

Digital Immigration Status: eVisa FAQ's

SOAS Student Advice Service endeavours to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate but please note that legislation is subject to change at short notice. Please access this guide from the link below to ensure you are reading the most recent version of this document.

www.soas.ac.uk/international/visas-and-immigration/digital-immigration-status-evisa

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1. What is an eVisa?

An eVisa is an online record of your immigration status and the conditions of your permission to enter or stay in the UK. You need a UKVI account to be able to access your eVisa.

2. Who needs to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa?

If your immigration permission expires after 31 December 2024 and you hold one of the following physical immigration documents, you must create your UKVI account to access your eVisa before 31 December 2024 to avoid issues proving your immigration status in the UK.

- Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)
- Biometric Residence Card (BRC)
- Indefinite Leave to Remain issued as a wet-ink stamp, vignette or FAV in your non-UK passport

3. Who does NOT need to create a UKVI account?

If you used the UK Immigration ID Check app to apply for your current visa, you will already have a UKVI account and eVisa. Check your eVisa is viewable in your UKVI account and your personal details are up to date. This will usually be EEA nationals or those who applied for their visa inside the UK and used the ID Check app.

4. My BRP ends before 31 December 2024, do I need to create a UKVI account?

No - if your immigration permission ends before 31 December 2024, you do not need to do anything if you will permanently leave the UK before your permission expires.

5. What happens if I do not create my UKVI before 31 December 2024?

If you do not create your UKVI account to access your eVisa by the end of 2024, you are likely to face issues when travelling and proving your rights in the UK.

6. Do I have to pay to create a UKVI account?

No - it is free to create your UKVI account.

7. How do I create my UKVI account and what information will I need?

The Home Office have produced a useful video on [How to create a UK Visas and Immigration \(UKVI\) account and get access to your eVisa.](#)

To create your UKVI account, you will need the following information:

- BRP card number or visa application number
- Passport/BRP
- Date of Birth
- Email address
- UK Mobile phone number

You will also need access to the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app (you can download this app from the Google Play Store and App Store for iOS). If you do not have a Smart phone, then you can use a friend or family members device with their permission.

8. Do I need to keep the information in my UKVI account updated?

Yes - you must update your UKVI account with any changes to your personal information such as your name, home address, email or phone number. Visit [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) for guidance on how to update your UKVI account.

You must also update SOAS when any changes to your name and other personal contact details.

9. I have a new passport, what do I need to do?

You must ensure that you link your new passport to your eVisa via your [UKVI](https://www.gov.uk) account otherwise, your eVisa will be invalid and you won't be able to cross the UK border.

UKVI have advised that it may take a few days for new passport details to update in your UKVI account and so makes sure you update your UKVI with your new passport details as soon as you receive them and as far in advance as possible before travelling outside the UK.

You must also [update](#) SOAS with new passport details.

10. I have created my UKVI account, do I still need to keep my BRP card?

Yes - UKVI advise that anyone who has switched over to an eVisa must retain their BRP card.

11. I have created my UKVI account, do I need to carry my BRP when travelling in and out of the UK?

Yes - UKVI advise that anyone who has switched over to an eVisa must continue to carry their physical immigration document (eg. BRP), and their passport when traveling in and out of the UK until 31 December 2024. Please ensure you keep your physical immigration document until UKVI confirms what to do with it after 31 December 2024. Store it in a safe place at home unless you are travelling outside the UK to avoid it being lost or stolen.

12. I lost my BRP card, do I need to replace it if I have an eVisa?

Yes – UKVI have advised that you will still need to replace a lost or stolen BRP card until the end of 2024 even if you have created a UKVI account and accessed your eVisa. This is because you will still need your BRP card to travel and proof your immigration status in the UK until the end 2024. Visit [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) for guidance on replacing a lost or stolen BRP.

13. My immigration status goes beyond 31 December 2024 - how do I prove my Immigration status after 31 December 2024?

If your immigration status goes beyond 31 December 2024, you can still use your physical BRP card to prove your immigration status. However, from 1 January 2025 your BRP will no longer be valid this is why it is important to create your UKVI account in order to access your e-visa status document before 31 December 2024.

14. I am applied for my current visa inside the UK but I didn't receive a BRP, do I need to do anything?

If you applied for your visa inside the UK and used the UK Immigration ID Check app to scan your BRP, you will already have a UKVI account and eVisa. UKVI only issue BRPs in addition to the eVisa to [visa nationals](#). If you are **not** a visa national then you don't need to do anything except keep your UKVI account up to date.

15. I'm an EEA or Swiss national, do I need to do anything?

Most EEA and Swiss nationals use the UK Immigration ID Check app to make their Student visa applications from outside the UK and are issued eVisas. In this case, you don't need to do anything except keep your UKVI account up to date. If you could not use the app when applying overseas and attended a biometric enrolment appointment in person, you should have received a BRP. In this case you will need to create a UKVI account and access your eVisa.

If you have status under the EU Settlement Scheme, you do not need to do anything as your status is already a digital status.

16. I am doing a Study Abroad programme for less than 6 months, do I need to do anything?

As your immigration permission is for 6 months or less, you don't need to create a digital immigration status.

17. I am experiencing technical issues with the process, who can help me?

Users experiencing issues should contact the [UK Visas and Immigration Contact Centre](#) to enable these to be investigated and resolved.

The UK Visas and Immigration Contact Centre is able to assist users who are experiencing technical issues, and where necessary, enable individuals' status to be verified through alternative means.

18. What should I do with my BRP after 31 December 2024?

UKVI have advised you should keep your BRP until they provide information about what you need to do.