

3 years in UK and Islands, settled in UK

(use this category only if the academic year you are paying fees for starts before 1 August 2024)

This category will become more generous for academic years that start on or after 1 August 2024. It will open up to some people who gain 'settled' immigration status part-way through a course. Read about all the requirements that will apply in the category '3 years in UK and Islands, settled in UK (use this category only if the academic year you are paying fees for starts on or after 1 August 2024)'.

In order to qualify for 'home' fees under this category, all of the following criteria (a) to (e) must be met:

(a) you must be 'settled' in the UK on the *first day of the first academic year of the course*

To be 'settled' you must be both ordinarily resident in the UK and without any immigration restriction on the length of your stay in the UK. The regulations take this definition of 'settled' from immigration law (section 33(2A) of the Immigration Act 1971).

You have no immigration restriction on the length of your stay in the UK if you fall into one of the following groups (A or B or C or D or E):

A. 'Indefinite Leave to Remain' or 'Indefinite Leave to Enter' ('ILR'/'ILE')

If you have Indefinite Leave to Enter (ILE) or Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) in the UK, you have no immigration restriction on the length of your stay in the UK.

If you have been given 'settled status' under the EU Settlement Scheme, there is a special category for you to use instead of this one, it is the category headed '3 years in UK and Islands, EUSS settled status connection'. Even though you do have ILE or ILR, you cannot meet the criteria for the '3 years in UK and Islands, settled in UK' category, because of criterion (b), below. So look at the other category instead.

If you have ILE or ILR in Jersey, Guernsey, or the Isle of Man, then this is considered to be ILE or ILR in the UK whenever you are in the UK.

B. British Citizen

If your passport describes you as a 'British Citizen', you have no immigration restriction on the length of your stay in the UK.

A special note for British Overseas Territories Citizens (BOTCs)

Many British Overseas Territories Citizens (BOTCs) are also British Citizens. The easiest way to show you are a British Citizen is to have a passport that lists your nationality as 'British Citizen'. If you do not have one, the UK Government indicates in England's Assessing Eligibility Guidance 2024/25 (paragraph 3.1) that any of the following will be acceptable instead:

- a British Overseas Territories Citizen passport issued before 21 May 2002; or
- a British Dependent Territories Citizen passport issued before 21 May 2002; or
- a British Overseas Territories Citizen passport issued on or after 21 May 2002, but only if you also provide evidence that either:
 - you or your parent was born in a British overseas territory (check the list of 'qualifying territories' at www.gov.uk/types-of-british-nationality/british-overseas-territories-citizen); or
 - you or your parent was registered or naturalised as a citizen (for example, as a British Subject, a Citizen of the UK and Colonies, a British Citizen, a British Dependent Territories Citizen, or a British Overseas Territories Citizen) before 21 May 2002.

If you are a British Overseas Territories Citizen who is also a British Citizen, another category you might fit is the one headed 'Residence in British overseas territories', where the residence area is bigger.

C. Right of Abode

If you have a Certificate of Entitlement to the Right of Abode in the UK in your passport, you have no immigration restriction on the length of your stay in the UK.

D. Republic of Ireland citizen

If you are a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, you have no immigration restriction on the length of your stay in the UK. You are also an EU national and an EEA national.

E. Non-British Citizen serving in the British armed forces

If you are not a British Citizen and you are serving in the British armed forces, you are treated as having no immigration restriction on the length of your stay in the UK, while you serve in the British armed forces. This is because of section 8(5) of the Immigration Act 1971.

Examples of where status is not 'settled'

You are not 'settled' if you:

- have a time limit on the length of your stay in the UK, as shown by your current immigration permission (you have 'limited leave'); or
- are exempt from immigration control (unless you fit box E). For example, you are living in the UK as a diplomat or a member of their household/family; or
- have a type of British passport that does not give you British Citizenship (for example a British National (Overseas) passport), and you do not have Indefinite Leave

(b) on the *first day of the first academic year of the course*, you must not be someone who qualifies for 'home' fees under the category headed '3 years in UK and Islands, EUSS settled status connection'

If you are someone who qualifies for 'home' fees under that other category, you will be assessed under that category instead. It includes an easier test about the 'main purpose' for your residence. The category covers people who have settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, Irish citizens who at some point have lived in the UK and Islands for a 5-year period, and some people who used to have a right of permanent residence under European law and then applied for the EU Settlement Scheme.

(c) you must have been *ordinarily resident* in the *UK and Islands* for the full three-year period before the *first day of the first academic year of the course*. For example, if your course begins in October 2024 you must have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2024

Note that it is not necessary to have had 'settled' immigration status for the full three years. You can obtain 'settled' immigration status as late as the first day of the first academic year of the course.

Note: A person who makes a late application to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) will have any period of residence in the UK and Islands between missing the deadline for the EUSS and making their EUSS application treated as lawful residence, even if it was unlawful. This means the residence can count as 'ordinary residence'.

(d) the main purpose for your residence in the UK and Islands must not have been to receive full-time education during any part of that three-year period

Tip if you were in full-time education at some point during the three years, then ask yourself: If I had not been in education, where would I have been? If the answer is that you would have been somewhere in the UK and Islands anyway, then you meet criterion (d).

(e) you must be *ordinarily resident* in the UK on the *first day of the first academic year of the course*

If you have or will move to the UK from the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, read the 'Special note for people from Channel Islands or Isle of Man' in the section on 'Know the basics' for higher education in Northern Ireland.

Extra note: If you meet all the criteria but the reason you moved to Northern Ireland from England, Wales, Scotland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man was to undertake a course, then you will be charged a higher rate of 'home' fee than a Northern Ireland student (for example it might be £9,250 instead of £4,750 for an undergraduate course).