

Post-Brexit freedom of movement: France to UK

This guidance outlines the changes and rules in force concerning the movement and exercise of activity of French nationals entering the UK since 1st January 2021.

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Title 1: Musicians entering and living in the UK

Unless specified otherwise, this sections concerns French nationals or EU member state nationals exercising a musical profession.

A French or EU member state musician wishing to perform in the UK may use one of four different residency permits depending on the length of their stay and their situation.

Each of the four permits are outlined in detail in the following sections. The British government website has a tool to help you find which permit is most appropriate for your situation. Simply enter your personal details, such as your nationality, country of residence and your professional activity: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration>

For short stays (less than three months), most European citizens - and thus French nationals - do not need a visa: simply present your passport and a letter detailing all relevant information as to the nature of your trip, as well as a certificate of sponsorship from a licensed employer where necessary.

If you were living in the UK before 31st December 2020, you can apply for pre-settled status which enables you to stay and work in the UK for five years (extendable). You have until 30th June 2021 to apply for this status, taking into account that you must have resided in the UK for at least one day within six months preceding your request.

Please note: some British festivals fall under the category of permit-free festivals. Artists booked to play at these festivals benefit from streamlined immigration rules and procedures.

PERMITTED PAID ENGAGEMENT VISA

As a French citizen, if you've been invited as an expert in your profession and/or for an artistic activity and for a stay of less than one month, you do not have to apply for a visa.

A Permitted Paid Engagement visa is sufficient enough.

Eligibility:

This visa enables you to stay in the UK for **up to one month**. It is designed for those invited by a UK-based organisation or client for a paid engagement. You can:

- be a student examiner or assessor
- take part in selection panels as a highly qualified academic if you're invited by an education, arts or research organisation
- give lectures at a higher education institution, as long as it's not a part-time or full-time role
- take part in arts, entertainment or sporting activities including broadcasting
- do minor activities related to your work or business overseas, such as attend meetings or a conference. Please note that these activities are authorized for visitors and do not require a visa.

How to apply:

Whether you request a recruitment contract beforehand or not, when entering British territory, you must show that:

- you are qualified/eligible for the activity you are coming to exercise
- you have found accommodation for the duration of your stay
- you will leave the UK at the end of your visit
- you are able to support yourself during your trip (or have funding from someone else to support you).

However, travellers with a criminal record and/or have been barred from entering UK territory in the past must obtain a visa.

You must [apply online](#) before you travel to the UK, at the earliest three months before your scheduled trip. As part of your online application, you need to book an appointment at a visa application centre. You will have to prove your identity (known as "biometric information", and have your fingerprints and photograph taken at your appointment) and provide supporting documents. You will usually get a decision on your visa within three weeks.

Some supporting documents are obligatory. However, you may need to provide additional documents depending on your circumstances. Consult the list [here](#).

Cost : £95.

For more information, visit : <https://www.gov.uk/permitted-paid-engagement-visa>.

TEMPORARY WORKER, CREATIVE AND SPORTING VISA - T5

This visa is for people wishing to carry out a paid engagement in the UK for a duration of up to 12 months. You need to have a **certificate of sponsorship** from a licensed employer before you can apply to come to the UK to work. You can come to the UK for a maximum of up to 12 months, or the time given in your certificate of sponsorship plus up to 28 days, whichever is shorter.

Eligibility:

You need all of the following to be eligible for the creative category:

- make a unique contribution to the UK labour market, for example you're internationally renowned or are required for continuity
- certificate of sponsorship reference number
- be paid the minimum salary as set by Equity, PACT or BECTU¹
- have enough money to support yourself in the UK - you will usually need to have at least £1,270 available. You will need to show proof of this when you apply, unless either you have been in the UK with a valid visa for at least 12 months, or your employer can cover your costs during your first month in the UK, up to £1,270.

¹ This service does not apply to musicians.

With this visa, you can :

- work for your sponsor in the job described in your certificate of sponsorship
- do a second job in the same sector and at the same level as your main job for up to 20 hours per week
- do a job on the Skilled Worker shortage occupation list for up to 20 hours per week
- study
- bring your partner and children with you as your "dependants", if they are eligible.

You cannot:

- get public funds
- start your own business.

Certificate of sponsorship:

You need a licensed sponsor to give you a certificate of sponsorship before you can apply to work in the UK. A certificate of sponsorship is a reference number which holds information about the job and your personal details. Your sponsor will give you your certificate of sponsorship reference number. Your certificate of sponsorship is valid for three months from the date it is assigned to you. Your sponsor needs to give you a multiple entry certificate of sponsorship if you need to leave and come back to the UK as part of the job you're doing. They must also give you some other information to help you to apply, for example how much you'll be paid.

How to apply:

You must [apply online](#) for this visa, at the earliest, three months before your scheduled trip. As part of your application, you need to book an appointment at a visa application centre. You will have to prove your identity (known as "biometric information", and have your fingerprints and photograph taken at your appointment) and provide supporting documents. You will usually get a decision on your visa within three weeks.

You will have to collect your biometric residence permit from your sponsor within 10 days of when you said you'd arrive in the UK.

The list of supporting documents to provide can be found [here](#).

Cost: The application fee for each person applying is £244. As a French citizen, your application fee will be automatically reduced by £55, thus making a total of £189.

For more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/temporary-worker-creative-and-sporting-visa>.

If, however, you are not eligible for the Permitted Paid Engagement visa but wish to work in the UK for a period of less than three months, you can apply for the Temporary worker - Creative and sporting visa concession.

TEMPORARY WORKER – CREATIVE AND SPORTING VISA CONCESSION

With this simplified visa, you can enter the UK without applying for a visa in advance if you have a certificate of sponsorship and if the duration of your stay is for less than three months.

Eligibility:

- you are coming to work in the UK for three months or less
- you have a valid Temporary Worker - Creative and Sporting visa (T5) certificate of sponsorship
- you do not normally need a visa to enter the UK as a visitor.

You must still meet the Temporary Worker - Creative and Sporting visa (T5) eligibility criteria

With this visa, you can:

- study
- work for your sponsor in the job described in your certificate of sponsorship
- do a second job in the same sector and at the same level as your main job for up to 20 hours per week
- do a job on the Skilled Worker shortage occupation list for up to 20 hours per week
- bring your partner and children with you as your "dependants", if they are eligible.

You cannot:

- get public funds
- start your own business
- extend your stay or switch to another visa.

How to apply:

When you arrive in the UK, you must see an immigration officer, who will check to ensure your certificate of sponsorship is valid and that you have enough money to support yourself.

Cost: There are no fees, as this is not a visa per se. However, you must have at least £1,270 in your bank account to show you can support yourself in the UK.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/temporary-worker-creative-and-sporting-visa/creative-and-sportingconcession>.

SKILLED WORKER VISA

A Skilled Worker visa allows you to come to or stay in the UK to do an eligible job with an approved employer. This visa is particularly useful if you wish to stay for more than 12 months in the UK.

Eligibility:

You must:

- work for a UK employer that's been approved by the Home Office
- have a certificate of sponsorship from your employer
- do a job that's on the list of eligible occupations (musicians feature on this list)
- be paid a minimum salary - how much depends on the type of work you do
- you must be able to prove your knowledge of English when you apply.

How to apply:

You must [apply online](#) for this visa, at the earliest three months before your scheduled trip. As part of your application, you may need to take an appointment at a visa application centre in order to prove your identity and provide supporting documents. You will usually get a decision on your visa within three weeks.

Cost:

The overall cost depends on the application fee amount, the healthcare surcharge and proof of your personal resources. It depends on your circumstances: for example, you will pay a lower application fee if your job is on the [shortage occupation list](#). The standard application fee ranges from £610 to £1,408 depending on the length of your stay (up to three years/more than three years).

The healthcare surcharge is usually £624 per year. Furthermore, you need to have evidence that you can support yourself when you arrive in the UK - you will usually need to have at least £1,270 available (unless you are exempt). As a French citizen, your application fee will be automatically reduced by £55.

Title 2 : French musicians working and touring in the UK

Payment (pay, salary, pensions and annuities)

A convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital gains was signed between the UK and France on 19 June 2008. The application of the provisions of this agreement remain in place regardless of Brexit. Wages, salaries and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of paid employment are taxable only in that state, unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State.

Title 3 : Social security

Post-Brexit pension contributions

If you worked in France before the end of the transition period fixed at 31st December 2020, or if you worked in France and the UK before this date, your periods of activity in France will be taken into account when starting and calculating your pension rights in the UK, regardless of the effective date of retirement scheme alignment. EU rules on coordination of social security systems will remain applicable.

Social security benefits

Taking into account the provisions of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement, as a resident in the UK before 1st January 2021, you will retain your rights acquired before that date and continue to benefit from the same social security coordination mechanisms if you apply for settled status. You can apply here:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>².

The Brexit Withdrawal Agreement provides that rights acquired before the end of the transition period (31st December 2020) cannot be called into question, whatever the outcome of EU-UK Future Relationship Negotiations in relation to social security. When you start receiving a pension, it will continue to be paid to you in your state of residence.

² See "Entering/exiting" practical guide.

For more information on social security, consult the FAQ on the *Centre des liaisons européennes et internationales de sécurité sociale* website (Cleiss - liaison body between the French social security institutions and their foreign counterparts for the implementation of European Regulations and bilateral or multilateral social security agreements):

https://www.cleiss.fr/faq/brexit_en.html

Insurance and European Health

Insurance Card (EHIC)

If you lived in the UK before the 1st January 2021, your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) remains valid until its expiry date. If you have a UK resident status, you can apply for a new UK-issued Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) via the National Health Service (NHS) website: <https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/cra/start>.

If you were not a UK resident before the end of the transition period, your EHIC is no longer valid and you will need private medical insurance.

French employees posted to the UK

If your French employer sent you to the UK temporarily ("posted workers") before the 1st January 2021, you can remain until the end of your assignment. Where required, A1 forms³ (the French social authorities initially issued A1s expiring on 31st December 2020) for employees posted prior to 31st December 2020 shall be delivered for the entire duration of the assignment. You must contact the relevant social security office (CPAM) which issued your initial form.

The EU-UK Traded Cooperation Agreement, the provisions of which will be applicable from 1st January 2021, provides for the possibility in its provision for posted workers sent to the UK for up to 24 months.

³ Statement of applicable legislation. Useful to prove that you pay social contributions in another EU country (for example, posted workers or people working in several countries at the same time).

Title 4 : Teaching and Studying in France

UK resident before 31st December 2021 :

pre-settled status

In agreement with the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement, the UK Government has set up the EU Settlement Scheme which allows EU citizens and members of their family who were living in the UK before 31st December 2020 to apply for settled status or pre-settled status post-Brexit.

Applications can be made online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>.

The deadline for applying is usually 30th June 2021. It is strongly recommended you apply as soon as possible.

The whole application is online and paperless:

<https://uk.ambafrance.org/BREXIT-ET-SETTLED-STATUS-29137#Suis-je-concerne-e>.

Different resident statuses:

1. Settled status, or "continuous residence":

EU citizens who have lived in the UK for a continuous five-year period (and have not left the UK for more than six months in any 12-month period) can request settled status. You can stay in the UK as long as you like if you get settled status. If you have settled status, you can spend up to five years in a row outside the UK without losing your status..

2. Pre-settled status:

EU citizens who have lived in the UK for less than five years are eligible for pre-settled status. You can apply to switch to settled status as soon as you have had five years' continuous residence. If you have settled or pre-settled status, you can continue to live and work in the UK after 31st December 2020 (end of the Brexit transition period) and retain your rights.

With the two residency statuses, your rights enable you to:

- work in the UK
- use the National Health Service (NHS) for free
- enrol in education or study in the UK
- travel in and out of the UK.

If you have settled status, you have more rights to claim more benefits (government-guaranteed minimum social benefits, allowances, pension...). If you have pre-settled status, you need to prove that you legally lived in the UK before 31st December 2020 to access certain rights.

For more information, visit:

<https://brexit.gouv.fr/sites/brexit/accueil/vous-etes-francais/droit-au-sejour.html>.

Student visa

You can apply for a student visa to study in the UK if you're 16 or over, you have been offered a place on a course by a licensed student sponsor⁴, and can speak, read, write and understand English.

How to apply: The earliest you can apply for a student visa is six months before you start your course. You will usually get a decision within three weeks. How long you can stay depends on the length of your course and what study you've already completed. Length of stay in the UK can be up to two to five years.

Once you have your student visa, you can arrive in the UK before your course starts, either up to one week before (if your course lasts six months or less), or up to one month before (if your course lasts more than six months).

Cost: It costs £348 to apply for a student visa from outside the UK. You will also have to pay the healthcare surcharge as part of your application. You can use this calculator to work out if you need to pay the immigration health surcharge, and how much you need to pay:

<https://www.immigration-health-surcharge.service.gov.uk/checker/type>.

For more information about the student visa, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>.

Tuition fees

If you started your course during the 2020/2021 academic year and you arrived in the UK before 31st December 2021, you will pay the same tuition fees as UK students. EU nationals beginning their studies in the UK from 2021/22 (excluding students as part of an exchange programme between partnering UK and French education providers) will no longer be eligible for home fee status and must pay the same fees as international students.

French students are encouraged to inquire directly with the university at which they want to register. They will no longer be eligible for the UK student loan scheme, a government-backed system that allows students to repay their tuition fees only once they have started earning above a certain salary.

UCAS Conservatoires⁵ scheme: for students studying music

There is a separate admissions service for UK music conservatoires and academies.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.ucas.com/conservatoires>.

Here you will find information concerning the specific admission procedures per conservatoire and for international students.

⁴ Once the education provider has offered a student a place on a course, they must also send the student a reference number called a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). Students require a CAS before they can apply for a visa.

⁵ Please note: not all conservatoires participate in this scheme, for example the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

European programmes currently running

All projects selected under the current (2014-2020) Erasmus+ programme will continue operations until their completion on the same basis under which they were selected. This includes Erasmus+ study visits, Erasmus+ internships, and volunteering and taking part in European Solidarity Corps projects.

Teaching in the UK

If you were living in the UK before 31st December 2020, you are advised to register for pre-settled status (see above) before 1st July 2021. You must have qualified teacher status (QTS)⁶ to take up a teaching post in England. You can apply for QTS if you have a teaching qualification from an EU country, Canada or USA. Teachers are usually recommended to apply for a Skilled Worker visa. For more information on this type of visa, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa/your-job>.

Title 5 : Driving in the UK

This paragraph is intended for French musicians and accompanists wishing to enter the UK and are likely to drive a car.

French nationals travelling to the UK for a short stay that does not require taking up residence (holiday, business trip) can drive under their French driving licence.

The driving licence does not need to be translated.⁷

If your vehicle is insured in the EU, Switzerland, Andorra, or Serbia or Switzerland, you should carry either an insurance "green card" or other proof of insurance (featuring the name of the insurer, the number plate or other information to identify the vehicle, and period of insurance cover).

Any person with a valid foreign driving licence is permitted to drive in the UK for at least 12 months.

The British Government website features a tool to help you see if you can drive in Great Britain with your non-GB driving licence:

<https://www.gov.uk/driving-nongb-licence/y>.

⁶ For more information on the qualified teacher status, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/qualified-teacher-status-qts#overview>.

⁷ The mutual recognition of driving licences falls under the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Road traffic of 8 November 1968 and does not depend on the framework existing in the European Union. Brexit has no impact on this.