

FACTSHEET FOR EUROPEANS: Permanent Residence

In light of the UK voting to leave the EU, Thorntons are renewing calls for eligible European nationals to apply to the Home Office for a Permanent Residence Card.

What nationalities are affected?

Austria	Finland	Latvia	Portugal
Belgium	France	Liechtenstein	Romania
Bulgaria	Germany	Lithuania	Slovakia
Croatia	Greece	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Republic of Cyprus	Hungary	Malta	Spain
Czech Republic	Iceland	Netherlands	Sweden
Denmark	Ireland	Norway	Switzerland
Estonia	Italy	Poland	

What are the requirements for permanent residence in the UK?

In most cases, you need to have lived in the UK for 5 continuous years as a jobseeker, worker, self-employed, student or self-sufficient person.

Do I need to do anything to show I have a permanent right of residence?

You should apply to the UK Home Office for a Permanent Residence Card (PRC) which will certify your right to Permanent Residence in the UK if you have already acquired it. The Home Office charge a fee of £65 for this application.

You will be able to demonstrate to the Home Office that you are eligible for this if you can show sufficient documents to confirm your residence and status in the UK during the last 5 years. This will include providing documents such as wage slips and bank statements. Self-sufficient people and students will also need to show that they have had comprehensive medical insurance for the duration.

Can my non-European family members also apply?

In most cases, if your non-European family members have lived with you over the course of the last 5 years, they will also be eligible to apply for a permanent residence card.

I already have a permanent residence card– what do I do next?

See our Factsheet for Europeans on nationality. Once you have held permanent residence in the UK for at least one year (and also have a permanent residence card), you might be eligible to make an application to the Home Office to become a British citizen.

Thorntons have a team of experts dedicated to European law and British nationality law. For further information, please contact Jamie Kerr

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