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eVisa Guide

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Important Information for Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) Holders

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) are in the process of developing a fully digital immigration system. This will see physical documents, such as Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) replaced by eVisas – online records of migrants' immigration status.

By the end of 2024, the Home Office will no longer issue the following physical documents:

- Biometric Residence Permits (BRP)
- Biometric Residence Cards (BRC)
- Passport endorsements, such as indefinite leave to enter wet ink stamps
- Vignette stickers in passports, such as entry clearance or visa vignettes.

Alternatively, migrants will be required to use UKVI's online system to view and prove their immigration status.

What is an eVisa?

An eVisa is an online record of an individual's immigration status and the conditions of their permission to either enter or stay in the UK.

Updating an individual's physical document to an eVisa does not affect their immigration status or the conditions of their permission however, they will need to **take action**.

What action are BRP holders required to take?

International migrants holding permission to stay in the UK, e.g. Students and Child Students currently holding BRPs that expire on December 31, 2024, will need to take action to update their immigration permission to the form of an eVisa prior to their physical document expiring.

To update their immigration permission, BRP holders are required to create a UKVI account and access their eVisa before the expiry date of their BRP.

As of August 6, 2024, **any person with a biometric residence permit (BRP) expiring on December 31, 2024 can now create a UKVI account and access their eVisa**, without needing an invitation from UKVI to do so.

This applies to international students holding BRPs expiring on December 31, 2024.

Setting up a UKVI account is free and does not extend a migrant's permission to stay in the UK or constitute an application; it simply allows them to display their immigration status online. **Migrants are advised to retain their expired BRP even after switching to an eVisa.**

The Home Office has recently confirmed that BRPs with expiry dates on or after December 31, 2024 will continue to be accepted as valid travel evidence until at least **March 31, 2025**. However, migrants are strongly encouraged to create their UKVI account and access their eVisa at the earliest opportunity, if they have not already done so.

How will migrants use their UKVI account?

Once their UKVI account is set up, migrants will be able to view the details of their eVisa online, including the type of permission granted, when the permission expires and the conditions of their stay in the UK.

Personal information, such as an individual's contact details can be updated in the UKVI account free of charge.

An individual's eVisa will be linked to their passport in their UKVI account. Airlines and other carriers will be able to digitally check that they have permission to enter the UK. As such, **it is important to keep passport details up to date in the UKVI account** and inform the Home Office about any changes in order to ensure straightforward international travel and avoid potential disruptions at the border. If migrants renew their

passport, they must update the new passport details in their UKVI account. Personal details can be updated by visiting Update your UK Visas and Immigration account details: Overview - GOV.UK.

Migrants can share their immigration status with third parties, such as education providers or employers, by generating a share code using the Home Office's 'view and prove' online service. It is crucial for international students to provide schools with a share code before beginning their studies, as schools need this information to verify a student's right to study in the UK.

Step-by-step instructions for generating a share code using the View and Prove service can be found on pages 7 to 11 of this guide.

Setting up a UKVI account

Migrants should use this link to create a UKVI account. Parents are able to set up an account on behalf of their child. To set up their account, migrants will need the following:

- access to a smartphone
- a mobile phone number
- an email address
- their BRP card or a valid passport with their BRP number or visa application number (the visa application number is the global web form (GWF) or unique application number (UAN) from their visa application. Please note that even if a BRP has expired with an expiry date of December 31, 2024, it can still be used to set up a UKVI account.

It is important to provide a phone number and email address that can be reused, as these details will be required each time the eVisa is used to prove immigration status online. Migrants should take extra care to enter these details correctly, as updating

them later can be challenging and will hinder their ability to verify their identity and access their eVisa.

After setting up their account, migrants must confirm their identity using the UK Immigration ID Check app and link their account to the eVisa. Once all steps are completed, migrants will receive an email notification when the eVisa is ready to view, which may take a few days.

Step-by-step instructions for setting up a UKVI account and confirming a migrant's identity via the UK Immigration ID Check app can be found on pages 5 and 6 of this guide.

Travelling to the UK

In the future, BRP holders will be able to use their eVisa to travel to the UK alongside their current passport, which must be registered to their UKVI account.

BRP holders should continue to carry their expired physical document (BRP) with them, in addition to their eVisa, when travelling internationally. This is because some carriers might not have the technology in place to check an eVisa by January 1, 2025. International students must present their eVisa and/or BRP at the UK border to enter the UK.

Further Information

We will continue to keep you informed of any future updates, but for the latest published guidance on eVisas please visit the GOV.UK website here.

Should you require further support, please contact the BSA Group Legal team on legal@bsagroup.org.uk or +44 (0)207 798 1583.

The eVisa Process for BRP holders

Step 1: Create UKVI account online

Visit https://www.gov.uk/get-access-evisa to access the 'Create UKVI Account' service

Fill in details*

Account created

*Details include:

Name, Date of Birth, Email address, Mobile number, BRP or Passport number OR Visa application number (this might be called a 'UAN' or start with the letters 'GWF')

Step 2: Confirm identity using the UK Immigration ID Check App



Download the UK Immigration ID Check App using a smartphone

Follow the instructions – scan QR Code or request connection code, take a photo of your identity document and your face

Identity confirmed

Step 3: Link UKVI account to eVisa



Complete all sections on the task list (as pictured above)

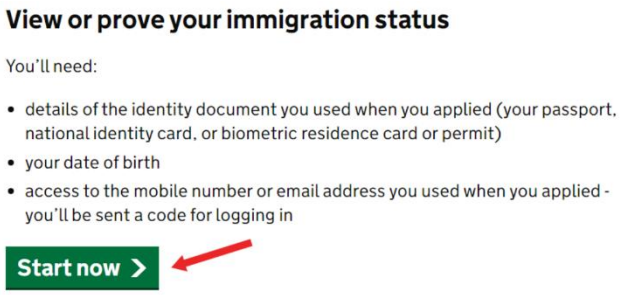
Confirm and submit declaration

Receive email once your eVisa is ready to view (this could take up to a few days)

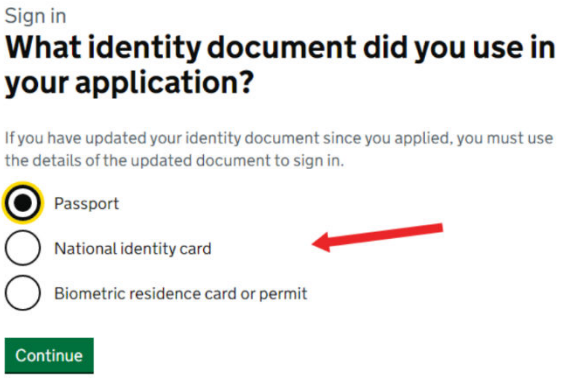
You can watch a video on how to create a UKVI account and access your eVisa here.

Prove your UK immigration status (share code)

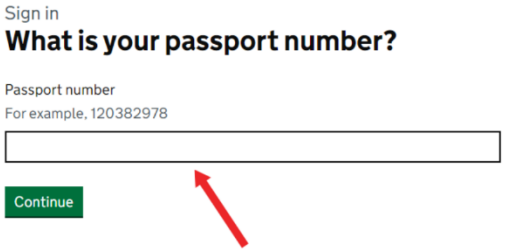
Step 1: Visit www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status and press **'Start now'**.



Step 2: Select the identity document you used to submit your visa application. If you have updated your identity document since you applied, you must use the details of the updated document to sign in.



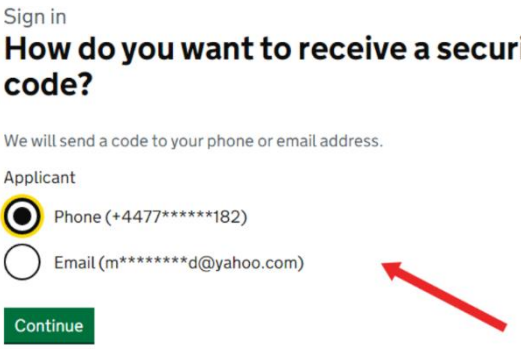
Step 3: Add your chosen document number.



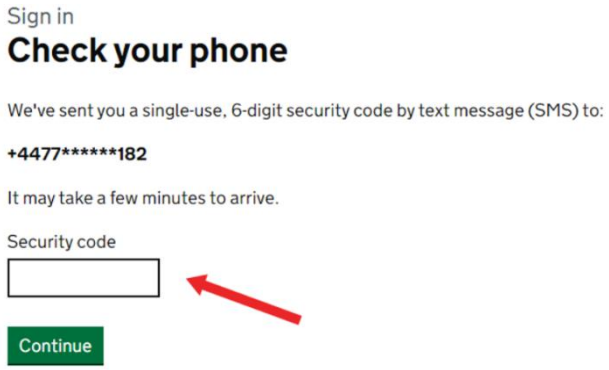
Step 4: Add your date of birth (DD MM YYYY)



Step 5: On the next page, choose a method how you wish to receive a security code – **email** or **text message (SMS)**. If you no longer have access to your phone or email, you will need to get help to recover your UKVI account by calling UKVI's Resolution Centre on +44 (0)300 123 7379.



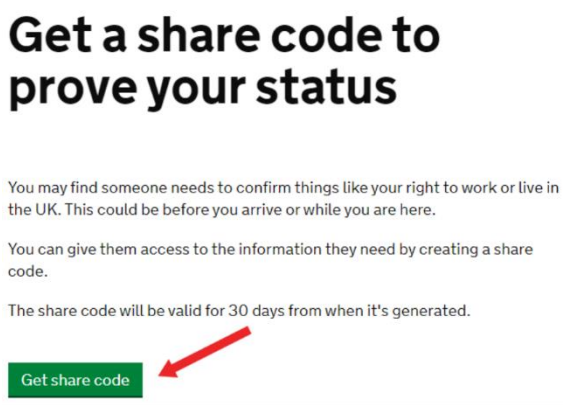
Step 6: Check the security code and add it in the 'Security code' box shown below, and press **'Continue'**.



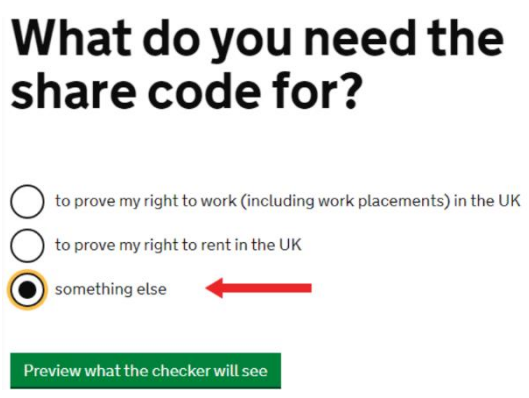
Step 7: Your immigration status will become visible. Scroll down and press **'Prove your status'.**



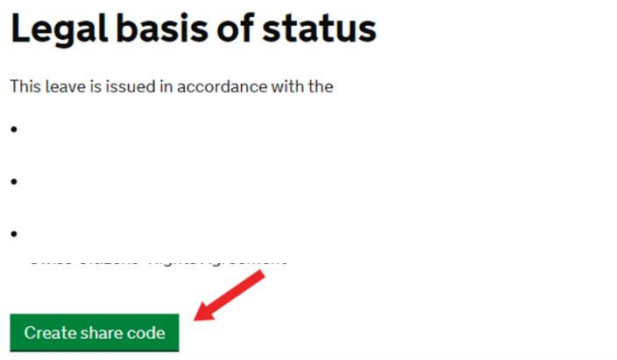
Step 8: Press **'Get share code'**.



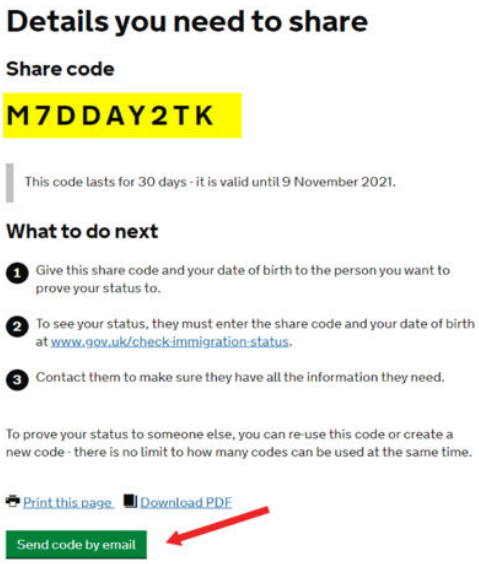
Step 9: To generate a share code for **study purposes,** select the option **'something else'**.



Step 10: Press **'Create a share code'**.

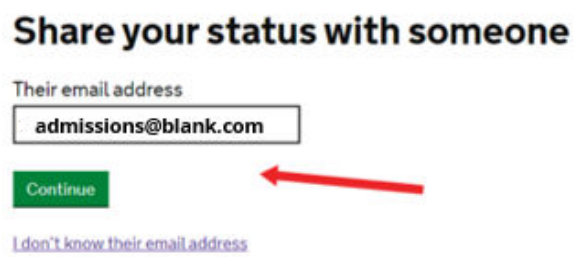


Step 11: The share code will be generated for you (highlighted below in yellow). Please email the code to the person you wish to prove your immigration status to by selecting **'Send code by email'**.



Step 12: Please email the code to the relevant person i.e. admissions@blank.com.

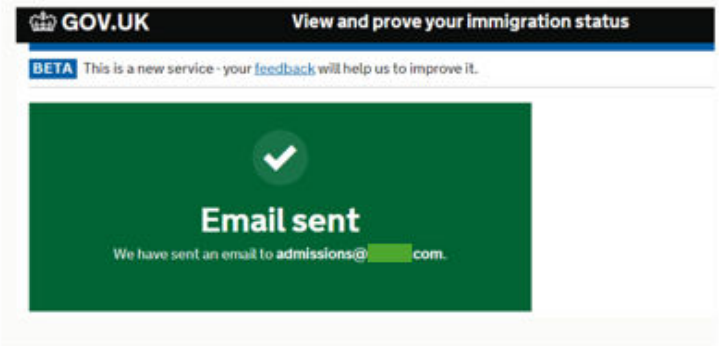
Press **'Continue'**.



Step 13: Double check the correct email address**.** Press **'Send'**.



Step 14: The email containing the share code has now been sent and the process is complete.



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