



# SUPPORTING EU NATIONALS IN UNSETTLING TIMES

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Guidance  
from  
Prospect  
trade union

[brexit.prospect.org.uk](https://brexit.prospect.org.uk)



# SETTLED STATUS FOR EUROPEAN UNION NATIONALS

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**This leaflet summarises what we know in October 2018 about the position for EU 27 nationals after Brexit. Please note that not all the provisions are finalised.**

EU nationals from the EU's 27 countries currently have the right to freedom of movement across the EU. They can live and work in the UK without making any formal application for residence, but this will all change after Brexit.

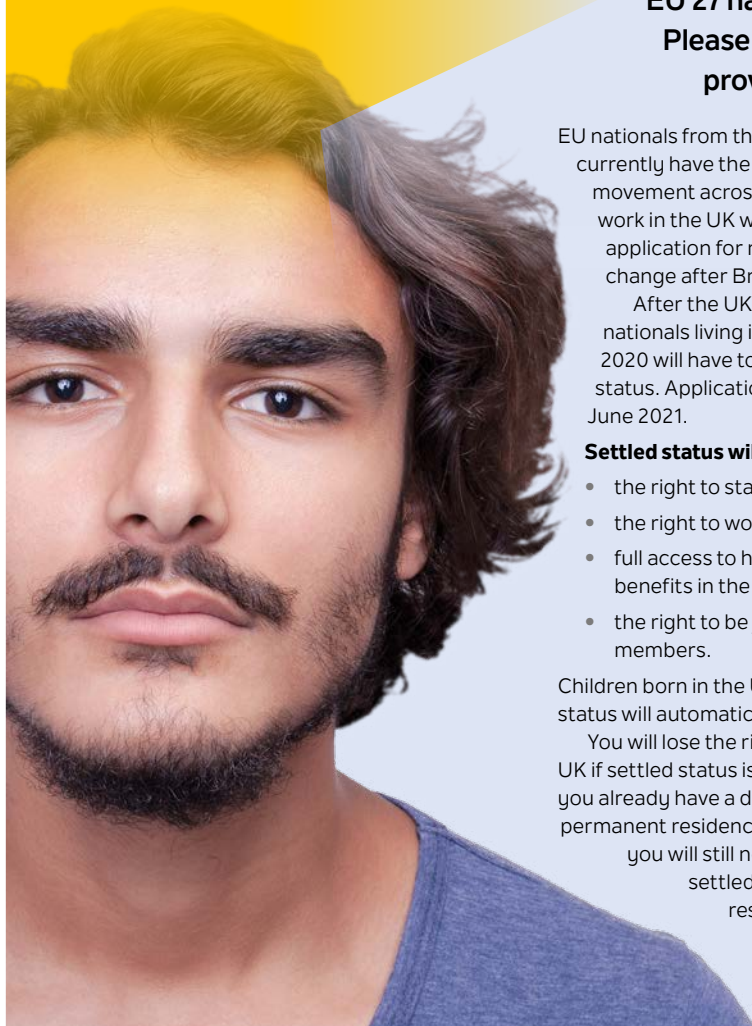
After the UK leaves the EU, EU nationals living in the UK by 31 December 2020 will have to apply for a new settled status. Applications must be made by 30 June 2021.

**Settled status will give individuals:**

- the right to stay in the UK indefinitely
- the right to work or study here
- full access to healthcare, pensions and benefits in the UK
- the right to be joined by close family members.

Children born in the UK to parents with settled status will automatically be British citizens.

You will lose the right to stay in the UK if settled status is not granted. Even if you already have a document confirming permanent residence under the current rules, you will still need to apply for the new settled status. Your permanent residence document will not be valid after 31 December 2020.





## Pre-settled status

EU nationals who are living in the UK by 31 December 2020 but have not been continuously resident for five years can apply for pre-settled status.

### Those with pre-settled status will:

- be able to stay in the UK for five years from the date of getting pre-settled status
- be eligible to apply for settled status once they have been continuously resident for five years.

If you do not qualify for settled status by 31 December 2020 you must apply for pre-settled status in order to remain in the UK.

## Role of employers

The government has introduced a toolkit for employers and encourages them to communicate information to employees who are EU nationals:

### [bit.ly/settled-status-employer-toolkit](https://bit.ly/settled-status-employer-toolkit)

Some organisations which employ Prospect members have agreed to pay the application fees for their employees. These include: the Scottish Government, Building Research Establishment and the Natural History Museum.

Prospect and BECTU reps should encourage other employers to offer financial and practical support to members in this way. We also encourage reps and members to ask about their employer's policy on payment of visa fees for international staff. As visas become necessary for more workers, it is important that this support is fair and accessible.

**We recognise the  
contribution of  
our international  
members to the UK.  
We value you,  
professionally and  
personally**



## Advice from your union

Members can contact us for advice and assistance with their applications for settled status. We will not be able to provide detailed advice on nationality or immigration issues, but if we can't help, we will be able to suggest someone who can.

We will be closely watching the scheme and will provide advice on new developments.

We will continue to campaign for the rights of EU nationals living and working in the UK and for British nationals working overseas.

We are busy lobbying and campaigning on other key implications of Brexit for members in aviation, entertainment, Euratom (the European atomic energy community), heritage, food, agriculture, science, technology, engineering and maths.

**For more information about our Brexit campaign activities see our website:**

**[brexit.prospect.org.uk](http://brexit.prospect.org.uk)**

**You can download a longer version of our guidance on settled status from [bit.ly/settled-status-guidance](http://bit.ly/settled-status-guidance)**

## Why EU nationals should join us

We answer only to our members. Prospect and BECTU are independent of all political parties. We are free to work with – or argue with – anyone to forward your interests.

Our collective voice is free of the restrictions that apply to individual employees. We can help you access political representatives, even where your voting rights are restricted by nationality.

We actively seek to influence the decisions that will affect our members and their work. On the immigration system, on science funding, on regulatory frameworks, we are telling the Brexit negotiators how to support our industries and economy.

Prospect provides regular updates on Brexit and a forum for our EU national members to discuss and prioritise our work. We recognise the contribution of our international members to the UK. We value you, professionally and personally.

***Join us at [prospect.org.uk/join](http://prospect.org.uk/join) or [bectu.org.uk/join](http://bectu.org.uk/join) and be part of the solution – fighting for your interests.***

## Contact us

We would like to hear about your decision on when to apply, what you think your employer can do to help and how the process has worked in practice.

Call us on **0300 600 1878**

email us on **[enquiries@prospect.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@prospect.org.uk)**

or Live chat at **[prospect.org.uk/contact](http://prospect.org.uk/contact)**

BECTU members' call us on **020 7346 0900**

or email: **[info@bectu.org.uk](mailto:info@bectu.org.uk)**

*This guide is an overview of the information available in October 2018. Members should not take it as a statement of the legal position and should seek advice on their individual circumstances.*