

# A guide to applying for an eVisa

## What is happening?

On 31 December 2024, the Home Office is transitioning from a physical system of proving immigration status to a fully digital one. Presently, if you have been granted leave to remain in the UK, you likely hold a physical Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) as proof of your immigration status. All BRPs have an expiry date of 31 December 2024 and will not be valid after this date and you will not be able to request a replacement. From 1 January 2025 onwards, you must use a UK Immigration and Visas account to prove your immigration status, including your right to work, rent or access secondary healthcare.

Despite the scale of this transition, little has been done to communicate the relevant and necessary information to BRP holders. Moreover, the transition to eVisas is not automated and you will need to create a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account and apply for an eVisa online.

Some people will have received an email invitation from the Home Office to apply for an eVisa. However, the Home Office has since issued guidance that **people should start registering immediately** and that they no longer have to wait for an invitation.

The process of making the UKVI account and connecting it to your eVisa is detailed below.

## What you need to do:

There are three stages to applying for an e-Visa:

[Create a UKVI account](#)

[Link your BRP/passport and confirm your identity](#)

[Final confirmation of your identity and documentation](#)

You can do this all in one go or, if you want, save your application and come back to it later.

The process is relatively simple, even if frustrating. People have regularly reported issues at the confirmation of identity stage, where you are required to scan your BRP/Passport and take a passport-style photo.

Below is a short guide to the application process. For more detailed instructions, see this [screenshot-by-screenshot guide](#).

Do not throw away your expired BRP. You may need this for future immigration applications.

## Before you begin:

To make your application, you will need:

- **Access to the internet.**
- **Access to a smartphone** - this needs to be an iPhone 7 or newer model, or an android phone that can make contactless payments. If you don't have a smartphone, or your phone doesn't meet these requirements, you can borrow someone else's to make your application.
- **Access to the "UK Immigration: ID Check" app.**
- **A mobile phone number.**
- **An email address.**
- **Your BRP card or a valid passport with your BRP number or visa application number.**

## Create a UKVI account

To create a UKVI account go to: <https://www.gov.uk/get-access-evisa>.

You will be asked to provide:

- your personal details (name, nationality, date of birth)
- the details of your identity document (BRP or passport)

You will also have to connect your account to an email address and phone number.

The image shows two screenshots of the UKVI account creation process. The first screenshot is titled 'Create account Which identity document are you using?' and asks the user to choose between 'Biometric residence permit (BRP)' and 'Passport'. The second screenshot is titled 'Create account Enter your biometric residence permit details' and asks for the 'Biometric residence permit number' and 'Expiry date'.

Make sure you have access to the email address and phone number you provide as you will be receiving security codes to these in order to continue using and accessing the eVisa service.

### NOTE:

- The Home Office hasn't confirmed when they will stop issuing BRPs to people who are currently making immigration applications. This means that if you receive your leave to remain in the next few weeks, you might need to make an application for your eVisa before your BRP arrives. You can do this using your immigration application number
- If you have a 'legacy document' i.e. the evidence of your immigration status that was issued before the introduction of biometric residence permits, you will need to complete

an additional step before applying for an eVisa. For more details see: <https://freemovement.org.uk/how-to-make-a-no-time-limit-application/>

## Link your BRP/passport and confirm your identity

Once you have created a UKVI account, the system will ask you to "Link your eVisa to your account". This involves confirming your identity by scanning your identity document and taking a passport-style photo using the "**UK Immigration: ID Check**" app. Make sure you are scanning the same document you used to create a UKVI account.

**Your form**

**Link your eVisa to your account**

You have not started.

Start

If you no longer want to continue you can [delete this form](#).

**Confirm your identity**

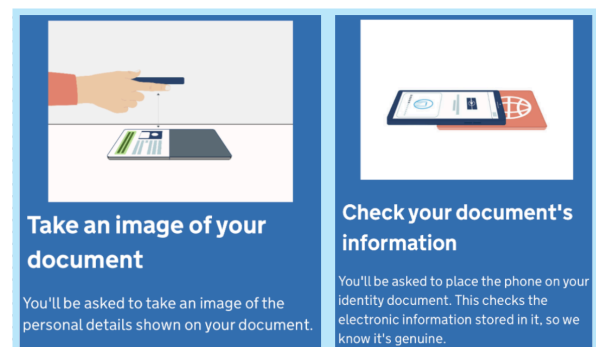
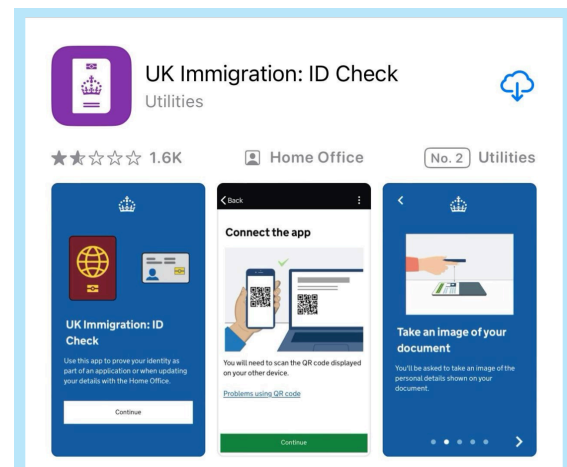
You need to confirm your identity using the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app.

You can use someone else's phone if you need to. The app can be deleted once your identity has been confirmed.

You will need your identity document.

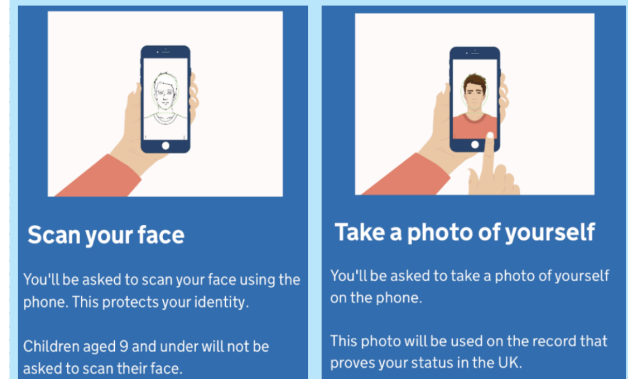
Continue

1. Download the "**UK Immigration: ID Check**" app
2. **Connect the app to your UKVI account.** You can do this using a connection code or QR code
  - a. Connection code: The connection code will appear on the **UK Immigration: ID Check** app. You have to copy and enter this manually into your UKVI account
  - b. QR code: You can also connect using a QR code. First give the app access to your camera and scan the QR code on your UKVI account. NOTE: if you are only using your phone to make the application for an e-Visa, use the connection code to connect the app to your account.
3. **Take a picture of your ID document**
  - a. **If you are using a BRP:** take a picture of the back of your document and then the front
  - b. **If you are using a passport:** take a picture of the page of your



passport with your photo and personal details

4. **Scan the electronic chip on your ID document** - remove all cases from your phone and ID documents and place your phone directly on your BRP or passport.
5. **Scan your face following** the instructions on your app
6. **Take a picture of your face** following the instructions on your app.
7. **Check** that you are happy with the photo.
8. After you have confirmed your photo, you will be asked to **confirm your personal details**



Many people have reported issues with taking a passport photo and scanning their documents. You might have to try a few times before it works.

## Final confirmation of your identity and documentation

After confirmation of identity using the app, the process then moves back to the gov.uk website. The last steps:

1. **Re-enter your BRP/ ID details**
2. **Enter contact details** - these are the details the Home Office will use to contact you about your eVisa application. You can choose to use the same details as you used to create your account or choose different details if you want.
3. **Choose 3 security questions to answer** (make a note of these answers - it is important to write these down in case you need to discuss your account with the Home Office later on)
4. **Read** the declaration, **confirm** and **continue**
5. **Check** that you have completed all steps and **submit** your application.

# What to expect after you have submitted your application and how to use your eVisa

You might not be able to view your eVisa because the Home Office first needs to create an account for you on their end and process your application. It can take a few weeks before the Home Office links your account. You will receive an email confirmation from the Home Office when your eVisa is ready.

To access and view your eVisa go to: <https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status>. You will then be able to generate a share code to prove your right to live, rent and work in the UK.

## Other help

The Home Office recently awarded £4,000,000 to organisations that are supposed to assist people with eVisa applications. The main organisations are:

**England:** [Migrant Help](#)

Telephone: 07483 170100

Email: [evisa@migranthelpuk.org](mailto:evisa@migranthelpuk.org)

**Wales:** [Welsh Refugee Council](#)

Telephone: 0808 196 7273

Email: [info@wrc.wales](mailto:info@wrc.wales)

**Scotland:** [Citizens Advice Scotland](#)

Telephone: 0800 028 1456

Email: [info@cas.org.uk](mailto:info@cas.org.uk)

**Northern Ireland:** [Advice NI](#)

Telephone: 0800 915 4604

Email: [advice@adviceni.net](mailto:advice@adviceni.net)

It is currently unclear how effective the support provided by these organisations will be.

Additionally, if you are not confident about using a computer or a smartphone, you may be able to get support from **We Are Group**, an organisation contracted by the Home Office to provide support for UKVI digital services.

### We Are Group

[visa@we-are-digital.co.uk](mailto:visa@we-are-digital.co.uk)

Text 'VISA' and a number to call you on to 07537 416 944 Telephone: 03333 445 675

Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm

## Other resources

- <https://freemovement.org.uk/a-step-by-step-guide-to-applying-for-an-evisa/>
- <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/resettlement-in-lancashire/evisas/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54rPXUHuM3I> (this is a video from the Home Office)

