

Living and working in the UK

Useful information

Your rights

All EEA and Swiss nationals can enter and live in the UK without needing to apply for permission.

- The Worker Registration Scheme for nationals of countries that joined the European Union (EU) in 2004 ended on 1 May 2011.
- If you are a national of Bulgaria or Romania, you may need to apply for permission before you start work.

All other EEA and Swiss nationals are free to take work in the UK without needing to apply for permission.

Finding work

The easiest way to find UK job vacancies is to search online on the European Job Mobility Portal (EURES website). There are thousands of UK vacancies advertised on this website.

Employment law

The National Minimum Wage (NMW) is a minimum amount per hour that most workers in the UK are entitled to be paid. If you are being paid below the NMW you can contact the Pay and Work Rights Helpline for confidential help.

- £6.08 for workers aged 21 years and over
- £4.98 for workers aged 18-20 years

UK shortage occupation list

The UK Border Agency publishes a shortage occupation list. Some of the skills the UK needs:

- Social workers in children's & family services
- Engineers (chemical, civil and electrical)
- Maths and science teachers (secondary level)
- Specialist medical practitioners
- Biological scientists / Biochemists

www.direct.gov.uk

www.nidirect.gov.uk

Taxation

Your employer deducts tax from your earnings:

Basic rate:	20%	£0 - £35,000
Higher rate:	40%	£35,001 - £150,000
Additional rate:	50%	over £150,000

Self employed people pay their own tax.

Value Added Tax (VAT)

The rate of VAT is 20%.

Council Tax

This is a local tax paid to your local council.

National Insurance contributions (Form U1)

You pay National Insurance contributions to build up your entitlement to social security benefits. You should bring a record of contributions paid in your home country (form U1) so they can be taken into account if you become unemployed.

if you earn above £139 a week and up to £817 per week you will pay 12% of this amount as 'Class 1' National Insurance contributions. All earnings above £817, have a 2% deduction for National Insurance.

Get a record of your UK contributions from HM Revenue & Customs before you leave the UK.

Recognition of qualifications

UK NARIC compares academic and professional qualifications gained abroad with those issued in the UK. NARIC may charge for this service.

Healthcare

Bring a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) with you. Most UK National Health Services (NHS) are provided free but you may have to pay for some, for example, dental services.



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Find out more

Websites

UK public services online

www.direct.gov.uk

www.nidirect.gov.uk (Northern Ireland)

European Job Mobility Portal

www.eures.europa.eu

Your rights and responsibilities in the UK

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/eucitizens

Working in the UK – Tax and National Insurance

www.hmrc.gov.uk/migrantworkers/

Statement of National Insurance contributions

www.hmrc.gov.uk/forms/2005/ca3916.pdf

Recruitment agencies

www.rec.uk.com

UK Newspapers

www.newspapers.co.uk

UK NARIC

www.naric.org.uk

Graduate careers

www.prospects.ac.uk

Businesses and self-employment advice

www.businesslink.gov.uk

www.direct.gov.uk

www.nidirect.gov.uk

Help and advice when applying for jobs

www.direct.gov.uk/jobsearchtips

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www.myukinfo.com

Migrants' Rights Network

www.migrantsrights.org.uk

Guide for Mobile European Workers

www.etuc.org/a/50

Citizens advice

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Tourism

www.visitbritain.com

www.discovernorthernireland.com

Helplines

Search for a job in Great Britain **0845 606 0234**

Pay and Work Rights **0845 600 0678**

Accession State citizens **0114 207 4074**

HM Revenue & Customs **0845 915 4811**

To get a National Insurance number call:

- In Great Britain **0845 600 0643**
- In Northern Ireland **0289 054 5500**

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