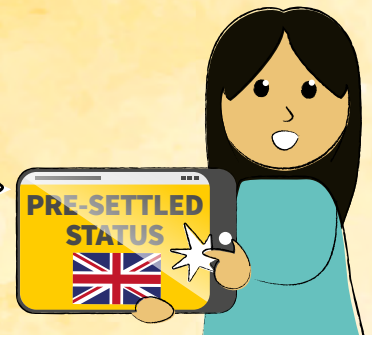




# APPLYING AS A JOINING FAMILY MEMBER

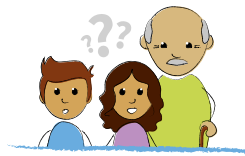


If you are the close family member of an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen, or the close family member of their spouse or civil partner, and you want to enter and remain in the U.K. you need to submit an application from abroad first. Your close family member, or their spouse or civil partner can be your **relevant sponsor** if they are covered by the EU Settlement Scheme. You will be able to apply to join your relevant sponsor in the UK at any time in the future.

Your relevant sponsor must have started living in the UK before 31 December 2020, with residence not broken by long absences. Your relevant sponsor must apply for pre-Settled Status or Settled Status before 30 June 2021 in order to continue lawfully living in the UK after that date.

## Am I eligible to join my relevant sponsor and how do I apply?

### I am the partner or dependent of my sponsor



#### ✓ Spouse or Civil partner

The relationships must have existed on 31 December 2020 (31/12/2025 for family members of a Swiss citizen). If you are not in one of these relationships by the 31/12/2020, please check below if you could apply as a durable partner.

#### ✓ Durable partner

The Home Office expects to see two years of cohabitation or other evidence of the relationship being serious by 31/12/20 for example, if you have shared responsibility for children.

#### ✓ Dependent Child or grandchild

Only children and grandchildren of 21 and older will need to provide proof of dependency on the relevant sponsor (see overleaf).

#### ✓ Dependent parent or grandparent

Applications made by 30/06/21 have dependency assumed.  
Applications made on or after 01/07/21 have to show dependency (see overleaf).

### My English is not good enough to understand the application



Settled offers help through our website, **through our multilingual Facebook forums and our multilingual helpline** that is reachable also via WhatsApp and SMS. Check our website for further details and contact numbers.

### I'm an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen, what do I need to apply?



#### ✓ A valid biometric passport or ID card

#### ✓ Proof of your relationship (see overleaf)

#### ✓ Download the Home Office **EU EXIT: ID Check App** to a smartphone to scan the biometric ID.



### I'm a non-EEA citizen, what do I need to apply?



Most non-EEA citizens will not be able to use the **EU EXIT: ID Check App** to scan the biometric ID. They will need to apply first for an **EU Settlement Scheme Family Permit**. Only then will they be able to enter the UK and apply for (pre-)settled status. If they arrive in the UK after 01/04/2021 they must apply for (pre-)settled status within 3 months of their arrival.

### When joining my relevant sponsor, can I enter as a visitor and apply for (pre-)settled status from the UK?



No, you need to **apply from abroad AND** you need to **wait for a decision on your (pre-)settled status application before traveling**. A certificate of application doesn't prove that you can enter and remain in the UK.



### I have a criminal record

**We recommend you seek legal advice before applying.**

More information is available at [settled.org.uk](https://settled.org.uk)



Settled is a new charity that aims to help vulnerable EU citizens in the UK to apply to the EU Settlements Scheme. The charity works with a network of volunteers across the country.

- If you can, **please donate to Settled** so we can reach out to vulnerable EU citizens across the country: [settled.org.uk/en/donate/](https://settled.org.uk/en/donate/)
- If you wish to **become a volunteer**, please join us at [settled.org.uk](https://settled.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 1184580  
OISC organisation no. N201900057





Join your relevant sponsor in the UK

## DOCUMENTS AND EVIDENCE YOU MUST PROVIDE



Your relevant sponsor must be **one of the following**:

- ✓ **An EU/EEA/Swiss citizen or their spouse or civil partner**
- ✓ **A relevant person of Northern Ireland or their spouse or civil partner**
- ✓ **An EU/EEA/Swiss citizen** that was living in the UK and was exercising treaty rights before getting also British citizenship or **their spouse or civil partner**
- ✓ **An EU/EEA/Swiss citizen that is a “frontier worker”**
- ✓ **A British citizen** who is also an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen, in some limited cases, can sponsor a family member if they fall under the McCarthy dual national transitional arrangements
- ✓ **An Irish citizen** who would have been eligible for leave under the Scheme had they applied before 1 July 2021, or **their spouse or civil partner**

Preferably the EU/EEA/Swiss citizen should have received the (pre-)settled status before making an application. Your family member must meet the eligibility criteria for the EU Settlement Scheme even if they have not applied or cannot apply. This means that they:

- ✓ **were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020**
- ✓ **pass criminal record checks**

### CHECK LIST

- If you are an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen, you will have to **apply and wait for a decision from abroad** for (pre-)settled status before entering the UK. Make sure you have a **valid ID**. If you are an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen, you will be able to use the *EU Exit: ID Check app* if you have a biometric ID.
- If you are a non-EEA, citizen you will have to apply **from abroad for an EU Settlement Scheme Family Permit** before entering the UK. Visit: <https://www.gov.uk/family-permit/eu-settlement-scheme-family-permit>  
If you are a non-EEA family member who has a valid biometric residence card but has been outside the UK for more than six months, you can apply for pre-settled status using the *EU Exit: ID Check app* rather than a Family Permit.
- If you haven't got a passport or an ID card, or if it is about to expire, make an appointment to **apply for a new document** as soon as possible.
- Evidence of your relationship to your EEA family member or their spouse or civil partner**, for example a marriage certificate dated before 31/12/2020, civil partnership certificate dated before 31/12/2020, or birth certificate. If you're married to or in a civil partnership with a Swiss citizen who was resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, the rules are different. You may be eligible if you got married or entered into your partnership any time before 1 January 2026, and the relationship still exists when you apply.
- If the EU, EEA or Swiss citizen family member you are joining has applied to the **EU Settlement Scheme** you must provide their **application number**.
- If the EU, EEA or Swiss citizen family member you are joining has not applied to the EU Settlement Scheme you must provide both: their **valid EU, EEA or Swiss passport** or **national identity card** evidence that they would be eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme if they had applied.
- If you're an unmarried partner you'll need to provide evidence that you were in your **long-term relationship by 31 December 2020**. This usually means showing that you had been living together **for 2 years before 31/12/2020**. Evidence could include:
  - joint bank statements, utility bills, tax returns or official correspondence received to the same address
  - birth certificates or custody agreements showing that you shared responsibility for children while living togetherYou can use other means to show you are in a serious relationship but you'll also need to provide evidence that:
  - you're still together when you apply
  - if you were resident in the UK before 1 January 2021, evidence that you were legally resident during that time
- If you have to show that you are **dependent on your EU, EEA or Swiss family member or his/her spouse or civil partner**, examples of the evidence you can provide include:
  - bank statements or money transfers that show you depend on them financially
  - evidence that you depend on them for health care, for example a letter from a hospital consultant

For further information regarding the type of documents that must be provided:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-evidence-of-relationship-to-an-eu-citizen#unmarried-partner>