

eGates – changes to how some nationalities can enter the UK

Home Office has expanded the use of UK border eGates. Nationals from the following Non-visa nationals countries can enter the UK for visits of less than 6 months to undertake listed permitted activities without needing to seek a visa in advance:

The list of 'Visa nationals' countries who need a visa in advance of travel to UK in all instances, are listed here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-visa-national-list>. If a country is not on this list, they are a 'Non visa national'.

The following are currently non-visa national counties:

- European Economic Area (EEA), European Union (EU) Countries and Switzerland and
- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia (*added October 2022*)
- Guyana (*added October 2022*)
- Japan
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Paraguay
- Peru (*added October 2022*)
- Singapore
- South Korea
- United States of America
- Uruguay

Nationals from the specific Non-visa national countries who use the eGates will no longer have to complete a landing card, and will no longer receive an entry stamp in their passport from an immigration officer on the border.

There are some situations when Non-visa nationals from these countries MUST NOT use the eGates:

- **Permitted Paid Engagement (PPE) Visitors** – you must obtain a specific stamp from an immigration officer granting entry for one month. If you enter using the eGates and do not obtain this permission as a stamp in your passport, **then you will not be able to carry out your intended activity in the UK**
- **Family members of EEA nationals** who are seeking entry to the UK at the border
- **Holders of a Tier 5 Creative and Sporting Certificate of Sponsorship** (up to 3 months)
- **Holders of passports with no biometric chip**

Useful UK Gov guidance links:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-visa-national-list>
- <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>
- <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor/visit-as-an-academic>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-permitted-activities>

Electronic Visa Waiver scheme:

Nationals or citizens of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates who hold an Electronic Visa Waiver (EVW) Document, who wish to come to UK for period of six months or less to conduct permitted activity, do not need to apply for prior entry clearance as a visitor in order to do so. Nationals or citizens of these countries who hold an EVW document can apply for permission to enter at the UK border instead. Permission to enter will be granted for a period of up to 6 months.

Points Based System and other visa holders

- Nationals of the Non-visa national countries above (and not a national of a country on the who enter the UK via an eGate must have **entry clearance/visa that is valid on the date that they enter the UK** (e.g. Skilled worker route*, T5 GAE, Global Talent Visa, UK ancestry, etc). As long as an individual enters the UK within the dates of the granted visa, they will enter on those conditions.

**Please note that Skilled worker visa holders must also comply with UKVI rules on start date delays, which is usually a maximum of 4 week delay from date that visa is granted, or the work start date on a certificate of sponsorship, whichever is later, unless there are exceptional valid reasons for a delay to start date beyond this.*

- If an individual enters the UK using an eGate before the start date of the entry visa or e-visa, then they will be granted entry as a **visitor. If this happens, the individual will need to leave and re-enter the UK within the validity of the visa, to enter the UK on the correct basis.**
- If an individual has used an eGate for the first time on your UK entry vignette, then they will need to keep additional documentation to show that they entered the UK (e.g. flight ticket or boarding pass).
 - **If sponsored by the College as a Skilled worker route visa holder worker or T5 (GAE) sponsored researcher, the College will be required to see this evidence of UK entry date when undertaking pre-employment checks.**

If you have any questions, please contact HRCompliance@imperial.ac.uk