

FACTSHEET FOR EUROPEANS: British Nationality

In light of the UK voting to leave the EU, Thorntons are renewing our calls for eligible European nationals to apply to the UK Home Office for British nationality.

What nationalities are affected?

Austria	Finland	Latvia	Portugal
Belgium	France	Liechtenstein	Romania
Bulgaria	Germany	Lithuania	Slovakia
Croatia	Greece	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Republic of Cyprus	Hungary	Malta	Spain
Czech Republic	Iceland	Netherlands	Sweden
Denmark	Ireland	Norway	Switzerland
Estonia	Italy	Poland	

What are the requirements for British nationality in the UK?

You need to have first obtained a permanent right of residence in the UK as a European national and held this status for at least 1 year. The Home Office state that you will also need to obtain a Permanent Residence Card before applying for British nationality. See our EEA Fact Sheet – Permanent Residence for more information.

You will also need to be of ‘good character’ and have passed the Life in the UK and Language test. There are various exceptions to this test and those over 65 years old are exempt.

What if I have been travelled frequently outside of UK?

To be eligible to apply for British nationality, you will need to be able to meet the residence requirements. Generally this means that you cannot have been absent from the UK for more than 450 days in the last 5 years and cannot have been absent for more than 90 days in the last 12 months.

Can my children also apply for British nationality?

This will depend on where your child was born. If the child was born in the UK and you had technically obtained Permanent Residence by the time of the birth, then the child is entitled to British nationality. Different rules apply to children born before you are settled in the UK and to children born outside the UK.

If you have children over the age of 18, they will need to make their own application as an adult.

Thorntons have a team of experts dedicated to European law and British nationality law. For further information, please contact Jamie Kerr

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