

The UK's points-based immigration system

Key information for au pairs, business travellers, Erasmus students and those looking to come to the UK for an internship

Introduction

Free movement between the UK and the European Union ended on 31 December 2020 and on 1 January 2021, the UK implemented a **new points-based immigration system** that applies to anyone who wants to come to work or study in the UK.

If you are not eligible under the **EU Settlement Scheme**, you will need to meet specific requirements and apply for a visa in order to live, work or study in the UK. You can continue to visit the UK without applying for a visitor visa and in most cases, you can stay as a visitor for up to six months. During your visit, you may participate in a wide range of activities without a visa.

Before you apply to work or study in the UK under the points-based immigration system, you should check if you're eligible for the **EU Settlement Scheme**.





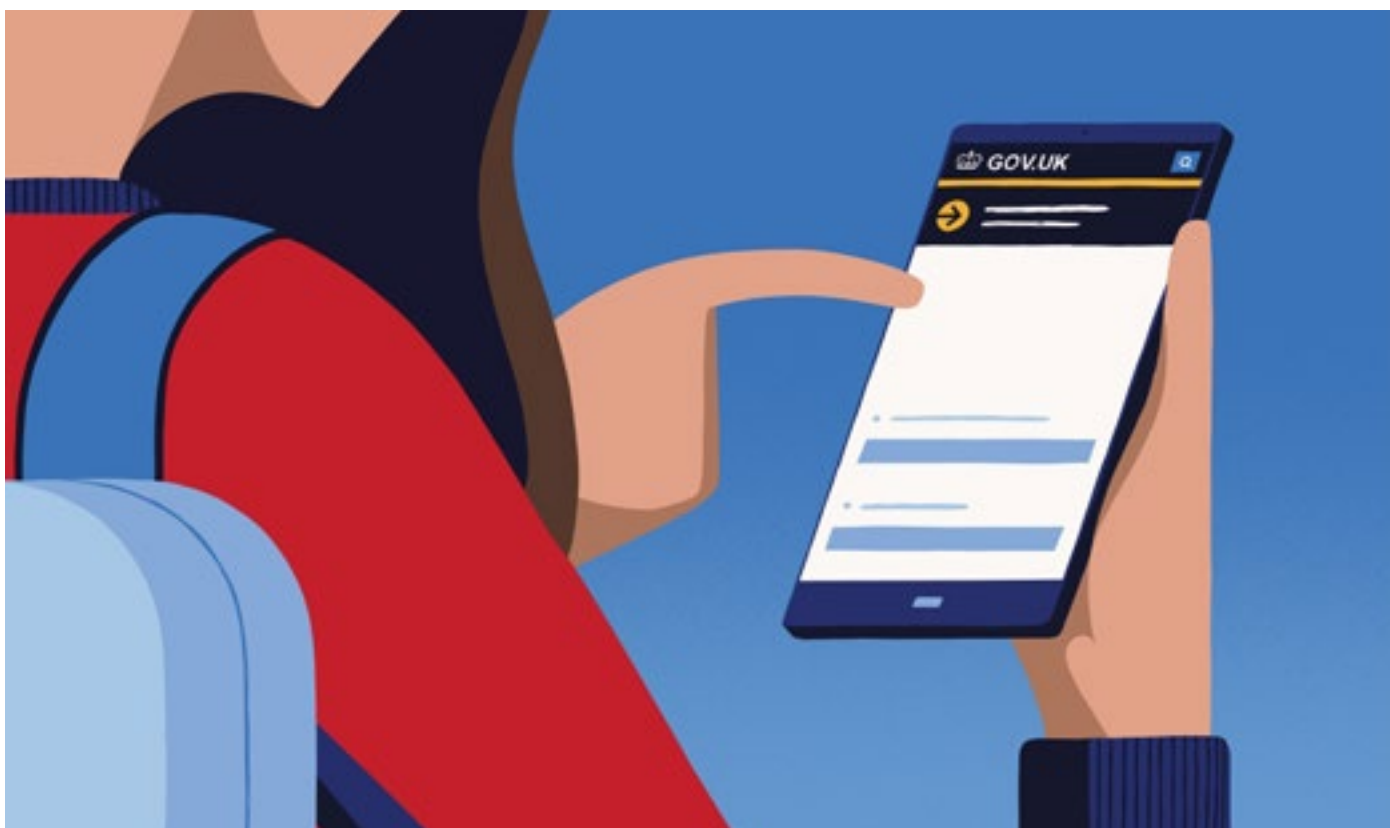
Au pairs

The UK's points-based immigration system does not offer a dedicated visa route for au pairs, as has been the case since 2008, however you may be able to work as an au pair if you:

- are from an EU, EEA or Swiss country and eligible under the **EU Settlement Scheme**
- have a visa which allows general work at any skill level, for instance as a dependent of a migrant who is settled in the UK. Check the conditions of your visa.

You are permitted to **visit the UK for up to six months** without a visa, but when visiting the UK you are not permitted to work, including working as an au pair.

For more information on **au pairs**, visit **GOV.UK**.





Business travellers

As an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen travelling to the UK for a short business trip, you may not need to apply for a visa.

Under the **UK's points-based immigration system**, you can continue to visit the UK for up to six months without applying for a visa. You may be able to participate in a wide range of business-related activities.

For example, as a business visitor you can:

- attend meetings, conferences, seminars and interviews. If you are coming to the UK for interviews or meetings to discuss job offers, you must then leave the UK to apply for entry under the relevant work route if you are successful
- give a one-off or short series of talks and speeches – these must not be organised as commercial events and must not make a profit for the organiser
- negotiate and sign deals and contracts
- attend trade fairs – this must be for promotional work only
- carry out site visits and inspections
- gather information for your employment overseas
- be briefed on the requirements of a UK based customer – the work for the customer must be done outside the UK.

You may enter the UK multiple times during your visit but you may not live in the UK by means of frequent or successive visits.

As a business visitor, you cannot:

- do paid or unpaid work for a UK company or as a self-employed person
- do a work placement or internship
- sell directly to the public or provide goods and services.

This list is not exhaustive. The full list of permitted activities is available at GOV.UK. You should always check if you need a visa to carry out your intended activities, before you travel to the UK.





Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport. The UK withdrew from the Erasmus+ programme when the transition period ended on 31 December 2020.

Erasmus+ placements in the UK in the 2020–21 academic year will continue as normal.

Under the new points-based immigration system, a visitor may study for up to six months at an accredited institution without a visa, provided the study is not at a state funded school or academy.

You can also apply for a **Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange visa**. The Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) visa is a temporary worker visa for those coming to the UK to undertake work experience, training, participate in an Overseas Government Language Programme, complete research, or complete a fellowship through one of the authorised schemes.

To study in the UK for longer than six months you will need to apply for a **Student visa** through the new points-based immigration system.

You can apply for a Short-term study visa if you want to come to the UK to study English. This visa is for English language courses lasting longer than six months and up to 11 months.





Internships

Under the new points-based immigration system there is not a dedicated route for internships.

Visitors can visit the UK for up to six months but are not permitted to undertake paid employment, un-paid work or internships.

However, you may be able to undertake an internship if you have a visa which allows general work at any skill level, for instance a **Student visa**. Check the conditions of your visa.

Alternatively, you can apply for a **Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange visa**. The Tier 5 Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) visa is a temporary worker visa for those coming to the UK to undertake work experience, training, participate in an Overseas Government Language Programme, complete research, or complete a fellowship through one of the authorised schemes. There are 60 approved GAE schemes covering a wide range of sectors.

