



Cambridge Assessment  
English



# UK immigration changes for EU, EEA and Swiss nationals from January 2021

With our qualifications and tests EU, EEA and Swiss nationals can continue to study, work and live in the UK.

# Studying in the UK

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## What do students need to study at undergraduate level, or above?

There is very little change in terms of English language requirements.

Higher education institutions, which are visa [Licensed Sponsors](#), can choose how to assess a student's English language proficiency for courses at degree level and above.

This means that Cambridge English Qualifications [C1 Advanced](#) and [C2 Proficiency](#) can still be used as proof of English language ability for both admission and visa purposes.

Our qualifications and tests are the first choice for higher education in the UK and worldwide. Almost all UK universities, including all the top-ranked institutions, accept C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency.

If an applicant already has an [IELTS](#) certificate, this may also be sufficient to apply for an undergraduate course, as all UK universities accept IELTS as proof of English ability. IELTS is produced by Cambridge Assessment English and delivered with our partners British Council and IDP: IELTS Australia.

Please check the website of your chosen institution/course for full details about their latest requirements and how to apply.

## What do students need to study a course below degree level?

Students who are planning to take a foundation, pathway or other course below degree level may need to take a Secure English Language Test (SELT) to support their student visa application. You should check with the institution directly.

If the institution requires a SELT, we recommend [IELTS for UKVI](#). Students must achieve CEFR Level B1 in each skill (4.0 to 5.0 score in IELTS).

IELTS for UKVI must be taken at a UKVI approved test centre: [find a test centre](#).

## Where can I find out more?

Check the [UK Visas and Immigration website](#) to see the requirements in full.

More information can be found on our [website](#).

# Working in the UK

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## What do healthcare professionals need to work in the UK?

Doctors, nurses and midwives can use [OET](#) or [IELTS](#) to meet the English language requirements of both their work visa and professional registration. This has been in effect since 1 October 2019. To find out more visit the [UK Visas and Immigration website](#) (paragraph 24).

OET is increasingly popular among test takers, recruiters and employers, who value the ability of a healthcare-specific test to best prepare candidates for the English-speaking healthcare workplace.

IELTS is also accepted for all other categories of healthcare work in the UK.

## What do EU citizens (non-healthcare professionals) need to live and work in the UK?

EU, EEA and Swiss nationals who want to work or live in the UK may now prove their English language ability using a Secure English Language Test (SELT).

We recommend [IELTS for UKVI](#). IELTS for UKVI must be taken at a UKVI approved test centre: [find a test centre](#). Skilled worker visa applicants will need to achieve CEFR Level B1 in each skill (4.0 to 5.0 score in IELTS). Please note that other types of visa have different requirements. For full details visit the [UK Visas and Immigration website](#).

Applicants will **not** need a SELT if:

- they plan to study at undergraduate level, or above
- they are sponsored as a doctor, dentist, nurse or midwife
- they are a national of a majority English-speaking country
- they have an academic degree taught in English
- they have met the required level in a previous successful immigration application.

## Where can I find out more?

For EU, EEA and Swiss nationals who want to study, work or live in the UK, the Secure English Language Test requirement comes into effect on 1 January 2021.

Check the [UK Visas and Immigration website](#) to see the requirements in full.

More information can be found on our [website](#).

## Additional useful links:

Student route: [gov.uk/study-uk-student-visa](https://www.gov.uk/study-uk-student-visa)

Child student route: [gov.uk/child-study-visa](https://www.gov.uk/child-study-visa)

Short-term study visa: [gov.uk/study-visit-visa](https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa)

Standard visitor visa: [gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa](https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa)

UKCISA: [ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice](https://ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice)