

BECOMING A BRITISH CITIZEN

Living in Britain has a certain charm; the diverse culture, rich history, intriguing Royals. Not to mention the advantages of a stable business economy, employment opportunities, a strong education system, generous public holidays and free healthcare.

If you are one of the three million European nationals or a non-European that has lived and worked in the United Kingdom for several years you may have thought about obtaining a British Passport and applying for dual nationality.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A BRITISH CITIZEN?



WHAT IS DUAL CITIZENSHIP?

This is where you have two or more nationalities, usually having acquired one through birth or descent and the other through choice. Some countries do not allow dual citizenship but it is allowed in the UK, which means you would not risk losing your first nationality.

If your first nationality does not recognise dual citizenship you may either be regarded as renouncing your first nationality when you acquire British Citizenship or the authorities in your home country will refuse to recognise your second nationality. You may even need to formally obtain permission for dual citizenship before acquiring British citizenship through naturalisation.

NATURALISATION AS A BRITISH CITIZEN

If you do not have an automatic right to British Citizenship through registration you may be eligible to naturalise by way of an application process to the UK Visas and Immigration if you can meet the basic requirements as follows:

- You are 18 or over;
- You are a person of 'good character', e.g. you don't have a serious or recent criminal record, and you haven't tried to deceive the Home Office or been involved in immigration offences or broken any immigration laws;
- You will continue to live in the UK permanently;
- You have met the knowledge of English and life in the UK requirements;
- You have lived in the UK for at least the 6 years before the date of your application and had settlement for the last 12 months (either as Indefinite Leave to Remain or Permanent Residency under the European Economic Area (EEA) Regulations);
- Have not spent excessive time outside of the UK during the first five year period or spent more than 3 months outside the UK in the last 12 months.

CURRENT UKVI APPLICATION FEES (FROM 18 MARCH 2016)

Naturalisation	£1,236
Naturalisation (as British overseas territories citizen)	£ 925
Adult registration	£1,121
Adult registration (as British overseas territories citizen)	£ 833
Child registration	£936**
Duplicate certificate	£198
Confirmation of British citizen status	£272
Right of abode certificate	£272

*Subject to annual review by the home office.

** If children turn 18 during the application process there is an additional £80 per child payable for the citizenship ceremony.