www.gov.uk/government/collections/landlords-immigration-right-to-rent-checks.