

Moving to the UK What to expect



CONTENTS

3 INTRODUCTION

- 4 The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- 5 Coming to the UK as a European national: BREXIT and your rights
- 5 What is happening now? The EU Settlement Scheme
- 5 Can I still come to the UK?

8 FIRST STEPS

- 8 Obtaining a National Insurance Number (NINO)
- 9 Bank Account

10 HOUSING

- 10 Postcode
- 11 The Housing system in the UK
- 11 Tenancy Agreement/Contract
- 13 Disrepair
- 13 Proof of address

14 WORKING IN THE UK

- 15 Hours and contracts
- 15 Pay Slips
- 16 What to do if your employer does not pay you?
- 16 Right to paid holiday
- 16 The right to maternity/paternity leave when you have children
- 17 Sick Pay

18 SCHOOLING

- 18 System in the UK
- 19 Types of Schools
- 19 The Curriculum
- 20 Enrolling your child into school
- 21 Bullying at school?

22 THE WELFARE SYSTEM (BENEFITS)

- 25 Right to reside and Habitual Residence test

26 HEALTHCARE

- 26 GP Registration

27 VOTING RIGHTS

28 OTHER INFORMATION

- 28 Transport in London
- 29 Driving License
- 29 Police and Crime

30 ORGANISATIONS AND WEBSITES

- 30 Useful Websites
- 31 Organisations you can contact
- 32 Work rights advice - unions

INTRODUCTION



Have you recently arrived in the UK? Are you currently living in an EU country and planning to move to the UK?

This guide has been written to support you when you first arrive and we hope you find it useful. **This booklet will help you understand your rights regarding employment, housing, health, welfare and education in the UK.**

The UK has left the European Union. The process of this withdrawal is known as 'Brexit'. Since the 31st January 2020 the UK has left the EU and has entered a 'transition period' in which most existing EU regulations will stay the same.

During this time of transition and change, we want to help migrants to avoid confusion and access the right support when needed. Our aim is to provide information to help EU citizens and non-EU family members of EU nationals, to know their rights and how to access services and any information they might need to live in the UK.

This guide is based on present laws and rules which apply on the date of the publication of this document and which could change according to new agreements between the UK and the EU. This guide does not substitute legal advice.



THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The United Kingdom or the 'UK' is the name given to the country which includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Great Britain is the name given to the island which contains England, Scotland and Wales. The UK is situated in north-west Europe in the North Atlantic Ocean.

It is important to know that the Republic of Ireland is a separate country, which governs its own laws. The Republic of Ireland is part of the European Union and therefore allows EU

citizens to travel to the country without a visa. This guide will only provide guidance on laws and practices governing the UK.

London is the capital of the United Kingdom and one of the biggest cities in Europe. London is divided into 32 boroughs and each one is run by a different Council, for example IRMO is situated in the borough of Lambeth which is controlled by Lambeth Council. When living in London, you must also be aware which of the 32 Councils you are living and/or working in, since that way you can address the correct administration when asking for resources, paying local tax known as Council Tax or having any trouble with your housing.

COMING TO THE UK AS A EUROPEAN NATIONAL: BREXIT AND YOUR RIGHTS

On the 23rd of June 2016, UK citizens voted to leave the European Union (EU) and on the 31st January 2020 the UK left the EU. However, the conditions and rights for EU nationals to continue living in the UK have not changed and will not change for those who are able to evidence that they were already living in the UK before 31 December 2020. If that's your situation, you should simply make an application under the new scheme, known as the EU Settlement Scheme, which is mandatory. You should apply by the 30th June 2021. you should make an application under a new scheme, which is mandatory by the 30th June 2021, known as the EU Settlement Scheme.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW? The EU Settlement Scheme

All EU nationals (and their family members) living in the UK must now apply to remain in the UK. This is known as the EU Settlement Scheme.

Therefore, even if you currently possess a document under EU law (blue card) you must still apply under the new EU Settlement Scheme before the deadline.

The new settlement scheme grants you either 'settled' or 'pre-settled' status:

- **Settled status:** If you have already been living in the UK for 5 years. Settled status is also known as **indefinite leave to remain**.
- **Pre-settled status:** If you have been living in the UK for less than 5 years. Pre-settled status is also known as limited leave to remain. This will grant you 5 years' residence in the UK. After 5 years of residence you must apply for settled status.



This process is applicable for EU nationals as well as their non-EU family members living in the UK.

When do I have to act?

The UK left with a 'deal' therefore those already living in the UK by the end of the transition period – **31 December 2020**- will have until **30 June 2021** to apply under the new scheme.

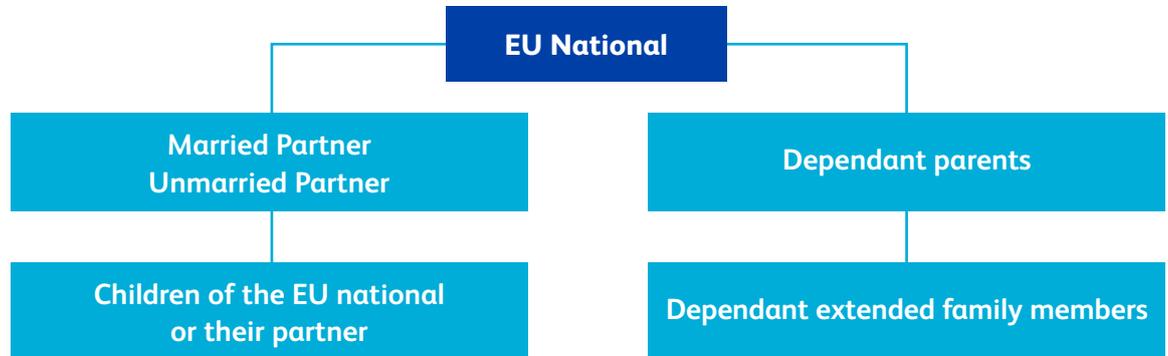
CAN I STILL COME TO THE UK?

Yes, if you are an EU national then you and your family members can still come to the UK. You will still be able to come to the UK until **31 December 2020**. You will then have until **30 June 2021** in order to apply for residence.

All European nationals who arrive after 31 December 2020 will be subject to new immigration laws and will not be able to enjoy rights under EU law.

If you have specific questions it is best to seek legal advice from an organisation who is accredited. IRMO is accredited and can manage these applications. Visit <http://irmo.org.uk/>.

Non-EU Family members of EU nationals



Your family members can also apply to stay with you in the UK, even if they are not EU nationals themselves. It is easiest for the EU national to apply first, then for the non-EU family members to submit their applications afterwards.

Non-EU Spouses, and non-EU children of EU nationals or their partners, can simply apply using the app. They may be asked to provide evidence of their relationship with the EU national such as a marriage certificate or birth certificate.

Dependent parents of EU nationals or their partners (i.e. parents who rely on the EU national or the non-EU partner of the EU national) as a primary source of income) can also simply apply using the app, again proving their relationship with the EU national. Their dependency on the EU national will be presumed without the need to evidence of dependency.

Unmarried non-EU partners of EU nationals need to hold an EU family permit or residence document under the old rules before they can apply to the EU settlement scheme. Once they hold one of these documents they can apply to the settlement scheme using the app.

Dependent extended family members also need to hold an EU family permit or residence

document under the old rules before they can apply to the EU settlement scheme. Once they hold one of these documents they can apply to the settlement scheme using the app.

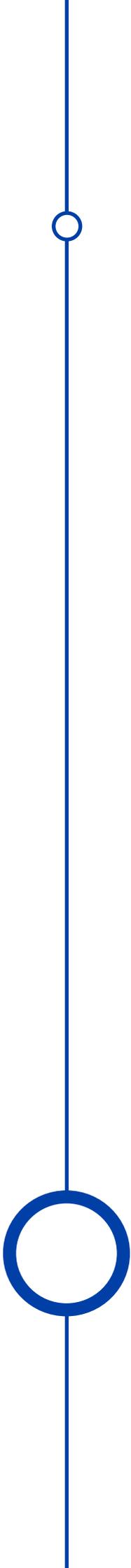
How do I apply for the EU settlement scheme? The application:

The application is **free** and is currently made online, via an Android phone or tablet or an Apple phone. The application is the same whether applying for pre-settled or settled status.

To apply using your phone or tablet: First, your device must have an NFC chip (Near field technology). Then you can apply by downloading the mobile application to verify your documents.

If your device does not contain NFC technology, then use the following website to apply from the official Home Office website: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>

If you have been living in the UK for more than 5 years, you will be granted settled status. If you have been living in the UK for less than 5 years, you will be granted pre-settled status. You can stay in the UK for a further 5 years from the date you get pre-settled status. After you have completed 5 years you will then be able to reapply for settled status.



You will receive a decision by email which typically takes between a few days to a few weeks. However, in more complex cases it can take significantly longer.

It is useful to have a National Insurance number (see the National Insurance Number section in this booklet) as the application can check your records quickly in order to grant you settled or pre-settled status.

In the event you do not have a 'NIN', or if you do not have full records of employment or benefits with the Department of Work and Pensions, you will be required to submit your own documents to prove your residence in the UK.

If you have lived in the UK for over five years but the government only has records for less than five years you can also submit your own documents to ensure that you receive settled rather than pre-settled status.

If you are granted settled status it means that you can usually apply for British citizenship after you have held this status for 12 months. This application is known as naturalisation, of which there are additional requirements to meet.

It is recommended that you seek specialist advice from regulated advisers. IRMO is regulated to advise and assist with these applications. Visit <http://irmo.org.uk/>.

FIRST STEPS:

OBTAINING A NATIONAL INSURANCE NUMBER (NINO)



To be able to work in the UK and to access many services you will need to have a National Insurance Number (NINO), which is essential as proof of your identity for the HM Revenue & Customs (the government department responsible for tax) and the Department for Work and Pensions (the government department responsible for employment, pensions and welfare).

This number allows the government to track your Social Security and National Pension contributions. At the same time, you will need this number when voting in the UK local or national elections or applying for a grant or loan as a student for your studies.

As it is a requirement for many services, it is advisable to obtain this number, even if you are not planning to work in the UK. If you do not have the NIN when offered a job, your employer will apply an emergency tax surcharge. You get it back either when you sort your NIN.

The process for obtaining the NIN can take a few weeks. These are the documents employers may ask you for during the application process:

- passport or identity card
- residence permit (if non-EU)
- birth or adoption certificate
- marriage or civil partnership certificate
- driving licence

Here is how to obtain the NIN:

Call for an application by phone at 0800 141 2075 (Mon-Fri 8am-6pm)

EU/EEA National?

JobCentre Plus will arrange a personal interview with you to confirm your circumstances and why you need the NIN.

Non EU/EEA National?

JobCentre Plus will send you an application letter to your home. You should fill it in with your information and sent it to the address given.

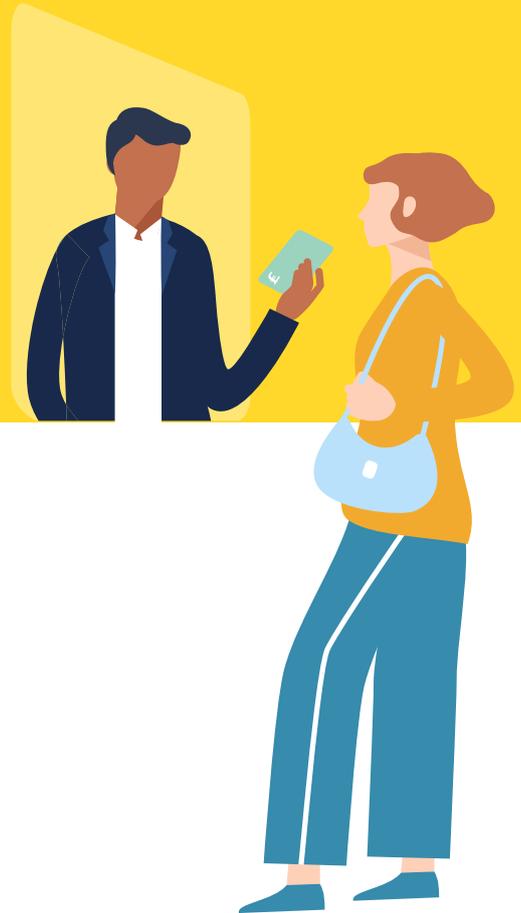
Attend the interview and bring any documents requested in the form, to prove your identity.

You will receive your National Insurance Number in a letter to your home address

(Please ensure the address given to JobCentre Plus is correct during the interview).
The Number shall appear in the format XX00 00 00 0. Obtaining the Number can take between 4 to 6 weeks from the interview date. Have patience!

FIRST STEPS:

BANK ACCOUNT



For someone living in the UK, they will need to have a bank account for all administrative and economic purposes since most commercial and employment payments are made via bank transfers.

The banking system in the UK can be different and more complicated to what you are used to, especially due to the requirements they ask for.

To open a UK bank account, currently you will need to meet the requirement of being legally in the UK.

You will need to prove your identity and your address. This applies both in branch and online banks.

For EU nationals, proving your identity is simple. You just need your passport, driving license or identity card. You will also have to prove your address by providing another document.

Every bank has its own list of what documents are acceptable as proof of address, including:

- a tenancy agreement or mortgage statement;
- a recent electricity or gas bill (less than 3 months old);
- or a current council tax bill.

Of course, if you are new in the UK, you probably do not have any of the documents mentioned above. In this case, many banks will also accept a letter from Jobcentre Plus confirming your National Insurance number

or even a letter from your employer, if it is less than three months old. If you are in the UK to study, many banks will accept a letter from your University's admissions office confirming your address. If you are having difficulty opening a bank account, try different banks as they all have different policies.

Online

Currently there are many online banks that make it easier to open an account. These can be accepted by government departments but not in all circumstances.

These are official entities and can facilitate the start of your working and economic life in the UK. They do not have any physical branches however, and entirely operate online.

Note: However, currently some companies do not recognise online bank accounts. It is always best to inform the company with which you are about to work with that you hold an online bank account to confirm it is accepted. This includes government departments to receive benefits.

HOUSING



London, being one of the most visited capitals in the world and highly sought after for employment and study, poses obstacles in respect to housing.

You should take into account these obstacles when looking for employment, especially the boroughs, their distances from each other and the costs of travel.

When living in London, you should know in which of the 32 boroughs you live in. This way, you can locate the correct council to gain access to services, resources and assistance.

POSTCODE

The English postcode is made up of letters and numbers in two parts: XX0 0XX; the first letters usually indicating where in London you live, as N means North, S means South, etc. For example, the postcode of IRMO is SW9 7JP, where SW stands for South-West London.

You should learn your full address and postcode by heart as soon as you have an address.

In the UK there are different ways of acquiring accommodation. Usually for individuals, the first option is to rent a room or a shared flat. When you arrive with a family, you can consider renting a house or apartment.

THE HOUSING SYSTEM IN THE UK

In the UK, you can rent a home from either a private landlord or a social landlord.

Private landlords	Social landlords
(individuals or companies) who rent private accommodation on the open market.	Organisations like local councils or housing associations that work with the government helping to provide social housing.

Local Authorities (Councils) have a system of local taxation on domestic property, known as **Council Tax**. Paying the bill is normally the responsibility of the person living in the property, either the owner-occupiers or tenants in privately rented or social accommodation. Council Tax applies for both private and social accommodation.

You can rent a private property directly from a landlord or through a letting agent who can charge some fees for the service. It is important to verify the landlord is operating legally.

Renting a room:

In some cases, you can rent a room from other tenants who will sublet their home. This is a common method used by those who have just arrived in the UK and students. It is important to make sure the person is permitted to sublet their home and that they are not prohibited in doing so and the agreement is legal. Request a contract for your security, which can also be useful to prove your residence in the future.

You can find more information on: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/renting-a-home/subletting-and-lodging/subletting/>

When looking for housing in the UK or London, most new migrants live in privately rented housing. Few new migrants qualify for social housing.

Access to social housing

New migrants who are vulnerable and homeless may receive assistance from the local council, always depending on whether or not they meet the requirements.

If you are vulnerable you should go to your local council to ask about acquiring social housing. The council can inform you, and if you are eligible, assist you and expedite a request.

Social housing is usually low-cost or free, depending on the degree of vulnerability of the person, for example, elderly people, single mothers, victims of domestic violence, disabled people etc...

In an emergency, the Council may sometimes place you in 'Temporary Accommodation' until they locate a private landlord and help you with the costs.

You can find more information about social housing on the website of your Local Council: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-council-housing>

Shelter website contains plenty of information and also contacts details for getting advice: <https://www.shelter.org.uk/>

TENANCY AGREEMENT/ CONTRACT

It is very important to make sure you have a written tenancy agreement and read it carefully to understand your rights and responsibilities. Request help from someone you trust and who speaks English to read the clauses to you, as, if you fail to comply with these, this could terminate the contract.

The landlord or agent usually provides one. The government has published a model tenancy agreement that can be used.

Note: Do not sign the contract, whether it be for your housing, work or anything else if you

do not understand it. If you have any concerns about the agreement, seek advice before you sign.

The tenancy agreement is a contract between you and your landlord. The tenancy agreement gives certain rights to both you and your landlord, for example, your right to occupy the accommodation and your landlord's right to receive rent. The agreement will specify how long it is valid for. It is common for this to be 1 year or 6 months.

Both you and your landlord can have other conditions as part of the tenancy agreement if they do not conflict with the law.

Even if you have no written contract or tenancy, you still have rights such as:

- your landlord is responsible for basic repairs and you must provide access for any repair;
- you have the right to live peacefully in the accommodation without harassment from your landlord;
- You have an obligation to use your home with respect (for example, by not causing damage and by using fixtures and fittings properly).

A tenancy agreement can normally only be changed if both you and your landlord agree. The change should be recorded in writing, either in a new written document or by amending the existing tenancy agreement.

As part of agreeing to rent you the property, the landlord may request to see documentation proving you have the right to live in the UK (right to rent). If you hold an EU passport, showing your EU passport or ID card is sufficient.

Tenancy deposits

A landlord may insist that you pay a deposit

in order to grant you a tenancy agreement. This is typically a months' rent. The amount of deposit should be set out in the tenancy agreement and the deposit should be **protected in an independent deposit scheme for the duration of the tenancy**. The landlord should give you written details of the independent scheme that your deposit will be held in, together with details of how to get it back at the end of the tenancy. If, at the end of the tenancy, the landlord finds you have damaged the property or you owe any rent, the landlord may want to keep some or all of the deposit to pay for the damage or the rent owed. If there is a dispute between you and the landlord about how much s/he can keep back for these purposes, you can ask the independent scheme to mediate and make the final decision.

If your landlord did not protect the deposit or give you details of where it was protected, then he or she cannot serve a notice to end your tenancy until they have returned the deposit to you in full. You can also take the landlord to court and claim a penalty of up to 3x the value of the deposit.

Overcrowding

Most people will want a home where there is enough space for a couple to have their own bedroom, where older children don't have to share a bedroom and where there is a living room for communal activities. This is the ideal that you can normally expect in social housing. However, there are private landlords who rent out properties that do not meet these standards and most people have to rent places that are smaller than they would like due to the high cost of renting a property in the UK, especially in London.

The law does set some basic standards regarding how many people can live in a property. If a landlord allows a property to become unlawfully overcrowded, then the local authority can take action against the landlord to stop the overcrowding. The law is quite

complicated, but if more than 2 people have to sleep in one or more of your available rooms, then your home is likely to be unlawfully overcrowded. The law assumes a living room can be used to sleep in, ignores babies under the age of one year, and only counts children under 10 as half a person.

It is illegal to live in overcrowded conditions. While it is a reality in large cities, it is still important to report overcrowded accommodation to your local authority.

If you live in a place where you share a kitchen or bathroom with people who are not part of your household, then your home may be a “House in Multiple Occupation (HMO)”. There are additional rules about space standards and other health and safety standards that landlords have to follow if they are renting out an HMO.

DISREPAIR

It is important to specify who has the obligation to repair and conduct maintenance of the property. If your home is in disrepair, then your landlord normally has a duty to carry out works to bring you home back into repair. Landlords have to take action when the structure or exterior of your home is in disrepair (e.g. the roof has broken tiles, the gutters are broken, the window cells are rotting etc.). They must also take action if any of the installations for the supply of electricity, gas or water, for sanitation or for heating and hot water are broken (e.g. a burst water pipe, leaking toilet or non-working boiler). The landlord must also keep in repair the common parts, communal lighting, lifts, rubbish chutes etc.

It doesn't matter whether these obligations are written into your tenancy agreement or not. The law says that landlords are responsible for all these repairs regardless of what is written in your tenancy agreement. However, you should be aware that damage to things like broken internal doors, kitchen

units, poor decoration or worn carpets etc. are not normally the responsibility of the landlord unless this is written into the tenancy agreement.

PROOF OF ADDRESS

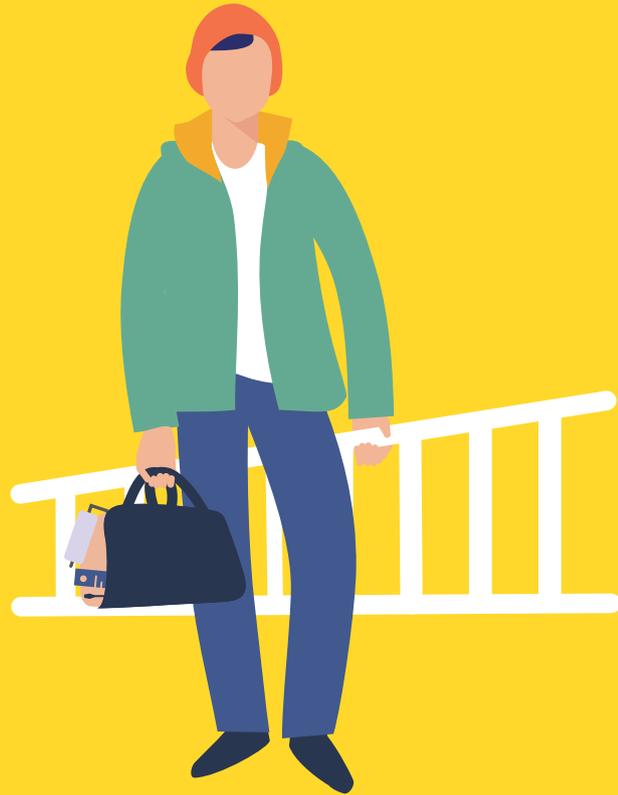
In the UK it is important to have a **proof of address**, which you can prove with your tenancy agreement as well as other correspondence to your address.

Furthermore, it is useful for access to most services in the UK, such as opening a bank account, registering with the GP, school enrolment and applying for benefits.

Once you have your own accommodation, any of the following documents can be used as proof of address (however, it depends on the service required, therefore not all of these are always accepted):

- Utility Bills (electricity, water, gas, etc. but not phone bills): should be dated within the last 3 months and should have your name and address
- Driving licence issued in the UK, with your signature
- Bank account/card extract, dated within the last 3 months
- Council Tax bills from the current year
- Fiscal document of the HM Revenue & Customs
- Benefits letter
- Tenancy agreement

WORKING IN THE UK



Employment

Many people come to the UK to work and there are many different types of employment available. In this section we describe your rights regarding employment, starting with what you need to do in order to start working in the UK.

Starting work in the UK

People who have a passport from an EU country have the right to live and work in the UK. People who come to the UK as a family member of someone with an EU passport also have the right to work in the UK. This may change after 2020.

There are different categories under which you can be employed in the UK, either as an employee or as a self-employed worker. In most jobs, you work as employee. However, if you want to work for yourself, which is called 'self-employed', you will need to register as self-employed with the HMRC (which is not covered in this guide). The reason why you

need to know about these differences to different rights.

An employee has far more employment rights protected under legislation than a self-employed person. Some employers try to treat their workers as "self-employed" but in fact they are either workers or employees.

We will describe some of these rights in more detail below. If you have questions about employment you should seek advice from your local Law Centre.

Your Rights include:

- Having a job contract: this is essential to have your employment rights protected against any problem. In the contract, you should have a description of the job in question as well as your rights and duties as an employee.

HOURS AND CONTRACTS

You can't work more than 48 hours a week on average, unless you sign an opt-out agreement. You can start working full-time at age of 16. When someone reaches 18, the adult employment rights and rules are applied.

The basic rights when it comes to working times are:

- one day off in any given week
- breaks of at least 20 minutes after each 6 hours of work

A contract of more than 48 hours per week can be refused if no opt-out is provided. It is illegal to work more than an average of 8 hours per night. Self-employed people do not usually have these rights. **Therefore, it is illegal for an employer to force workers to become self-employed and take their rights away.**

Always ask for a written contract that provides proof of your terms and conditions of employment, specifying your name and your employer's name, start date, job title, pay details, sick pay, and holidays.

Zero hours contracts

A zero hour's contract puts you in a very weak position at work. Even if you get the same rights to the minimum wage, holiday, sick pay and maternity leave, it does not give you guaranteed working hours.

You cannot be paid less than the National Living/Minimum Wage and your wage will appear on your job contract. In the contract your employer will also inform you of the percentage of your salary which would be for the National Insurance system.

The current National Minimum Wage as for 2019:

Age	16 to 17	18 to 20	21 to 24	+25
National minimum wage	£4.35/hour	£6.15/hour	£7.70/hour	£8.21/hour

The National Minimum Wage changes every year. You can check it here: <https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

Full time work (40 hours a week) on an hourly wage of £7.83 amounts to roughly £16,286 a year and £1,357 a month (before taxes are deducted).

Some employers pay higher wages than those listed above. Some employers pay the "Real Living Wage" which is based on the cost of living and is voluntarily paid by over 4,200 UK employers.

In 2019 it is £9.00/hour in the UK and £10.55/hour in London. You can identify which employers pay this rate by this symbol.



This rate also changes every year; you can check the rate updates here: <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/>

PAY SLIPS

A Pay Slip is a note given to an employee when they have been paid, with the information that details the amount of pay given, and the tax and insurance deducted.

You are also entitled to get a P60 and P45 form. A P60 form shows the tax you have paid on your salary in the tax year from 6 April to 5 April.

The P60 form can help you to:

- claim back overpaid tax
- apply for tax credits
- act as a proof of your income if you apply for a loan or mortgage.

A P45 shows how much tax you have paid on your salary so far in the tax year from 6 April to 5 April and you get it when you stop working for your employer.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR EMPLOYER DOES NOT PAY YOU?

If you work for your employer and they refuse to pay you for your work, this is what can you do:

- Talk to your employer about the situation
- In cases where this does not work, write a letter making a formal complaint and keep a copy
- If the actions described above do not work and you need to take further action you can make a claim to an Employment Tribunal.

If you are dismissed because you have notified your employer about this injustice, then you can report it to an Employment Tribunal as an unfair dismissal.

Please find more information on: <http://www.lawcentres.org.uk/lcn-s-work/living-rights-project/know-your-rights>

RIGHT TO PAID HOLIDAY

Unless you are self-employed, all workers are entitled to at least 5.6 weeks of paid holiday per year, which amounts to 28 days if you work full time (5 days a week). If you work part-time instead, you are still entitled to get 5.6 weeks of paid holiday but that amounts to fewer than 28 days as you work fewer hours.

THE RIGHT TO MATERNITY/ PATERNITY LEAVE WHEN YOU HAVE CHILDREN

If you become pregnant while working you are entitled to maternity leave for one year after giving birth, this does not depend on your employment contract. You might not take your full maternity leave, but you have to take at least 2 weeks leave immediately after giving birth (4 weeks if you work in a factory). From the 11th week before giving birth, you can

decide to start maternity leave. It is essential to give proper notice to your employer, at least 15 weeks before the baby is due; otherwise, you may miss out on certain benefits. You should be given time off on full pay for medical appointments relating to antenatal care. Your employer should make sure that you are working in conditions which are safe and healthy for pregnant women or recent mothers, ranging from not having to stand for long periods, to not having to lift heavy objects. You usually have an automatic right to return to work after your maternity leave.

Receiving maternity pay

A pregnant worker will usually be entitled to either:

- statutory maternity pay
- contractual maternity pay
- maternity allowance

We will explain each of these in more detail below.

Statutory maternity pay

Statutory maternity pay (SMP) will be payable if a worker has been:

- working continuously for one company for at least 26 weeks ending with the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth
- has average weekly earnings at least equal to the lower earnings limit for National Insurance contributions.

SMP is payable for 39 weeks. For the first six weeks it is paid at 90 percent of the average weekly earnings. The following 33 weeks will be paid at the SMP rate or 90 per cent of the average weekly earnings whichever is the lower.

Since April 2019 the rate for SMP has been £148.68 per week. The amount is reviewed every April.

For more information on qualification for SMP, go to <https://www.gov.uk/maternity-paternity-calculator>

Contractual maternity pay

Some employers offer this instead of statutory maternity pay - your contract or company maternity policy should inform you if your employer does.

Maternity Allowance

You might get this from the government if you can't get statutory maternity pay from your employer.

You can find more information about Maternity leave and pay on: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/work/rights-at-work/>

Paternity leave and pay

The mother's partner can take up to 2 weeks of paternity leave that can be paid if they meet the eligibility criteria. You can find more information about this: <https://www.gov.uk/shared-parental-leave-and-pay/eligibility-for-birth-parents>

However, you may find some employers offer different paternity leave provisions.

SICK PAY

If you are sick and cannot attend work, you will need to tell your employer. Your employer may ask you to see a doctor after a certain number of days. By law, most employees are entitled to sick pay. There is a legal minimum amount you are entitled to (called Statutory Sick Pay) but your employer may offer more.

If you have been off work sick for 4 or more days and you are too ill to work, you can get £94.25 per week Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) for up to 28 weeks. If you have more than one job you may get SSP from each employer in the same way as your normal wages (e.g. weekly or monthly). You are not entitled to get the SSP if you are getting the Statutory Maternity Pay.

To qualify for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) you must:

- be classed as an employee and have done some work for your employer
- have been ill for at least 4 days in a row (including non-working days)
- earn an average of at least £116 per week
- tell your employer you are sick before their deadline - or within 7 days if they do not have one.

Please find more information on: <http://www.lawcentres.org.uk/lcn-s-work/living-rights-project/know-your-rights>

SCHOOLING



SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE UK

In England a child begins to be of compulsory school age on the start date of the term following his fifth birthday, or that day if his fifth birthday falls on the day term starts.

A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June in the academic year in which he reaches the age of 16 or if he reaches 16 after the last Friday in June but before the start of the new school year.

Schools follow a national curriculum that is organised into 5 parts: called 'key stages' (KS).

- Early years from 5 to 8 years
- Primary education from 8 to 11 years
- Secondary education from 11 to 16 years
- Further education from 18 and no age limit.

At the end of each key stage, the teacher will formally assess your child's performance. The national curriculum is a set of subjects and standards used by primary and secondary schools, so children learn the same topics.

Schooling is free in the UK, although you may have to pay for extra things (books, uniforms etc.).

Age	Year	Key stage	
3 to 4	Nursery	Early years	Free 15 hours per week (30 hours in some cases)
4 to 5	Reception	Early years	Right to get in Full Time Education
5 to 7	Year 1/ Year 2	KS1	Primary School
7 to 11	Year 3/ Year 4/ Year 5/ Year 6	KS2	Primary School
11 to 16	Year 7/ Year 8/ Year 9/ Year 10/ Year 11	KS3	Secondary School

TYPES OF SCHOOLS

There are two types of schools: **State schools** or **Independent schools**.

State School

This is a school which is paid for by the government, parents will not have to pay school fees. The majority of children attend this type of school. Generally, schools that are paid for by the government must follow the national curriculum.

State schools can be defined as:

Comprehensive School

A comprehensive school is the name for a school which anyone can go to - regardless of how well they do in exams - and where everybody is taught together. They are usually run by the local education authority - a part of the local council in that area.

Faith School

These are schools which have a focus on a particular religion. They generally have to follow the national curriculum but may have more freedom when it comes to what is taught about religion or over which children go to them.

Grammar School

Grammar schools are schools where children can go to from the age of 11, which the government pays for.

But they are different from comprehensives because they select their pupils using an exam known as the "11-plus", which kids sit at the age of 10 or 11.

Academies and free schools

These are types of school that are paid for by the government but are allowed more freedom over their own curriculum, timetables and the students they let in. Unlike comprehensives, for example, they get their money directly from the government, rather than by a local authority.

Independent School

These schools, also called private schools, have more say over how they run themselves, as they are not paid for by the government and parents would have to pay school fees, which are used to pay to run the school.

Children who go to an independent school, may not study the same things as children at state schools, because the teachers have more control over what they would like to teach.

THE CURRICULUM

Primary School: Children from 5 to 11 years old are going to learn the basic knowledge linked to maths and science. The goal is basic literacy. This is a free and necessary step.

Secondary School: Children from 12 to 15. At the end of this step, students have to do a set of exams known as GCSEs (The General Certificate of Secondary Education) in order to obtain the grades needed for further academic study, such as applying for the A-level classes. GCSEs are also very important for future employment. It is a free and necessary step.

Further Education: When children turn 16 by 31 August, they can leave the school at the end of the academic year or they can choose to do one of the following until they are 18:

- stay in full-time education, apply for A-Levels classes or apply to study in a college
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training
- Working full time

Note: It is important to demonstrate that young people of this age are not left without completing one of the aforementioned activities.

Higher Education: Universities offer courses for undergraduate, master, postgraduate and PhD students. Students can apply for a government-loan to support their study. Some universities also have special funds to support students. In both cases students need to have the right requirements.

ENROLLING YOUR CHILD INTO SCHOOL

Enrolling your child in preschool

All 3 to 4-year olds in England are entitled to receive 15 hours of free early education childcare a week, in some cases they can also receive 30 hours, it depends on the family circumstances related with their income and if they receive benefits. When children turn 4, they have the right to receive free full-time education.

Applying for the 15-hours pre-school childcare can be done directly through centres dedicated to childcare and registered with Ofsted. Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. They inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people, and services providing education and skills for learners of all ages. Childcare needs to be regulated by them if you are going to apply for financial help to pay your childcare. (see the section below on Child Tax Credit) If children are eligible for 30-hours care before they are 4 years old, you must register them prior to approaching childcare centres.

You can register your child through the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-in-childcare-account>

Applying for Primary and Secondary

To apply for Primary and Secondary, you can apply on-line or using the Council's application form. The first step is to visit the website below and search the schools you are interested in: <https://www.eadmissions.org.uk/eAdmissions/app>

Enter your Postcode in order to have a map of all schools in your area. You can choose three schools in order of preference. There is no guarantee that your child will get a place in your first school of choice. The admission criteria are decided by the council and by the school, you have got more chance to be assigned the first preference if:

- You have a brother or sister at the school already
- You live close to the school
- You are from a particular religion (for faith school)
- The child does well in an entrance exam (for grammar schools)

Deadline for submitting the school application

You must apply for a primary school place by the **15 January**. The council will then send a confirmation letter on the 16 of April.

You must apply for a secondary school place by **31 October**. In that case a confirmation letter will be sent on the 1 of March.

There is the opportunity of *in-year admission* for children who were not able to send the application in time. In that case you will need to fill the council's application form and the confirmation will arrive after a minimum of 21 working days. In most cases the waiting time can be much longer, especially if schools don't have places available.

Documentation: All schools require valid documents to be sent together with the application. The most important are a child's valid document of identity and a proof of address (Council Tax, Tenancy Agreement, Benefit letter).

By law, your children cannot be discriminated against by gender, religion, language, race etc. Primary schools cannot ask personal information regarding the historical education career of your children, criminal record or financial situation.

However, if you think that one of the reasons why your child has not been accepted by the primary or secondary school could be linked to one of the reasons above, you have the right to appeal to the Council or, in some cases, directly to the school.

IRMO can provide you with support and assistance in applications for school places. <http://irmo.org.uk/>

Assessment and Progress

Parents will receive information about their children's attainment and progress during the academic year. Schools invite parents to participate at parents' evenings and similar events, parents commonly have opportunities to discuss their child's attainment and targets with staff.

Parental engagement can be a powerful lever for raising achievement in schools and there is much research to show the value of schools and parents working together to support pupils' learning.

Special Educational needs

Children with Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) have the right to receive Special Educational Needs support which the school provide based on the type of needs and child's age. You need to have all the necessary documentation signed by a doctor/specialist to show your child's condition.

Interpreting

Only a few schools have access to professional interpreting facilities across the range of home languages spoken by their parents, and only limited use can be made of bilingual teaching and support staff for interpreting. Because children often learn the host language much more quickly than their parents, increasing numbers of children and young people contribute to family life by acting as translators for their parents. In schools that is one of the options available for ensuring effective communication. Care is required when pupils

are used in that role, and other options can be considered like asking a friend or a professional that can support you.

BULLYING AT SCHOOL?

Bullying is any repeated physical or emotional act which is intended to hurt someone, an act that is committed against a student.

If your child is a victim or you think he/she is a victim of bullying (for example insults, blackmail, he/she is afraid to go to school or he/she seems to be nervous or can't sleep well) the first step is to contact the school immediately and ask for an appointment. You should bring along someone who can translate for you if your level of English is not very high and the school cannot provide an interpreter.

Find more information about the education in UK on: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

THE WELFARE SYSTEM (BENEFITS)



The welfare system in the UK was designed to stop people from falling into poverty if they lose their job or become sick or disabled and are unable to work. There are also benefits available for people who have children or those with low incomes.

There are a wide range of benefits available depending on your circumstances, and the system is complicated. The system is undergoing a big change as a number of different benefits are brought into one, called Universal Credit.

A few examples:

- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Benefit
- Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Disability Living Allowance / Personal Independence Payment

Which benefits you can claim and how much you will get depends on your personal circumstances, such as how long you have been living in the country, whether you are working, how much you earn and whether you have children. Payments are usually low, last for a limited period, and you have to meet various conditions not only to start claiming, but to keep on receiving the money.

At present, general rules establish that an EU citizen who arrives without a job and is still looking for work cannot receive some of the benefits like Jobseekers' Allowance, Child Tax Credit or Child Benefit within the first three months. An EU citizen who moves to the UK and is determined to be a "worker" can be immediately eligible for in-work benefits like Tax Credits and housing benefits. Eligibility criteria can be very complex and it is always recommended to seek advice to clarify which benefits you are entitled to.

For new arrivals, entitlement will be affected by when (and if) the UK leaves the EU and whether it leaves with or without a deal. Please refer to the “Coming to the UK as a European national” section at the beginning of this booklet.

Places you can receive detailed information on welfare

IRMO <http://irmo.org.uk/> offers advice on applying for benefits and you can also seek help from these organisations:
 Stockwell Partnership: <http://www.stockwell.org.uk/>
 LADPP: <http://www.ladpp.org.uk/>
 LAWRS: <http://www.lawrs.org.uk/>
 LATIN AMERICAN HOUSE (CASA LATINA): <https://www.casalatina.org.uk/es/>

BENEFITS

Universal Credit

Universal Credit is a means-tested benefit (meaning it is affected by your income and other circumstances) paid on a monthly basis in arrears. It is being rolled out across the UK in stages to replace the following means-tested ‘legacy benefits’:

- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income related employment and support allowance

Implementation stages

Universal Credit has now been fully rolled out across the UK for new claims. This generally means you cannot make a new claim for a legacy benefit.

However, there are some very limited exceptions:

- People placed in temporary or supported accommodation still have to claim housing

benefit for their housing costs.

- You can also still make a renewal claim for tax credits.
- Universal Credit does not replace pension credit for those over state pension age. Neither does it replace contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance or Job Seekers Allowance.

Legacy Benefits for those on a low income

- **Housing Benefit:** helps people pay their rent. You could get Housing Benefit if you are on other benefits or if you’re working.
- **Working Tax Credits:** is money provided to boost the income of working people who are on a low income. What counts as a low income, and how many hours you need to work depends on your circumstances.
- **Child Tax Credit:** is money provided for each child that qualifies. Only one household can get Child Tax Credit for a child. You don’t need to be working to claim Child Tax Credit.
- **Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA):** is a benefit for people who are not in full time employment (work less than 16 hours per week), are capable of working and are looking for work.
- **Income Support:** helps people who do not have enough to live on. It is only available for certain groups of people who do not get Jobseeker’s Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance and are not in full time employment.
- **Council Tax Reduction - Help with your Council Tax:** is a reduction you may be able to get on your council tax if you’re on a low income.
- **Employment and Support Allowance (ESA):** is a benefit that could give you some money if you have an illness or disability that affects your ability to work.

As explained above, new claims for these benefits cannot now be made.

Extra Benefits for people who are sick or disabled:

- Disability Living Allowance for children: is money that you can get if you have children (under 16) who have care or mobility needs due to an illness or disability (physical or mental).
- Personal Independence Payment: Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is extra money to help you with everyday life if you have an illness, disability or mental health condition. You can get it on top of Employment and Support Allowance or other benefits.
- Attendance Allowance: helps with extra costs if you have a disability severe enough that you need someone to help look after you. It's paid at 2 different rates and how much you get depends on the level of care that you need because of your disability.

EEA nationals or family members of EEA national need to meet specific requirements depending on each benefit.

If you are in receipt of benefits the amount that you can get depends on your personal circumstances. However, there is a **Benefit Cap**, a limit on the total amount of benefit that most people aged 16 to 64 can get and also a limit to the total amount of money you can get from benefits. The Benefit Cap will only apply if you get Housing Benefit or Universal Credit.

Child Benefit

It is a tax-free payment that is aimed at helping parents cope with the cost of bringing up children. One parent can claim £20.50 a week for an eldest or only child and £13.55 a week for each of their other children. You get Child Benefit if you're responsible for one or more children under 16 (or under 20 if they stay in approved education or training). There's no limit to how many children you can claim for. Only one person can get Child Benefit for the same child. Children that are

not born in the UK will need a valid travel document together with a birth certificate to send with the application form.

Child benefit is not part of Universal Credit. You will still get it separately.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT that you always report changes in your circumstances, so you keep receiving the correct amount of benefits payment.

Your claim may be stopped or reduced if you don't report a change straight away or you give incorrect information. In some cases, you may be asked to repay money.

Changes you need to report can include:

- changing your name
- finding or finishing a job, or working different hours
- your income going up or down
- starting or stopping education, training or an apprenticeship
- moving to a new house
- people moving into or out of the place you live (for example your partner, a child or lodger)
- your partner or someone you live with dying
- having a baby
- starting or stopping providing care for someone
- getting married or divorced
- starting or ending a civil partnership
- planning to go abroad for any length of time
- going into hospital, a care home or sheltered accommodation
- any changes to your medical condition or disability
- changing your doctor
- changes to your pension, savings, investments or property

- changes to other money you get (for example student loans or grants, sick pay or money you get from a charity)
- changes to the benefits you or anyone else in your house gets
- you or your partner receiving back-pay (sometimes called ‘arrear’) for salary or earnings you’re owed

RIGHT TO RESIDE AND HABITUAL RESIDENCE TEST

To claim certain benefits like Jobseeker’s Allowance, Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit, you’ll have to pass the Right to Reside and Habitual Residence Test. This means that you:

- have a legal right to live in the UK and claim benefits - this is called right to reside
- intend to make your home for the time being in the UK, Isle of Man, Channel Islands or the Republic of Ireland - this is known as habitual residence

The Right to Reside Test

This applies mainly to EEA nationals. You have a right to reside if you are a worker or a self-employed person. You also have a right to reside as a student or a self-sufficient person, but these two categories also require that you have Comprehensive Sickness Insurance. In some circumstances, it is possible to retain worker status or self-employed status whilst you are not working or self-employed. Once you have a right of residence for a continuous period of 5 years, you have a permanent right of residence (it is the 5 years which must be continuous – it is possible to have had different rights of residence during that time). In some circumstances – e.g. for those who become permanently incapable of work or who reach retirement age – the period required can be shorter than 5 years. EEA “jobseekers” have limited rights to claim some means tested benefits but cannot claim Universal Credit.

You can also have a “right to reside” as a family member of an EU national who already has the right to reside.

You’ll have the best chance of showing that you have a right to reside if you’re the immediate family member of an EEA national. An immediate family member can be a husband/wife, civil partner, child under 21. But if you’re a child over 21, or an extended family member, or a parent or grandparent, you may have the right to reside too if you are dependent, whether financially or otherwise, on your EEA family member.

Your right to reside is dependent on your family member continuing to have a right to reside. For example, if they are a worker who ceases employment and does not register as unemployed, they may no longer have a right to reside as a worker and your right to reside may also end.

Even if you can show that you have the right to reside, you may still have to show you are habitually resident in the Common Travel Area in order to claim means-tested benefits.

For EU nationals intending to live in the UK, it is important you are adequately informed and seek advice before making a claim based on this right.

Find more information on: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/coming-from-abroad-and-claiming-benefits-the-habitual-residence-test/>

HEALTHCARE



The NHS, the National Health Service, provides public health care in the UK. All the services that the NHS provides are free. However, you will have to pay for dentist and optician services. There is a charge for prescriptions in England but not in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. People from EU (European Union) countries can use NHS services. England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland run their local NHS services separately.

GP REGISTRATION

The first and essential step is to be registered with a doctor or GP (General Practitioner). Once you are registered you can have access to your doctor for free.

Apart from routine checks, your GP can also advise you on health education, smoking and diets. Your GP can also administer your vaccines, do blood or other tests, and carry out easy surgery procedures.

Registering is easy and quick. First you have to know your closest GP to your home. In the webpage of the NHS you would be able to search for any GP in your postcode:

<https://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP/LocationSearch/4>

Anytime you need to see a doctor, you can ask your GP or the Hospital to provide an interpreter in your preferred language during your booking.

If you need emergency medical help call **999**. If you need medical help fast but it is not an emergency call **111**.

Once you know which GP to go to, you have to fill a **GMS1 form** where you will be asked to give your full details such as your name and address in order to be registered. Some GPs might ask you to show a proof of your identification such as a passport, or a proof of address as a bill or a council tax.

If you want to see a specialist, you need a referral from your GP. This is not a legal requirement. If it is an emergency, you can go to A&E (Accident and Emergency).

GPs as well hospitals can provide an interpreter however you will need to request one when you book your appointment.

People from EU or Family members of EU citizens who live and work in the UK are considered 'ordinarily resident' and are eligible for free NHS treatments.

You can find more information on: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/>

VOTING RIGHTS



In the UK there are elected politicians that make rules at both the national and the local level. **If you have an EU passport and are living in the UK, you have the right to vote in the UK for local (Council) elections. In order to do so you must register to vote. It is not clear if this right will be extended after 2020.**

Local government

Local government elections take place every 4 years. Not all local government elections take place at the same time across the country. In London the next local elections will be held for London Mayor in 2020.

To vote in a local government election you must:

- be registered to vote
- be 18 or over on the day of the election ('polling day') (16 or over in Scotland)
- be a British, Irish, Commonwealth or EU citizen
- be registered at an address in the area you want to vote in
- not be legally excluded from voting

You vote for a candidate in your local area and the candidate with the most votes obtained wins.

You can register to vote online. You will need your National Insurance Number and address. Go to <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> if you want to register, once you have registered you will receive a letter to your home.

General Election

The UK Parliament is composed of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The House of Commons is composed of 650 Members of Parliament (MPs), who are elected every 5 years. People are appointed to the House of Lords (hereditary peers). Its power is very limited as it is not elected. In order to vote in a General Election, you must be a British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen and be living in the UK.

You can find more information on: <https://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/can-i-vote/who-can-register-to-vote>



OTHER INFORMATION



TRANSPORT IN LONDON

London is considered one of the most connected cities in the world, it is said that more than 900 million people use the London transport system every year.

This is comprised of a transport system which consists of the trains and buses, which can be paid for by using an ‘oyster card’ or a contactless bank card. For buses you can only pay using these methods and not in cash.

Tube (Underground)

The underground or “Tube” is divided by 9 zones. There are 274 stations and 11 lines, which are useful to know. The zones 1 and 2 are considered the centre of London and their cost of travel is higher than the other zones 6 to 9 are outside the city. The underground opening times vary slightly from line to line, but generally the earliest line opens at 5am and runs until around midnight. A few underground lines operated a 24-hour service on Fridays and Saturdays.

Bus

The public buses are the ones in red. **Buses do not accept payment in cash.** A few buses have a night service. Night buses show “N” before the number of the bus itself, for example: N345.



Oyster Card

You can make payments with an Oyster card, which is advised if you use the transport system regularly as it is usually cheaper and you can pay weekly or monthly.

Children under the age of 16 can travel for free. Likewise, people over the age 60 can travel also for free. Both need to apply for a special Oyster Card Online. The card has a cost and for the application you may need your passport, a digital photo and a proof of address.

Otherwise you can buy an Oyster Card by paying £5 at any station which has a ticket office. (When you no longer need to use the oyster card again, you can get the £5 back by handing it in at selected London Transport ticket offices or ticket machines).

You need to top up your Oyster in order to be able to travel. You can do this in any physical train or tube station or online on the TfL website by creating an online account (Bear in mind that when doing online Top Ups, you will not be able to use the travel card immediately, you will have to wait 30 minutes for the system to update).

Your contactless credit or debit card can also be used as a payment option when accessing any of the transportation in London; but you should tap in and tap out when entering and exiting any of the stations, even when the barriers are open. If you do not do this, you might be charged the maximum daily fare of £8.50. However, on the buses, you will only have to tap in once when entering.

Find more information on: <https://tfl.gov.uk/>

Find your way around easily the UK

In the UK, and especially in London, which is very large, it is very easy to lose yourself. Therefore, we suggest that you use applications which can help you easily orientate yourself practically in order to arrive at your chosen destination.

A couple suggestions would be **Google Maps** to travel around the country and **Citymapper** to use around London.

Both applications are free, very easy to use and practical, as they provide various options to arrive at your chosen place. They also include the costs and the time your trip will take according to your chosen route so you can arrive at your destination on time. Due to this we suggest becoming familiar with these apps to avoid problems moving around such a large city like London, where finding locations can be difficult without first orienting yourself.

DRIVING LICENCE

You can drive in Great Britain on a full, valid driving license from another EU country for up to three years.

After three years living in the UK you must exchange your EU licence for a UK licence. This is a simple process with a small fee.

1. **Order form D1** from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).
2. Send the form, the £43 fee and any documents you need (including your driving licence) to the address on the form.
3. You should get your new licence within 3 weeks.

If you have a driving licence from another country outside of the EU (e.g. Colombia) you can only drive in Great Britain for 12 months after you arrive.

How to obtain a GB driving licence (For non-EU licence holders)

1. Get a provisional driving licence: apply online from DVLA or from a Post Office
2. Take a theory test: Once you receive the provisional licence, you may do the theory test. Apply online with DVLA.
3. Take a Practical Test: Apply Online with DVLA

You can find more information on: <https://www.gov.uk/exchange-foreign-driving-licence>

POLICE AND CRIME

In an emergency you should phone **999**. You should use this service if a crime or incident is happening now or if anyone is in immediate danger.

Dial **101** to contact your local police for incidents not requiring an immediate police response.

To make a complaint you can also contact the police station. You can take a friend for support to write down what the police say to you. You can also request an interpreter however there is no guarantee that the police will offer one.

If you are reporting a sexual assault, domestic violence or a hate crime (e.g. a racist or homophobic attack) it is often easier to find the Community Safety Unit and go through them first. Use Google to find your nearest unit.

If you are injured as a result of a crime you should visit your doctor or hospital and request a medical report as soon as possible.

Certain categories of crime or incidents committed in the Greater London area can now be reported over the internet: <https://online.met.police.uk/>

ORGANISATIONS AND WEBSITES:

USEFUL WEBSITES

UK Government

<https://www.gov.uk/>

Citizens Advice

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

National Health Service

<https://www.nhs.uk/>

Transport for London

<https://tfl.gov.uk/>

No Recourse to Public Funds Network

<http://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Shelter (Homeless Charity)

<https://england.shelter.org.uk>

Law Centres Network (for signposting to Law Centres for legal advice)

<https://www.lawcentres.org.uk/i-am-looking-for-advice>

Information on voting rights

<https://www.yourvotematters.co.uk/can-i-vote/who-can-register-to-vote>

Police

<https://www.police.uk/>

ORGANISATIONS YOU CAN CONTACT

The Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation (IRMO)

<http://irmo.org.uk/>

- Advice in Immigration, Housing, Benefits, Tax, Employment and Education access.
- English classes and activities for children and young people
- Service offered in Spanish and Portuguese
- **Address: Unit 8 Warwick House, Overton Road SW9 7JP. Tel: 020 7733 9977**

The Latin American Disabled People's Project

<http://www.ladpp.org.uk/>

- Service delivered in Spanish and Portuguese.
- **Address: London SE17 3WZ. Tel: 020 7793 8399**

Latin American House (CASA LATINA)

<https://www.casalatina.org.uk/es/>

- Advice in Immigration, Housing, Benefits, Tax, Employment rights
- **Address: 10 Kingsgate Place, London NW6 4TA. Tel: 020 7372 8653 (To book an appointment)**

Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS)

<http://www.lawrs.org.uk/>

- Advice in Immigration, Housing, Benefit, Tax, Employment right, Domestic Violence
- Service in Spanish and Portuguese
- Just for Latin American women
- **Address: 52-54 Featherstone St, London EC1Y 8RT. Tel: 0844 264 0682**

PRAXIS

<http://www.praxis.org.uk/>

- Advise in Immigration, Housing, Benefit
- Possibility to offer an interpreter
- **Address: Pott Street, London E2 0EF. Tel: 020 7729 7985**

Stockwell Partnership

<http://www.stockwell.org.uk/>

- Advice on Housing, Benefits, Tax, Access to Employment
- Service offered in Spanish and Portuguese
- **Address: 157 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1XN. Tel: 020 7793 7730**

Southwark Law Centre

<http://www.southwarklawcentre.org.uk/>

- Legal advice on Immigration, Welfare, Housing, Debt and Employment rights
- For Southwark, Lambeth and Lewisham residents mainly
- Possibility of interpreter

WORK RIGHTS ADVICE - UNIONS

Unions Voices of the World (UVW)

www.uvwunion.org.uk/

- Address: Ingestre Community Centre, Ingestre Road, Kentish Town, NW5 1UX. Tel: 07775 697605

Independent Workers Union of Great Britain (IWGB)

<https://iwgb.org.uk/>

- Address: 12-20 Baron St, London N1 9LL. Tel: 02034907530

Unite the Union

<https://unitetheunion.org/>

- Unite is dedicated to protecting worker's rights and equality and diversity in the workplace
- Address: Unite House, 128 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8TN. Tel: 020 7611 2500

GMB

<https://www.gmb.org.uk/>

- GMB's main purpose is to improve the pay and conditions of GMB members in their workplaces
- Address: John Cope House, 152 Brent Street, London NW4 2DP. Tel: 020 8202 827

OTHER

Work Rights Centre (WoRC)

<https://www.workrightscentre.org/>

- Their mission is to help UK and EU nationals exit precarious work, and equip them with the tools to access fair and lawful employment.
- Tel: 0300 4000 100, Monday - Saturday, 11AM-5PM

If you have any comments, questions or ideas, please get in touch with info@lawcentres.org.uk

The content of this guide represent the views of the author only and is their sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.



This briefing paper was part-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020).