



Prior Park College

2021 Immigration Update

As the UK has now left the European Union, and a new immigration system has been implemented, the school has to make certain preparations to ensure EU nationals studying at the school continue to thrive and are not distracted by immigration difficulties or confusions. The free movement rules governing the entry of EU nationals to the UK ended on the 31/12/2020 and have been replaced by a new points-based immigration system. Below is a brief update to explain the options available to EU students joining Prior Park College or continuing their studies at the school.

Child Student / Student Visa

Unless alternative immigration permission is held, all international students attending Prior Park College for courses longer than 6 months must be sponsored by the school and make applications for a Child Student or Student visa. Sponsorship incurs both costs and risk to the school as educational sponsors must adhere to the UKVI compliance. The school has retained The Nathanson Partnership to assist with visa applications for all sponsored international students and they will be in touch to guide families through the process and provide further information about the UKVI costs, requirements, and processes. For this reason, the school requires all applicants to pay a Compliance Manage Fee of £400, payable to school, to proceed with the application. The school will also need to see copies of certain documentation prior to sponsoring a student.

Short Term Students

International students attending Prior Park College for courses lasting less than 6 months can do so without being sponsored. 'Visa national' students will need seek immigration permission as visitors before travelling to the UK. The school will communicate whether this option is appropriate.

Home Office Compliance

UK Visas and Immigration monitor and regulate students studying at independent schools in the UK and expect to see proof of immigration status for every student. The school has a right to study check process that will be undertaken prior to the commencement of study.

Sponsored Students

The school will instruct The Nathanson Partnership to contact you with guidance on the process for obtaining a Child Student or Student visa under the sponsorship of Prior Park College. The school is also required to hold certain documentation for all sponsored students and to update this when required.

Non-Sponsored Long-Term International Students

Where an international student right to study in the UK is not dependent on school sponsorship, the school will need to see proof of this status prior to the commencement of any study. This includes EU nationals who have status under the settlement scheme, children who are dependent on their parent's immigration status and students holding any other alternative leave to remain in the UK. The school will confirm that the student's immigration permission entitles them to study in the UK and may ask to see copies of renewed status documentation as and when required.

Short Term Students

Where a student's course length entitles them to study without sponsorship or long-term immigration permission, the school will communicate this. Letters confirming acceptance at the school for a course lasting less than 6 months will be provided to students for use in the entry clearance process. The school will ask for proof of the date the student entered the UK and may retain copies of entry stamps or travel tickets.

EU Settlement Scheme

Those students who are nationals of EU member states and were resident in the UK prior to the end of 2020 are eligible to make applications under the EU settlement scheme. This is a free service that can be completed on a smart phone app or via the gov.uk website. A successful application under the settlement scheme will preserve residency status in the UK and exempts students from the need to make applications under the new immigration system. For this reason, we strongly recommend that eligible students at Prior Park College make applications under the EU settlement scheme. Not only will this secure their right to study at Prior Park College too, but it could save a great deal of time and money in the future should university study or employment in the UK be a future consideration.

Settled and Pre-Settled Status

Where an EU national can demonstrate they have been in the UK for a period of at least 5 years prior to the end of 2020 – they will be awarded *Settled Status* and enjoy full residency rights in the UK.

Where an EU national can demonstrate they are in the UK prior to the end of 2020, but for a period lasting less than 5 years, they will be awarded *Pre-Settled Status*. This also grants the full right to live and study in the UK, and can be converted into settled status once the applicant has accrued 5 years of residency. Both statuses are a path to British citizenship should residency in the UK be maintained.

A brief guide to registering under the settlement scheme can be found below.

How to apply for the EUSS:

1. Visit the following link to start the application process:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>

2. Proof of Identity

EU citizens can prove their identities in multiple ways:

- Use the EU Exit App to scan your ID document (only works on Android or iPhone 7 or above).
- Send in the ID document via post to the Home Office.
- Book an appointment for an ID document scan in a scanning service location.

Locations offering ID document scanning:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-id-document-scanner-locations/locations-offering-chip-checker-services>

3. Proof of Residence

Some of the easiest ways for students to provide the proof of residence would be to provide at least one of the following:

- Invoice for fees from your school and evidence of payment.
- A letter or certificate from your school showing the dates you enrolled, attended or completed your course.
- Annual bank statement or account summary, showing at least 6 months of payments received or spending in the UK.

Other types of evidence that can be used can be found on: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-evidence-of-uk-residence>

4. What next?

Once the application is successful you will receive a confirmation e-mail including digital evidence of your awarded EUSS status.



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