# UK: new points-based immigration system for students

Dear student(s),   
The United Kingdom (UK) exited the European Union (EU) on 31 December 2020.  
  
This means that from 1 January 2021, if you do not already live in the United Kingdom or enjoy rights under the Withdrawal Agreement, as an EU citizen you will need to meet specific requirements in order to study in the United Kingdom. You will also need to undergo relevant checks, including United Kingdom criminal record checks. You may continue to visit the United Kingdom for at least 6 months without applying for a visa and you can participate in a wide range of activities, including tourism, visiting family and friends, short-term study and business-type activities, such as events and conferences.  
  
The status of Irish citizens will continue to be protected under the provisions of the Common Travel Area. It will not therefore be necessary to apply for authorization to come to the UK, except in certain limited cases, and the new points-based immigration system does not apply to Irish citizens. **Further information at GOV.UK.**  
  
Please note that “European Union citizens”, as referred to in these Directives, may be understood to include the European Union, the European Economic Area and Swiss citizens.  
EU citizens already living in the United Kingdom  
  
If you are an EU citizen living in the United Kingdom before 31 December 2020, you and your family can apply for EU citizen permanent resident status (EU Settlement Scheme) to continue living in the United Kingdom after 30 June 2021. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021.  
  
For further information about this status and details of how to apply, visit the GOV.UK website.  
Applications via the points-based immigration system  
  
Applications may be made via GOV.UK and you will need to prove that you meet the relevant criteria and obtain the required number of points for the visa you are applying for. The visa categories will be opened later this year and will continue until 2021. Detailed directives will be available on GOV.UK  
  
Most people will be able to complete their application, including identity verification, using a smartphone application. Some applicants will need to go to a Visa Application Centre depending on the category they are applying for, whether or not they have a biometric passport, or if they are unable to use the software application.  
  
You will need to pay an application fee and, if you are coming to the UK for a stay of more than 6 months, you may be required to pay an Immigration Health Surcharge, which will give you access to the United Kingdom National Health Service (NHS).  
  
NB: For students departing in January 2021 for a semester at London South Bank University or the University of Dundee, you are only affected by this provision if you wish to stay in the United Kingdom for more than 6 months. If you are leaving for a period of 6 months (or less), you can enter the United Kingdom as a Standard Visitor (https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa). Generally speaking, students of French nationality do not need a visa to enter the United Kingdom for a period of less than 6 months, but it is advisable for every student wishing to visit the UK to check by means of the following questionnaire: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa/y>