

# Brexit and the impact on EU Citizens

## Introduction

The United Kingdom (UK) leaves the European Union (EU) at the end of 2020 and as a result a new immigration system will be implemented which will affect EU, EEA and Swiss citizens. The UK will continue to welcome visitors from the EU and rest of the world but free movement and being able to live and work in the UK will change.

The date that you entered the UK will determine your future status to live and work in the UK.

## Resident in the UK before 31 December

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who arrive in the UK on or before 31 December 2020 can apply for settled status through the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) and have until 30 June 2021 to make an application.

If you are travelling close to the end of the year, evidence of your residence in the UK by 31 December 2020 is an essential element for eligibility to apply through the EU Settlement Scheme.

You may want to consider:

- Asking the border agent to stamp your passport to demonstrate that you arrived in time. Border agents don't normally stamp passports for EU/EEA/Swiss citizens unless requested by the citizen. It's not often EU citizens request this but a 'by request entry stamp' provide evidence makes it absolutely clear when you entered.
- Where possible, collecting UK residence evidence immediately after arrival, eg a tenancy agreement, utility bills, etc.

### ***Useful links:***

- [UK Government EU Settlement Scheme page](#)
- [University of Southampton Settled Status guidance](#)

## Arriving in the UK from 1 January 2021

If you enter the UK from 1 January onwards you will be assessed under the new immigration rules which are based on the existing system used for existing non-EEA nationals, but permits a wider range of roles to be sponsored.

The UK Government has created a suite of introductory guides, including a guide to working in the UK from January 2021. The new immigration system is open for visas starting on and after 1 January 2020.

If you don't have the right to work in the UK, you need to discuss this please email the Recruitment Team [recruitment@soton.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@soton.ac.uk) who can see if it is possible to sponsor you through the new points-based skilled worker immigration route.

***Useful links:***

- [The UK's points-based immigration system: information for EU citizens](#)