



# UK Medical Professionals Immigration UPDATE

SOURCE:

<https://www.gov.uk/health-care-worker-visa>

## Check how the new Brexit rules affect you

**The UK has now finished its transition period post-Brexit and the new immigration system is fully in force. Here, we provide a summary of the main points that you need to be aware of in relation to immigration in the UK.**

As the UK exited the EU on 31 January 2020, immigration was, arguably, seen as one of the most pressing issues facing the nation. A Health and Care Worker visa allows medical professionals to come to or stay in the UK to do an eligible job with the NHS, an NHS supplier or in adult social care.

This document provides an overview of the changes to the immigration process in the UK and should be used for informational purposes only. These materials do not constitute legal advice, please use the official Government website for the latest advice: <https://www.gov.uk/health-care-worker-visa>

### Eligibility

Check if your job is eligible - before you can find out if your job is eligible, you need to know its 4-digit occupation code. If you do not know your code, you can search for your job in the [ONS occupation coding tool](#).

### Deadline

If someone enters the UK prior to 30 December 2020, they have until 30 June 2021 to apply for pre-settled or settled status. This will be the easiest way to enter the UK if an individual plans to work in the UK on a permanent basis.



✓ Job Offer  
✓ Apply for a Visa

You must have a job offer from an approved UK employer before you apply for a Health and Care Worker visa. Approved employers are also known as sponsors, because they are sponsoring you to come to or stay in the UK.

## There is a fast-track entry system for doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals

### Skilled worker Visa

Health and Care Visa: Once you've applied online, proved your identity and provided your documents, you'll usually get a decision within 3 weeks.

Does everyone need a visa?

Citizens of EU countries who were living in the UK before the end of 2020 can apply for the EU Settlement Scheme.

They have until 30 June 2021 to apply for settled status.

### Apply from outside the UK

- ✓ You must apply online for a Health and Care Worker Visa.
- ✓ Check which [documents you'll need to apply](#).
- ✓ Your [partner or children](#) will need to apply separately.

### Apply for a Health and Care Worker Visa

Apply for a Skilled Worker visa. You'll be asked if you're applying for a Health and Care Worker Visa as part of your application - make sure you choose 'yes'.

#### Apply

Once you've started your application, you can save your form and complete it later.

They have until 30 June 2021 to apply for settled status.

### Points Based System

Applications under the new points based system opened on 1 December 2020. An employer will need a sponsor licence for an individual to apply to work in the UK under this [scheme](#).

### Level of English

You'll usually need to prove your knowledge of the English language when you apply, unless you did this in a previous successful visa application.

<https://www.gov.uk/health-care-worker-visa/knowledge-of-english>

You must prove you can read, write, speak and understand English to at least level B1 on the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages \(CEFR\) scale](#).

You do not need to prove your knowledge of English if :

- you're a national of one of the following countries:  
check the [website](#)
- you're sponsored to work as a doctor, dentist, nurse or midwife.

### How much it costs

When you apply for a Health and Care Worker Visa, you'll need to have enough money to:

- ✓ pay the application fee £232 - £464 per person
- ✓ support yourself when you arrive in the UK - you'll usually need to have at least £1,270 available (unless you're exempt)

Check for more information the [website of gov.uk](#)

If your employer can support you instead. Your certificate of sponsorship must confirm this. Your employer will need to complete the 'sponsor certifies maintenance' section on your certificate.

### Settlement Scheme

If someone enters the UK prior to 30 December 2020, they have until 30 June 2021 to apply for pre-settled or settled status. This will be the easiest way to enter the UK if an individual plans to work in the UK on a permanent basis.

EU citizens already living in the UK by 31 December and their families do not have to go through the new system but instead can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, and have until 30 June 2021 to do so.

| Settled status   | Pre settled status   |
|--|--|
| 5 years' or more continuous residence in the UK                                | Less than 5 years' continuous residence in the UK  |
| Resident in the UK by 31 December 2020   | Resident in the UK by 31 December 2020   |
| 2-3 week processing time   | 2-3 week processing time   |
| Apply by 30 June 2021  | Apply by 30 June 2021  |
| Indefinite status  | 5 year grant   |
| Lapses after 5 consecutive years' absence from the UK                          | Lapses after 2 years' absence from UK  |
| Maintain status by returning to UK at least once every 5 years                 | Maintain status by returning to UK at least once every 2 years   |
|  | BUT Eligibility to switch into Settled Status requires absences of no more than 6 months out of any 12 (with exceptions) |
| Criminality assessment   | Criminality assessment   |
| Apply for citizenship once held for 12 months (Cannot be backdated, unlike PR) | Cannot apply directly for citizenship  |