

Post-Brexit freedom of movement: UK to France

This guidance outlines the changes and rules in force concerning entry into French territory, the movement and exercise of activity of British nationals, musicians, technicians, students or music professionals in France since 1st January 2021.

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Title 1: Entering and living in France

The following recommendations are aimed at musicians, technicians and music professionals coming to exercise a paid activity in France.

The type of visa and documents required depends on the length of your stay in France.

The documents to be provided depend on the type of residency permit requested. To obtain a list of documents required, enter the details of your trip to France on the France-Visas website: <https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/ai-je-besoin-d-un-visa>.

Stays for 90 days or less - short stay visa

SHORT-STAY VISA EXEMPTION

British nationals coming to carry out in paid activity in France or within the Schengen area for a short stay of up to 90 days (within any period of 180 days) benefit from a **short-stay visa exemption**.

Those participating in cultural events, producing or broadcasting shows, and film and audiovisual productions are exempt from any visa formalities.

When you arrive in France, you must present the following documents:

- a valid passport with at least six months' validity on the date of your return to the UK
- proof of accommodation in France (for example, an invitation from your host or a hotel reservation)
- insurance certificate for your trip covering all health-related costs, including hospital bills and repatriation costs on medical grounds or in the event of death
- proof of sufficient financial means for the period of the stay in France.

Stays longer than 90 days

A *passport talent* - or Talent Passport - long-stay visa (VLS-TS) equivalent to a residency permit is recommended for stays between three and 12 months.

For stays longer than a year, a multi-year Talent Passport residency permit is recommended.

The residency permit is a document which allows you to stay in France for more than a year.

For more information on the different types of VLS-TS residency permits, visit: <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F16162>.

VLS-TS LONG-STAY VISA EQUIVALENT TO A RESIDENCY PERMIT: VALID BETWEEN THREE TO 12 MONTHS

The long-stay visa equivalent to a residency permit, or VLS-TS, is a specific type of long-stay visa that exempts its holder from being required to apply for a residency permit for the first year of residence. This type of visa is valid for up to one year. It allows the holder to enter and live in France throughout its validity period, without the need for the holder to apply for a residency permit from the *Préfecture*. A sticker is affixed to the holder's passport.

The Talent Passport category refers to the reason for which you are applying for a visa. Thus, the VLS-TS Talent Passport is a VLS-TS stipulating that your reason for entering France is to exercise an artistic or cultural profession.

After the first year of residence, foreign nationals wishing to extend their stay in France must apply for the residency permit that corresponds to their circumstances.

Validating a VLS-TS:

You must validate your VLS-TS within three months of arriving in France and pay an additional stay tax (temporary workers exempt). [The online process](#) enables you to leave France and cross the Schengen zone without asking for a visa to come back.

TALENT PASSPORT – RESIDENCY PERMIT

If you wish to stay for more than three months in France, you can apply for a **multi-year Talent Passport residency permit**. This type of permit was created to make it easier for foreign employees and self-employed persons to relocate to France and help make France more attractive for business. Your employment contract and your stay in France must exceed three months. This permit enables holders to stay for a maximum of four years commencing on the date they arrive in France.

Eligibility

If you work as a performer or entertainer, or have created a literary or artistic work, you are eligible for a “*passport talent - profession artistique et culturelle*” (Talent Passport residency permit for artistic and cultural professions). **You must hold a long-stay Talent Passport residency permit (see 2.1)**. From your country of residence, you must apply for a permit at the local French consulate. **When you arrive in France, you must report to the prefecture or sub-prefecture of your place of residence**, who will issue you with your residency permit upon presentation of your visa.

If you live in France, you must apply for a residency permit from the prefecture (or sub-prefecture) of the department in which you live (for more information visit the prefecture's website) within two months prior to the expiration of your existing residency permit.

Cost: €225 (€25 stamp duty + €200 in tax) to be paid in tax stamps. Proof of payment of stamp duty and tax is required when collecting your residency permit.

Collecting your permit: the prefecture or sub-prefecture of your place of residence (depending on where you submitted your application) will issue you with your permit. The permit is valid for the duration of your activity during your stay in France or for the period of time stated in your work contract. It is valid for a maximum of four years.

Sources:

Direction de l'information légale et administrative (DILA, the French Legal and administrative information department):

<https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F16162>

France-Visas website:

https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/ai-je-besoin-d-un-visa?p_p_id=NeedVisaApplication_WAR_fvfoportalvisasportlet&p_p_lifecycle=0&NeedVisaApplication_WAR_fvfoportalvisasportlet_implicitModel=true

French Interior ministry website:

<https://administration-etrangers-en-france.interieur.gouv.fr/particuliers/#/>

Title 2: UK musicians working and touring in France – taxation on pay

Any professional activity carried out in France is subject to income tax. To avoid the risk of non-recovery, income earned in France by non-resident performers or companies is subject to a withholding tax. This deduction is made by the debtor (the employer or the entity purchasing an artistic performance taking place in France) on the sum due.

Amounts withheld are paid quarterly to the debtor's tax office, no later than the 15th of the month following the quarter in which payment was made. Payment must be accompanied by a [withholding tax declaration form](#) (No. 2494).

When the debtor does not have an establishment in France, the withholding tax must be paid to the [service des impôts des entreprises étrangères](#) (SIEE, or foreign business tax department).

For more information on taxation application to foreign artists in France, visit: <http://mobiculture.fr/fr/fiscalite>.

Title 3: Social security

Social security system

If you have not changed jobs since 31st December 2020, your social security system remains the same. You will continue to receive benefits under the same conditions as you do now. EU rules on coordination of social security systems will continue to apply after 31st December 2020, meaning that your rights will be maintained.

If you are receiving a pension from the UK and reside in the territory of another state, your health insurance will be covered by the state that pays your pension. This means that your healthcare costs in France will continue to be covered by the French social security system on behalf of the United Kingdom.

You must register your UK-issued S1 form “Registering for healthcare cover” at your local *Caisse Primaire d’Assurance Maladie* (CPAM) in France. This document will allow you to register with the French social security system and certifies that you are entitled to healthcare in France. The form will be valid for your entire period of residency in France and will provide you with coverage under the same conditions as a person insured under the French social security system. For more information on the S1 form, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-in-france-including-martinique-and-guadaloupe>.

Likewise, you will benefit from the French social protection system if, as self-employed or through your employer, you pay social security contributions in France.

Insurance and European Health

Insurance Card (EHIC)

You can apply to be covered by the French healthcare system (*Protection Universelle Maladie* or PUMa) if you have been a resident in France for at least three months. If you’re employed in France, you can apply as soon as you start work. For more information on PUMa, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-residents-visiting-the-eueea-and-switzerland-healthcare>.

For temporary stays, use the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). When travelling in an EU member state country, you must have travel insurance with health cover. You must have a EHIC or UK GHIC. You may continue to use your valid EHIC until it expires. You can then replace it with a UK GHIC.

The EHIC and UK GHIC cover necessary healthcare from state services when you’re visiting an EU country. The following website details the list of expenses covered by your health insurance card depending on the country:

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1021&langId=en>.

Posted Worker Directive

UK posted workers in France can access healthcare in France using an EHIC, GHIC or S1 form (see above).

For employees sent by their employer to carry out a service in another EU member state on a temporary basis, they will continue to be subject to the social security legislation of their country of origin, provided that the duration of the posting does not exceed 24 months and that the worker does not replace another posted worker. Likewise, a self-employed person may remain subject to the legislation of their country of origin for a period not exceeding 24 months. The possibility of exceptional extension beyond 24 months is not foreseen.

France has decided to opt for the EU-UK Brexit Withdrawal Agreement protocol on social security coordination and therefore applies these provisions.

Title 4: Teaching and studying in France

UK resident before 31st December 2020: pre-settled status

You should be able to continue your studies under the same conditions, but you must apply for a residency permit.

If you were a resident in France before the 31st December 2020, you must apply for a Brexit Withdrawal Agreement¹ residency permit before the 1st July 2020 via this website:

<http://invite.contacts-demarches.interieur.gouv.fr/>.

British nationals arriving in France after the 31st December 2020 will have to apply for a standard residency permit. Possession of a residency permit will be compulsorily from 1st October 2021, whatever the date you arrived in France.

You are advised to confirm the conditions for continuing your studies with your education provider.

Erasmus+ programme and Turing programme

The UK will remain a full participating member of the current (2014-2020) Erasmus+ programme until 31st December 2020. Funding will remain in place and UK students will be able to continue exchanges through the scheme until the end of the 2020/21 academic year. You are advised to confirm your situation with your host education provider.

The UK will not be taking part in the future Erasmus+ programme. It will be replaced by the new Turing Scheme, to be launched on 1st September 2021. For more information on this programme, visit: <https://brexit.gouv.fr/sites/brexit/accueil/vous-etes-britannique.html>.

Starting a course in France from 1st January 2021

From 1st January 2021, if you wish to study in France, you are advised to contact the relevant higher education provider in France to check:

- what fees you may have to pay
- if there is any financial support available or bursaries you can apply for.

Fees may vary between French and British higher education providers and their bilateral partnerships.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/study-in-the-european-union#doing-your-whole-course-at-a-higher-education-provider-in-the-eu>.

¹ If you were a resident in France before 31st December 2020, members of your family may be eligible for a free visa and residency permit when arriving in France.

Teaching in France

If you wish to teach in France, you are advised to apply for a *passeport talent – chercheur* (Talent Passport – Researcher) long-stay visa (VLS). This type of permit allows holders of a master-level degree to stay in France to conduct research or teach at a university level in the framework of a hosting agreement.

A hosting agreement is an administrative document which specifies the nature and length of the work assigned to the researcher or doctoral student. It also states the income, accommodation and health insurance provided to the beneficiary.

The hosting agreement must be sent by the host institute to the beneficiary. The researcher or doctoral student must then have it stamped by the consulate in their country of residence at the time of the visa request. This procedure applies if the researcher or doctoral student is employed to conduct research or give classes, regardless of the nature of the work contract: doctoral contract, *Convention Industrielle de Formation par la Recherche* (CIFRE - Industrial Agreement for Training through Research) or other.

The Talent Passport – Researcher VLS is valid for one year. If your stay is for more than a year, you must apply for a residency permit (mentioning “*passeport talent – chercheur*”) within three months of arriving in France.

For more information, visit:

<https://france-visas.gouv.fr/web/france-visas/accueil>.

Sources :

<https://www.uk.campusfrance.org/brexit-preparedness>

<https://brexit.gouv.fr/sites/brexit/accueil/vous-etes-britannique.html>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/study-in-the-european-union>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-turing-scheme-to-support-thousands-of-students-to-study-and-work-abroad>

Title 5: Driving in France – driving licence

Driving in France:

If you are a British national living in France: you must exchange your valid British driving licence for a French one. You have one year in which to do so. Request an exchange via the *Agence Nationale des Titres Sécurisés* (ANTS, the French National Agency for Secure Documents).

If you are a non-resident travelling in France: British nationals travelling to France for a short stay can drive under their UK driving licence.² You do not need an international driving permit. You must carry with you a green card proving your vehicle insurance cover. You are advised to ensure your insurance also provides the minimum third party cover to drive in other EU member state countries. You will need to carry extra green cards if you're towing a trailer or caravan.

² The driving licence must be in a photocard format (not a paper format).

Driving in the EU:

If you carry a British driving licence and wish to drive in other EU member states, you are advised to check the applicable rules for those countries. All EU member states remain sovereign states to decide on the applicable regulations for the recognition and exchange of driving licenses with countries outside the EU. If you do require an international driving permit you can apply for one at your local Post Office in the UK. The application fee is £5.50.

Hiring a car:

A green card is not always required when hiring a car in France. There is one exception to the rule: if you rent a car in the UK and use it to drive to France, you must present a green card as well as authorisation from the rental company to cross the border in the vehicle for cross-border travel.

International driving permit:

There are three types of international driving permits: 1926, 1949 and 1968. If you do not have a digital UK driving licence, you will need an international driving permit issued under the 1968 Convention to drive in France.³

Sources:

French government's website:

<https://brexit.gouv.fr/sites/brexit/accueil/vous-etes-britannique-en/permis-de-conduire-en.html>.

British government website detailing international driving permits:

<https://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad/international-driving-permit>.

³ List of the type of driving licence required per country:

<https://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad/international-driving-permit>