

Brexit: Colleague Frequently Asked Questions



Has anything already changed for EU citizens living in the UK as a result of Brexit?

No, there's no change to the status of EU citizens living in the UK while the UK remains in the EU.

What will change for EU citizens after the UK leaves the EU?

EU citizens who arrive in the UK before 29 March 2019 and have been continuously and lawfully living here for five years will be able to apply for settled status. This status will mean that these people will be able to stay in the UK indefinitely, be free to live here, have access to public funds and services and go on to apply for British citizenship if they choose to.

EU citizens who arrive in the UK before 29 March 2019 but who haven't been continuously living here for five years when the UK leaves the EU will be able to stay in the UK until they have reached the five year threshold. Then they can apply for settled status.

How do I apply for settled status?

To get settled status EU citizens will need to apply to the Home Office. The Government hasn't confirmed the process or the date for doing this yet.

How much will it cost to apply for settled status?

The Government has confirmed that the fee for applying for settled status will not be more than the fee for applying for a UK passport, which is currently £72.50.

When will I be able to apply for settled status?

The Government has said they expect the online application system to go live in late 2018.

Do I have to apply for settled status before the UK leaves the EU?

No, the scheme to apply for settled status will remain open for at least two years after the UK has left the EU for people to make their applications. During this period residence rights will be protected.

Is the application for settled status the same as for permanent residence status?

No, the Government has confirmed that the application process for settled status will be completely different from the current process for permanent residence status.

I've already got permanent residence status – do I need to do anything?

The Government has said that there will be a simple process for those people who've already got a permanent residence document to exchange this for the new settled status document. This will be free of charge.

I've already got indefinite leave to remain – do I need to do anything?

No, the status of indefinite leave to remain is not affected by the UK leaving the EU. If you've already got evidence of being granted this status, then you don't need to apply for anything else.

If you want to get an updated document confirming your status you can do this now by applying for a biometric residence permit. Or you can wait for the settled status application process to open. The government have said that there will be a simple process for those people with old indefinite leave to remain documents to exchange them for the new settled status document. This will be free of charge.

Will there be any changes for Irish nationals?

No, the rights of British and Irish citizens in each other's countries are contained in the Ireland Act 1949, which is not affected by the UK leaving the EU. So Irish nationals won't need to apply for a new status as a result of Brexit.

How can I get more information?

There is more information on the Home Office website - www.gov.uk/guidance/status-of-eu-nationals-in-the-uk-what-you-need-to-know. This is available in several European languages. You can also sign up to receive email updates as more information becomes available.