

Schools admissions: applications for overseas children

In most cases, children arriving from overseas have the right to attend schools in England.

It is the responsibility of parents to check that their children have a right, under their visa entry conditions, to study at a school. To help parents we recommend that those wishing to apply for a state funded school check that they have a [right of abode](#) or that the conditions of their visas otherwise permit access to a state-funded school.

Foreign nationals cannot use the 6 month visitor visa or a 6 month short-term study visa to enter the UK to enroll as a pupil at a school. Find out what these visas can be used for on the [visitor visa](#) and [short term study visa](#) pages.

To find out more visit the [Department for Education](#).

Prove you have right of abode in the UK

Having 'right of abode' means you are allowed to live or work in the UK without any immigration restrictions, which means:

- you will not need a visa to come to the UK
- there is no limit on the length of time you can spend in the country

All [British citizens](#) automatically have right of abode in the UK.

[Some Commonwealth citizens](#) may also have right of abode.

You can prove you have right of abode if you have a UK passport describing you as a 'British Citizen' or 'British Subject with Right of Abode'.

Otherwise you need to apply for a '[certificate of entitlement](#)'.

There will be no change to the rights and status of EU citizens currently living in the UK until 30 June 2021. You and your family can apply to the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) to continue living in the UK.

Apply for a certificate of entitlement

You can apply for a certificate of entitlement to prove you have right of abode in the UK. It goes in your passport. You need to apply for a new certificate when your passport expires. How you apply for a certificate of entitlement depends on whether you are inside or outside the UK. You cannot get a certificate if you already have a British passport or a valid certificate of entitlement in another foreign passport.

Apply in the UK, Channel Islands or the Isle of Man

A certificate of entitlement costs £372 in the UK. Read the guidance to [check you can apply](#). [Fill in the form online](#). You'll usually be able to keep your documents while your application is being processed. You can also [apply in other ways](#).

Get help to apply online

You can [get help with completing the online form](#) if you:

- do not feel confident using a computer or mobile device
- do not have internet access

You can only use this service if you're applying in the UK. You cannot get immigration advice through this service.

Apply from outside the UK or from a British overseas territory

If you are not in the UK, or you live in a British overseas territory, you must [apply online](#). A certificate of entitlement costs £388 outside the UK.

North Korea

You cannot apply online if you're living in North Korea. To apply from North Korea you must:

- download the [application form and guidance](#) - read the guidance if you need help filling in the form
- [read the instructions](#) to find out where to take your completed form

If your application is refused

Your application fee will not be refunded if your application is refused because you do not qualify for right of abode or you do not send in enough evidence to support your claim.