



## Immigration & Nationality

### GUERNSEY BORDER AGENCY IMMIGRATION UPDATE

#### General Note

With the end of the Brexit transition period fast approaching and as a result of the UK leaving the EU, new rules will apply to EU/EEA citizens travelling to the UK and the Crown Dependencies and for Crown Dependencies British citizens travelling outside the Common Travel Area.

#### British and Island Variant Passports

Blue, island variant passports are now in issue. Immigration issue approximately 6000 passports per year.

Your current passport, regardless if it denotes EU wording or not, is valid for use (providing it has not expired) EU wording has been omitted on passports since March 2019.

Passports are now issued for a maximum period of 10 years for adults, 5 years for a child. Previously some passport were issued in excess of 10 years, if the previous passport surrendered early and had a valid period left (up to 9 months valid period only was transferable), e. g. some passports, still in circulation, may have a valid period in excess of 10 years, e.g.10 years and 5 months, these passports are still valid for use. However **you must have a minimum of 6 months validity on your passport from date of travel. This six month validity period must fall with the first 10 years of passport 'life'. Any additional months above the 10 years initial duration will no longer be a recognised valid period in which to travel and will require early renewal.**

If in any doubt as to passport validity, either visit [www.gov.uk/check-a-passport-for-travel-to-europe](http://www.gov.uk/check-a-passport-for-travel-to-europe) or call the immigration office.

**If you need to renew your passport please allow ample time as delays are anticipated.**

Currently it takes 5/6 weeks to process a passport application, completed form, two recent (within 1 month) suitable size photos, (children (up to 16 years) must have photo attested to true likeness), previously issued passport, and fee.

Adult £85.00 fast track £142.00 (8 working days – if we experience significant delays fast track time may also be affected).

Child £58.50 fast track £122.00

All information on SOG website or call the Immigration office, 741420

#### On Arrival at Ports Outside the Common Travel Area

From 1<sup>st</sup> January British citizens including Island variant passport holders, will be treated differently, please check if you will require additional documentation for your journey (visas or Electronic Travel Authorisation) with the relevant, 'destination' government authorities before you travel. You may also need to:

- Show a return or onward ticket
- Have your passport stamped on entry and exit.
- Demonstrate you have enough funds for your stay

And **remember to use separate lanes from EU/EEA and Swiss citizens when queueing at the border entry point.** Delays should be anticipated, please allow yourself plenty time to clear border entry points for any onward plans.

### **EU I.D Cards**

EU/EEA, new arrivals on or after **1st October 2021, will not be able to travel using an EU issued identity card.** The UK and Crown Dependencies will be unable to accept an EU issued identity card as proof of identification at border entry points from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021. Valid passports will continue to be an acceptable form of proof of identification at border entry points and will be required in order to apply for any applicable visas.

### **EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS):**

The EU Settlement scheme opened April 2019 and was set up to protect the rights of EU Nationals currently residing or looking to reside on or before 31 December 2020. This scheme protects rights to reside and work in the UK and Crown Dependencies regardless of where registered. It will protect rights to public funds; social security/ pension and healthcare, to be able to enrol for education/schools, it will allow the continued use of an EU issued I.D card beyond 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2021, up to 2026 and it will ease transit through Common Travel Area border entry points when returning to the Bailiwick.

To apply you must be a resident before 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020 and the application must be submitted before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Five years continuous residency must be demonstrated to be deemed as settled. If have not completed five years when application is submitted, will be deemed as pre-settled status (working towards being settled)

Free to apply, we have kept it simple - forms available from SCFH, constable's office including Sark and Alderney, on-line to print out and New Jetty.

If you are British or Irish you do not need to apply, all other EU nationals are strongly advised to apply to protect their rights, regardless of duration of residency.

Documents required are; completed form, proof of nationality (**valid** passport/Nat ID card) submitted in person by the applicant. We need to verify proof of ID, so not able to accept application submitted on behalf of another person/family member.

NO FEE required. Approximately 6 weeks to process each application;

Immigration background checks, period of residency check and a criminality check is carried out for the safety of the community.

Completion of process leads to formal letter of recognition being issued and posted out. You are advised to take this letter with you when you travel to ease your passage through the UK border entry points.

5 years residency can include time spent in UK, and Jersey, a person can be out of UK / Channel Islands for maximum period of 6 months in a 12 month period. If out for longer the period is deemed as a significant break, the residency period before the break will not be counted as being resident towards the 5 year requirement.

All info on SOG website in other languages; Latvian, Portuguese, French and Polish language.

### **Entry Clearance Requirements**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, EU/EEA and Swiss nationals (new arrivals) will be able to enter the UK and Crown Dependencies as visitors for a short stay of up to 6 months, during this period they will not be able to work or undertake a paid occupation. Any EU national that wishes to reside for longer and/ or work **must apply for the appropriate entry clearance visa**, via the UK on line system: <https://www.gov.uk/seasonal-worker-visa/apply> (for short term) or <https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/apply-visa-type/funnel> (for longer term) **prior to travel and may be required to attend their local Visa Application Centre**. Any newly arrived EU national that enters the UK and Crown Dependencies as a visitor will not be able switch to apply for a work visa once resident in the Bailiwick.

Applicants will need to be in possession of a valid passport in order to apply for the entry clearance visa.

**British and Irish citizens and EU nationals registered with the EU settlement scheme will be exempt from this requirement.**