

eVisas Briefing

If you do not have British or Irish nationality you may need to apply for an eVisa.

What is changing?

The UK border and immigration system is becoming digital in 2025.

If people have a physical document, the way they prove their immigration status will change although how they apply for permission to enter or stay in the UK will stay the same. This new approach means that physical documents like biometric residence permits (BRP) and vignette visa stickers in passports will be replaced by an 'eVisa'. Visit www.gov.uk/evisa for more information.

What is an eVisa?

An eVisa is an online record of immigration status that is created with a UKVI (UK Visas and Immigration) account. An eVisa does not affect a person's immigration status if they already have permission to enter or stay in the UK.

See [What is an eVisa? \(video\) - GOV.UK](#)

How to create a UKVI account

If a person has one of the documents listed below, they need to go to [Get access to your eVisa - GOV.UK](#) to follow the instructions to create a UKVI account to view their eVisa:

- biometric residence permit (BRP)
- biometric residence card (BRC)
- Legacy paper document
- passport with a visa vignette (sticker in your passport)
- passport with an immigration ink stamp

It is important to do this now to avoid being unable to prove immigration status.

The Home Office advises to keep the BRP, BRC or passport safe as they may be needed to create the UKVI account.

If the person has EU Settled Status they already have an eVisa/digital status and do not need to do anything.

Next steps

If the person does not already have a UKVI account they will need to:

- Create a UKVI account
- Confirm their identity using the 'UK Immigration ID Check' app on a smartphone

To do this they will need:

- Access to a smartphone
- A mobile phone number
- An email address
- Their BRP card or a valid passport with their BRP number or visa application number

They must be able to access the phone number and email address used to create the account as they will need them every time they use their eVisa to prove their immigration status online.

See [How to create a UKVI account and access your eVisa \(video\) - GOV.UK](#)

What are the documents people may have?

Have a look on the next page for examples of each physical document

<p>BRP (Biometric Residence Permit)</p>	<p>All BRPs will expire on 31 December 2024.</p> <p>It is advised to create a UKVI account now but it will be possible to use a BRP to create an account up to 12 months after it expires.</p> <p>It is important to keep the BRP card as the reference number may be needed for future applications to stay in the UK.</p> <p>If a Ukrainian applies for the visa extension scheme they will need their expired BRP card.</p> <p>If someone has lost their valid BRP they can no longer apply for a replacement and should create an eVisa.</p>
<p>BRC (Biometric Residence Card)</p>	<p>All BRCs will expire on 31 December 2024.</p> <p>There are two types of BRC for family members of European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss citizens:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EEA BRC: issued before Britain left the EU, and under 'TYPE OF PERMIT' will say 'FAMILY MEMBER – EU RESIDENCE'. 2. EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) BRC: issued to people who have made a successful application to the EU Settlement Scheme to have immigration rights. All EUSS BRCs will expire on 31 December 2024, and under 'TYPE OF PERMIT' will say 'EU SCHEME SETTLEMENT.' <p>If a person has an EEA BRC, they need to check they still have UK immigration status if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have not applied to the EUSS • Have not obtained another form of UK immigration status, or • Have not become a British or Irish citizen <p>This is because the UK has left the EU and EU law no longer applies.</p> <p>If a person has a BRC and has status granted under the EUSS (European Union Settlement Scheme), they already have an eVisa and do not need to do anything. They must NOT apply for an eVisa as this may stop their EUSS share code from working.</p>
<p>Legacy paper document</p> <p>Wet ink stamp in passport</p> <p>Vignette (sticker) in passport</p>	<p>If a person has indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain (also known as settlement or settled status) that they prove with a passport with a wet ink stamp or vignette sticker, or other legacy paper document, they need to make a 'No Time Limit' application which is free of charge.</p> <p>If they use a vignette sticker but <i>do not</i> have indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain they cannot make a 'No Time Limit' application. They will need to wait for more information and should continue to use their vignette to prove their status.</p> <p>If someone has lost their passport containing the ink stamp or vignette sticker, they should make a 'No Time Limit' application.</p>

Biometric Residence Permit



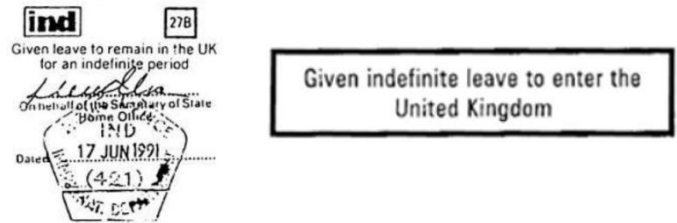
Biometric Residence Card



Vignette (sticker) in passport



Ink stamp in passport



What is the View and Prove Service (share code)?

When the UKVI account is set up a person can use the online view and prove service [View and prove your immigration status: get a share code - GOV.UK](#)

Sign into the service to:

- Get a share code to prove status to employers, landlords and others
- Update personal details, for example passport number or email address
- Check what rights someone has in the UK, for example the right to work, rent or claim benefits

What is a share code?

A share code is a sequence of letters and/or numbers which is unique to the applicant. The share code is a key for the person requesting a check to view someone's online immigration status for a particular reason. A share code is valid for 90 days.

There are three different share codes for:

1. Right to rent (starts with **R**)
2. Right to work (starts with **W**)
3. Proving immigration status for any other reason for example access to local authority housing (starts with **S**)

The share code and date of birth should be given to the person who is checking status. The person checking must enter the share code and date of birth at www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status.

See [How to prove your immigration status with an eVisa \(video\) - GOV.UK](#)

How to travel with an eVisa

The eVisa will be linked to a person's passport or travel documents, so when they travel, carriers and border force will be able to check their immigration status automatically.

This means it is important to keep the current passport or travel document details updated in the UKVI account.

See [How to travel with your eVisa \(video\) - GOV.UK](#)

Signposting for help and advice

For more information about eVisas and how this change will affect people visit www.gov.uk/eVisa
Visit Online immigration status (eVisa): help videos - GOV.UK for guidance videos <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What is an eVisa?- How to create a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account and access your eVisa- How to travel with your eVisa- How to prove your immigration status with an eVisa
Contact UKVI Resolution Centre (webchat) Help with accessing your UK Visas and Immigration account or updating your account details - Contact UK Visas and Immigration for help - GOV.UK
Call UK Visas and Immigration Contact Centre All times are UK local time. The contact centre is closed on bank holidays. Telephone: +44 (0)300 790 6268 - select option 3 Telephone: +44 (0)203 875 4669, if you are unable to dial 0300 numbers Monday to Friday, 8am to 8.30pm Saturday and Sunday, 9:30am to 4:30pm Find out about call charges
Report an error with your eVisa - GOV.UK
Migrant Help can offer face to face and remote support with eVisas. Telephone: 07483 170 100 Email: evisa@migranthelpuk.org
Visit Leeds Migration Partnership Blog for a comprehensive set of resources on all aspects of eVisas created and updated by Leeds City Council migration team. E-Visas – if you are a refugee or have leave to remain, you need to know about this – Updated October 2024 Migration Partnership

A note on legal advice

The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) have confirmed that **helping someone to make a UKVI account is not immigration advice.**

This is because making a UKVI account does not change, impact or remove someone's immigration status or right to stay in the UK.

It is important to be aware that giving immigration advice when you are not qualified to do so is a criminal offence.

For example, a common question you might be asked is: 'Is my leave expiring on 31 December 2024?'

Answering this question with a 'Yes' or 'No' **is** immigration advice.

What you could say instead is something like:

- Recently, the Home Office has been issuing new BRPs with an expiry of 31 December 2024, as this is the date that the system moves to an online, digital system.
- The date of expiry of a BRP card does not necessarily affect a person's immigration status.
- The best way to check the date that your leave expires is on your Home Office decision letter.

Find a legal adviser by using the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) Adviser Finder Or Find a Solicitor - The Law Society
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