

EU Settlement support in Mid Sussex

Do I need to apply to stay in the UK?

You usually need to apply to stay in the UK if you are from:

- a country in the EU, European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland.

Or

- if you're from another country and you have a family member who is from the EU, EEA or Switzerland.

When should I apply? Is it worth applying now?

It is worth applying to stay in the UK now. After 31 December 2020, you might be asked to prove your right to do things like get a job or use the NHS. You will be able to do this by showing you have 'pre-settled status' or 'settled status' under the EU Settlement Scheme, or British citizenship.

Getting your status will prove your right to:

- stay in the UK for more than 3 months
- work
- study
- use the NHS
- claim the State Pension
- rent a home

You can continue to claim benefits and get help with housing from your local council until 31 December 2020.

After that date, some benefits like Universal Credit, Pension Credit and Child Benefit might stop if you do not have settled status. You might not be able to get help with housing from your local council.

What do I need to apply for?

What you need to apply for depends on how long you have lived in the UK and if you've applied to stay in the UK before.

If you've lived in the UK for less than 5 years

You should apply to the EU Settlement Scheme for pre-settled status. You only need to prove you have lived in the UK for 1 day in the last 6 months to get it. You can apply for pre-settled status as long as you move to the UK before 31 December 2020.

If you get pre-settled status, you can live and work in the UK for up to 5 years. After you have lived in the UK for 5 years, you should apply for settled status to stay longer.

You can spend up to 2 years outside the UK without losing your pre-settled status. But, if you want to apply for settled status later, you need to:

- have lived in the UK for 5 years in a row
- prove that you lived in the UK for 6 months out of every 12 months during those 5 years.

The 5 years can include time before you got pre-settled status.

Some people have wrongly been given pre-settled status, this is often because of a gap in the government computer records. If this has happened to you, please contact us. We will advise you on what this means and how to proceed.

If you've lived in the UK for 5 years or more

You should either apply to the EU Settlement Scheme for settled status or for British citizenship.

If you get settled status, you can:

- live and work in the UK for as long as you like
- live outside the UK for up to 5 years in a row without losing your status - 4 years if you're Swiss
- apply for British citizenship 12 months after you get settled status - or straight away if you're married or in a civil partnership with a British citizen
- bring your family to live in the UK

You will have more rights if you become a British citizen but you might have to give up your current nationality. You need to pay to apply for British citizenship.

Please contact us if you are worried about your status and need help to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Telephone: 0344 477 1171 (Monday to Friday, 9am-4.30pm)

Email: EUMidSussex@westsussexcab.org.uk

Please email us your contact details, our Caseworker will contact you back.

We have access to interpreters including sign language for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

www.advicewestsussex.org.uk



Free, confidential advice.

Whoever you are.

We help people overcome their problems and campaign on big issues when their voices need to be heard.

We value diversity, champion equality and challenge discrimination and harassment. We are here for everyone.

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