

Check if you can get indefinite leave to remain

Indefinite leave to remain is how you settle in the UK. It's also called 'settlement'. It gives you the right to live, work and study here for as long as you like, and apply for benefits if you're eligible. You can use it to apply for British citizenship.

There are different ways to apply for indefinite leave to remain based on your circumstances.

If you or your family member are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, you may be able to apply for settled status under the [EU Settlement Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families) (<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>) instead.

If you work in the UK

You may be able to apply if you have a work visa.

You must usually have lived and worked in the UK for 5 years. If you have a tier 1 visa, it can be 2 or 3 years. If you have an Innovator Founder or Global Talent visa, it can be 3 years.

You may also need to meet the salary or financial requirements - this depends on your visa.

How you apply depends on whether you:

- have a [tier 2, T2, International Sportsperson or Skilled Worker visa](/indefinite-leave-to-remain-tier-2-t2-skilled-worker-visa) (</indefinite-leave-to-remain-tier-2-t2-skilled-worker-visa>)
- have a [Scale-up Worker visa](/indefinite-leave-to-remain-scale-up-worker-visa) (</indefinite-leave-to-remain-scale-up-worker-visa>)
- have a [Global Talent, Tier 1 Entrepreneur or Investor visa](/indefinite-leave-to-remain-business-investor-global-talent) (</indefinite-leave-to-remain-business-investor-global-talent>)
- have an [Innovator Founder visa](/indefinite-leave-to-remain-innovator-founder-visa) (</indefinite-leave-to-remain-innovator-founder-visa>)
- [represent an overseas business](/guidance/indefinite-leave-to-remain-if-you-represent-an-overseas-business) (</guidance/indefinite-leave-to-remain-if-you-represent-an-overseas-business>)
- have a [Turkish Worker or Businessperson visa](/turkish-worker-business-person-settlement) (</turkish-worker-business-person-settlement>)
- are a private servant in a diplomatic household with an International Agreement visa, or a [domestic worker](/domestic-workers-in-a-private-household-visa/domestic-workers-who-applied-before-5-april-2012) (</domestic-workers-in-a-private-household-visa/domestic-workers-who-applied-before-5-april-2012>)

If you have family in the UK

You may be able to apply if [you have a partner, parent or child or other relative settled in the UK](/indefinite-leave-to-remain-family) (</indefinite-leave-to-remain-family>) - either as a British citizen or a person with indefinite leave to remain.

How you apply depends on which visa you have and how your family member settled.

There are other ways to apply if:

- your [partner has died \(/visas-partner-dies\)](#)
- your [relationship ended because of domestic violence \(/indefinite-leave-to-remain-domestic-violence-abuse\)](#)

If you've lived in the UK for 10 years

You may be able to apply if [you've been living here for 10 years or more \(/long-residence\)](#).

There's a different way to apply if you have a visa that's [on the basis of your private life \(/apply-indefinite-leave-to-remain-private-life\)](#).

If you're a Commonwealth citizen

You can apply if you've been living in the UK for 5 years on a [UK Ancestry visa \(/ancestry-visa/indefinite-leave-to-remain\)](#).

Some Commonwealth citizens have 'right of abode' in the UK. This means you can live or work in the UK without immigration restrictions. Check if you can apply to [prove you have right of abode \(/right-of-abode\)](#) in the UK.

[You may be eligible for citizenship \(/british-citizenship\)](#) instead, for example by applying under the Windrush scheme.

Other ways to apply

You may be eligible to apply for indefinite leave to remain if you:

- [are a refugee or have humanitarian protection or Discretionary Leave \(/settlement-refugee-or-humanitarian-protection\)](#)
- [are returning to the UK \(/returning-resident-visa\)](#) having previously had indefinite leave to remain
- [served in the armed forces \(/apply-indefinite-leave-to-remain-armed-forces\)](#)
- [have permission to stay in the UK as a stateless person \(/stay-in-uk-stateless\)](#)

Otherwise, you can get [advice about staying in the UK \(https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/immigration/get-help/get-immigration-advice\)](#) on the Citizens Advice website.





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